

October 2023 Newsletter.

Ballina Primary School.

Hallowe'en Mid- Term Break

The school will close for the Mid-Term Break on Friday 27th of October. The school will be closed from Monday 30th of October to Friday 3rd of November inclusive. The school will re-open at 9am on Monday 6th of November.

Please note the school will be open for a full school day on Friday 27th of October. Pupils are invited to wear their Hallowe'en costumes to school on that day.

Half Day Closure Primary Language Curriculum Training

The school will close at 12pm on Friday 17th of November to allow staff to attend training on Irish reading and phonics as part of the Primary Language Curriculum.

Staff Changes

Múinteoir Ciara Slattery (Rang 3) is beginning maternity leave. We wish her all the best. She will be replaced by Múinteoir Emma Fitzsimons for the remainder of the year. As Múinteoir Emma is only settling into her new role we will postpone parent teacher meetings in this class until December. Further information will be sent to parents in this class nearer the time.

Parent Teacher Meetings Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th of November

Parent Teacher Meetings will be held for pupils from Senior Infants to Rang 6 on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th, and Wednesday 15th of November. Time allocation will be organised for meetings after the Hallowe'en Mid-Term Break using Aladdin. Junior Infants Parent Teacher Meetings will be held in January 2024.

Goal Jersey Day

Goal Jersey Day took place on Friday 13th of October. The total raised was €670. All proceeds raised will go directly to Goal's work in the developing world. Well done everyone.

Cross Country News

The County Tipperary Primary Schools Cross Country took place on September 28th. Twenty pupils from 3rd to 6th Classes competed and there were a few medal winners. The 3rd/4th Class team came first in the team event. Thank you to Múinteoir David and Múinteoir Yvonne for organising pupils' participation in this event in Thurles.

Parents Association News:

The AGM of the Parents Association took place on Wednesday 20th of September at 8pm. The committee remains the same for this school year: Cathleen McCarthy (Chairperson), Gráinne Haugh (Treasurer) and Sarah Brody (Secretary). The Parents Association presented the school with a cheque for €3000 towards the cost of the buses for school tours last year.

The annual Christmas Card fundraiser is being organised. Photos have also been taken for a school calendar which should be ready for Christmas.

The Hallowe'en Disco will take place on the 27th of October in the school during school hours. Parents Association members will present prizes on the day for best costumes. The Parents Association have organised a DJ for the event. Children may bring their own treats to school on this day to celebrate the Hallowe'en Mid-Term. No nut products, chewing gum or lollipops please!

The Parents Association held a very successful sponsored walk on the 6th of October. Funds raised totalled €2536. The Scholastic Bookfair was held last week in the school. We thank the parent volunteers with their help organising this event also. Thank you to the school community for contributing to the walk and book fair.

Swimming News

Well done to Lucy McCall, Aoife Ringrose, Éile Ronayne and Molly O' Sullivan in representing our school at the Munster Swim Meet in UL last Sunday. All girls competed in two events and they all swam really well with Molly coming 2nd in the 50m Butterfly.

Gaelic Football News

Well done to our Under 11 and Under 13 Gaelic Football teams (girls and boys) who competed in several competitions in Nenagh recently. Thank you to Múinteoir Paul, Múinteoir Adrian, Múinteoir Eimear and Múinteoir Róisín for training the teams this term.

School Self Evaluation

As a school we will focus on Wellbeing this year for our next cycle of School Self Evaluation. Wellbeing is comprised of many interrelated aspects including being active, responsible, connected, resilient, appreciated, respected and aware (DES & NCCA 2017). We will follow guidance on this school self evaluation from the Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2019 and recent Department of Education circulars. As we begin the process we will be sending a questionnaire home to parents next week for feedback on your thoughts on wellbeing in our school. The link to the questionnaire will be sent using Aladdin.

Reminders:

- ✓ Allergies: Some pupils in school have a severe nut allergy, therefore in the interest of health and safety no nuts or any products containing any traces of nut will be allowed in the school. Please check all lunch boxes. We ask that no white fish products be included in lunch boxes for the same reason. Thank you for your co-operation and your continued support and vigilance on this matter for the safety of everyone.
- ✓ **School Uniform:** Pupils from 3rd to 6th Classes must wear a full school uniform to school unless it is a designated school tracksuit day. **As it is almost wintertime pupils may not wear shorts to school.**
- ✓ Climbing the boundary wall is not allowed. Please ensure that children are aware of this and leave the school by the proper exits.

- ✓ Parents wishing to meet with class teachers during the school year are requested to make an appointment through the office and can only schedule a time before or after school.
- ✓ Head Lice: This is continuing to be a problem in school. We encourage parents to check their child's hair on a regular basis and treat hair when necessary to eradicate this problem.

Agreed report from Board of Management Meeting 11th of October 2023:

- ✓ The Admissions Policy, Anti bullying Policy and the Critical Incident Policy were reviewed and ratified.
- ✓ The Health and Safety Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy were reviewed and ratified.
- ✓ A sincere thanks to the Parents Association for the generous cheque presented to the school at their recent AGM. The Board of Management wishes to thank the Parents Association Committee and volunteers for their continued support of our school community.

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