



Ballina Primary School
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November Newsletter 2023

Junior Infants and Senior Infants Shows:

Senior Infants will perform their Christmas play "Santa's Hat" for parents and family members on Tuesday 19th of December at 12pm in the school hall. Senior Infant pupils will finish school early after the play that day.

Junior Infants will perform their Christmas play "Penguin Pete" for parents and family members on Wednesday 20th of December at 12pm in the school hall. Junior Infant pupils will finish school early after the play that day.
Tea/ Coffee will be served in the Halla after both shows.

Parents Association News:

Some school calendars are still available to purchase through the Aladdin link as stocking fillers. This is the last Parents Association fundraiser of 2023!
Thanks to those who supported the recent Christmas Card Project, over €700 was raised for the school.

3rd Class Panto Trip:

Pupils from 3rd Class will attend Sleeping Beauty in the UL Concert Hall on Thursday 21st of December. They will return to school at approximately 1pm.

Shoe Box Appeal:

Thanks to all the families who supported the Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal again this year. 227 boxes were sent to the Team Hope Collection Centre. Well done everyone!!

School Admissions 2024/25:

The school will commence accepting applications for admissions into Junior Infants 2024/25 on the 8th of January 2024. The Annual Admission Notice and updated Admissions Policy have been uploaded to the school website.

Sacramental Dates:

First Holy Communion will take place in Our Lady and St Lua Church, Ballina, on Sunday 12th of May at 10am.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in Our Lady and St. Lua Church, Ballina on Friday 26th of April.

Fr. Tom Lanigan-Ryan will meet parents of pupils receiving First Holy Communion in Our Lady and St. Lua Church on Tuesday 28th November or Thursday 30th of November at 7pm to enrol for Communion. Parents are free to choose either night to attend.

If your son/ daughter was baptised outside of the parish of Ballina/Boher, please ensure that you have a copy of the Baptismal Certificate for the upcoming registration. This will be available from the church in which the child was baptised.

Scholastic Book Fair:

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success this year. Pupils purchased €4570 worth of books over three days. The school will receive €2742 in rewards to buy library books from this sale. Thanks most especially to the parent volunteers for all their help running the bookfair.

Mellon Educate Fundraiser:

Thank you to everyone who supported Múinteoir Mary Power's fundraiser to work in South Africa with the Mellon Educate Programme. Our school community raised €840 for this worthy cause.

Green Schools News:

This month we celebrated Clean Air Week. We travelled around all the classes from Junior Infants to 6th Class letting them know about:

1. How our air gets polluted
2. What polluted air does to us and
3. What we can do to prevent air pollution.

Then we focused on storms and how moving air (ie wind) can do so much damage. We set up an experiment using an AIR VORTEX CANNON or an AIRZOOKA to show that during severe storms gust of wind can cause so much damage. These storms are on the increase due to climate change.

The children in all classes really enjoyed learning all about air pollution and trying out our experiment. Check them out on the green school section of our website.

Well done to all the children on their very hard work.

STEAM Activites:

Múinteoir Michelle/ Fiona's 2nd Class took part in some STEAM activities last week in class, working with a facilitator from the Clare Education Centre as part of their STEAM initiative. The children had great fun designing, planning and creating a shoe for Múinteoir Michelle made from recycled materials. The shoe had to be fit for purpose, stylish and had to fit their múinteoir. Some lovely shoes were designed!

Múinteoir Ciara's 4th Class had a visit from Jonathon Cooper last week as part of the STEPS Young Engineer Award. He showed the pupils drone footage of the new bridge and the pupils presented their projects to him.

Thanks to Regeneron:

The school was lucky to receive two laptops recently from Regeneron as part of the "Computers in the Community" initiative. Thanks to James O' Rourke and David Fitzgerald for nominating our school for the laptops.

Wellbeing Questionnaire:

We are currently undertaking a school self-evaluation in Wellbeing. A parental questionnaire will be sent via Aladdin to all families using Microsoft Forms this week. We value all feedback from parents to assist future planning for our school.

Board of Management:

A large number of ballots were returned to elect the Parent Nominees for the 2023-2027 term of the Board of Management. The following were elected:

- Mothers' Nominee – Laura Darcy
- Fathers' Nominee – John Wallace

On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to thank all who have served as members of the Board of Management over the last four years; Tom Moore, Fr. Tom Lanigan-Ryan, Eugene Power, Carmel Bradshaw, Denise Bissette, Steve McCall and David Hickey. Their time, effort and dedication in ensuring the highest of standards of management of our school are greatly appreciated.

Changes to the Maths Curriculum:

The Department of Education has published a new maths curriculum for children in primary and special schools. The curriculum sets out what children will learn in maths in every school. The aim of the new curriculum is that children see maths as important and useful to their everyday lives. It does not change much of 'what' children learn, but it improves 'how' children learn maths. More information can be found on the attached document from the Department of Education. These changes will be implemented from September 2025.

School Activities:

- **Dancing:** Junior Infants, Rang 3, Rang 5 and Rang 6 continue to attend classes every Friday with Múinteoir Marie Hogan.
- **Gymnastics:** Each child will complete six weeks of gymnastics with Rody Kennedy during this school year. Pupils from Senior Infants, Rang 1, Rang 2 and Rang 4 are attending every Wednesday until Christmas.
- **Banna Ceoil:** Continues with Múinteoir Máire every week and our musicians play every Wednesday morning before school to welcome us all.
- **Tin Whistle:** Paula O' Regan continues to teach Rang 3 and Rang 4 tin whistle each week.

Allergies:

Some pupils in school have a severe nut allergy. In the interest of health and safety no nut or coconut products or any products containing any traces of these will be allowed in the school. Please check all lunch boxes. Thank you for your co-operation and your continued support and vigilance on this matter for the safety of everyone.