**Ballina Primary School**

Ballina, Killaloe, Co. Clare

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***September Newsletter 2019***

***Welcome***

Welcome back to everyone in our school community. We welcome especially the fifty-eight new pupils in our school. Múinteoir Áine, Múinteoir Ciara and Múinteoir Róisín have fifty-two Junior Infants. Six pupils joined other classes up through the school. We wish you all every success and happiness in Ballina Primary School.

***Appointments***

Congratulations to Múinteoir Mark O’ Sullivan who became a permanent member of staff this September. This year we welcome back Múinteoir Paul Geaney (Special Education Teacher) and Múinteoir Ciara O’ Sullivan (Rang 4). Múinteoir Michelle O’ Donoghue (Rang 3) and Múinteoir Ciara Halligan (Rang 2) are currently covering parental leave. Also new to the staff are two new Special Needs Assistants, Gosia Tomala and Tríona O’ Sullivan.

***Dates for your Diary September/ October/ November 2019:***

* ***Tuesday 24th of September: The Liam McCarthy and Nowlan Cups*** will visit our school on the afternoon of the 24th of September. Pupils can wear their Tipperary or Ballina jerseys or tops on that day if they have them.
* ***Monday 30th of September 7:30pm Parents Association AGM*** in the school hall. All parents are invited to attend. The Board of Management wishes to thank the Parents Association for all their hard work and fundraising last year. The money raised was used to help with the cost of school tours for all pupils and to purchase IT equipment. We ask parents to attend the AGM and support the Parents Association.
* ***Thursday 3rd of October: Swimming for Rang 2*** commences in Nenagh Leisure Centre and will continue for 8 weeks each Thursday.
* ***9th – 16th of October: Scholastic Book Fair*** will be held in the school hall. Further information will follow on times when books are for sale in the coming weeks.
* ***Friday 12th October: Goal Jersey Day***. Children can wear GAA/ Soccer/ Rugby jersey and each pupil is asked to contribute €2.
* ***School closure 18th of October***: Please note the school will be closed on Friday 18th of October to facilitate a staff training day on Autism Spectrum Disorder.
* ***School closure 11th of November:*** Please note the school will be closed on Monday 11th of November to facilitate a staff training day in the Ennis Education Centre on the Primary Language Curriculum (Stages 1-4).
* ***Monday 18th – 20th of November: Parent Teacher Meetings*** will be held for pupils from Senior Infants to Rang 6 on Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th of November. Time allocation will be organised for meetings nearer the time. Junior Infants Parent Teacher Meetings will be held in January 2020.
* ***First Holy Communion Enrolment:***  An Enrolment Mass for First Holy Communion pupils and parents will take place on Saturday 12th of October at 6:30pm. Parents are asked to bring their child’s baptismal certificate to this Enrolment Mass.
* ***Confirmation Enrolment***: An Enrolment Mass for Confirmation pupils and parents will take place on Sunday 20th of October at 11:30am. Parents are asked to bring their child’s baptismal certificate to this Enrolment Mass.

***Sacramental Dates.***

First Holy Communion, Penance and Confirmation dates are not available yet but as soon as the school is made aware of these we will inform the parents and pupils of the sacramental classes.

***School Calendar.***

The school calendar 2019/2020 is available at www.ballinaprimaryschool.com

***Morrissey Keane Academy of Irish Dance***

The Morrissey Keane Academy of Irish Dance are running classes after school every Tuesday in the school hall from 4:15pm. They cater for children from beginners to advanced. The Academy is registered with the CLRG and are fully Garda vetted. For more information contact Sasha on 0868665199.

***Setanta Book Club***

The Book Club leaflet is being distributed to pupils. If you would like to order books please return the completed order form and correct amount of money to the class teacher or go to www.scholastic.ie/shop for a wider selection of books. If ordering online please use the school name “Ballina Nat School (Mixed) for FREE delivery and so that the school will receive 20% of your order back in free books for our school.

***Donation of Computers:*** We are very grateful to have received a very generous donation of computers recently. We would like to thank Juli Moticka, Damien Purtill, and Kathy Fitzgerald of Regeneron for organising this donation.

**School Activities:**

* Irish Dancing: This term Senior Infants, Rang 2, Rang 5 and Rang 6 will attend classes every Friday. Junior Infants, Rang 1, Rang 3 and Rang 4 will attend in Term 2.
* Hurling: Every Thursday for Rang 3 - Rang 6 with Adrian King. Pupils must wear school tracksuit for hurling.
* Gymnastics: This term Rang 4, Rang 1 and Junior Infants will attend classes every Wednesday.
* Green School: We will continue to promote environmental awareness in our school. Please remember that we collect old batteries, stamps and mobile phones and will continue to do so. Please remember, ‘if it comes in your lón, bring it home’. Pupils are reminded to bring home wrappers, cartons etc. that they bring in their lunch box and recycle at home.
* Cycle Right Programme: Rang 6 will begin the Cycle Right Programme on the 2nd of October.
* Banna Ceoil will be held on Tuesday afternoons at 2:10pm. Thanks to Múinteoir Máire Donoghue for leading our Banna Ceoil.

***Reminders:***

* ***Office Opening Hours***: Monday- Friday 9am-10:45am, 11:00am-12:00pm, 12:30pm- 2:40pm
* ***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. Thank you for your co-operation and your continued support and vigilance on this matter for the safety of everyone.
* ***Mobile Phones***: Mobile phones are not allowed in school. However, if it is necessary for your child to have a phone so that they can be contacted after school, phones are to be turned off and kept in school bag until school is over. If a child is found using a mobile phone in school or a phone turned on in school, it will be confiscated. Parents are called in to collect it.
* ***Car Park***: Car Park is only for staff parking. Parents can drop off only at roundabout at end of car park. Please be very careful entering and leaving car park as well as reversing from car park in front of school. Please do not park in the disability parking space unless permitted to do so. Please do not park on the footpath directly opposite the front of the school.
* ***Morning Supervision***: Children must enter via the front door each morning and are supervised from 8:45am only. Children who are late arriving to school must enter by the front door only. On very wet mornings, the back door at the roundabout is also open.
* ***Road Safety***: Children who walk home should be encouraged to use the Zebra Crossing and be regularly reminded of importance of road safety.
* ***Boundary Walls/Railings***: Climbing the boundary wall is not allowed. Please ensure that children are aware of this and leave the school by the proper exits.
* ***Uniform:*** Full School uniform/ school tracksuit to be worn on appropriate days. This includes school jumpers, ties and school tracksuit tops where appropriate. Shorts are not permitted until after the Easter Holidays. **Please ensure you clearly label your child’s belongings especially jumpers and coats for the coming year.**
* ***Head Lice***: There still seems to be a problem in some classes with head lice. We encourage all children to have their hair treated and fine combed to eradicate this problem. Thank you for your continued co-operation and vigilance on these matters for the health and safety of everyone
* ***Change of Address***: If you have changed address during the year and have not notified the Office, can you please do so immediately otherwise correspondence will go to the incorrect address.
* ***Attendance***: The school is obliged under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 to inform the Educational Welfare Services of the Child and Family Agency if your child has missed 20 or more days in a school year. If your child is absent you must inform the school that your child cannot attend and the reason why. You can do this by writing a note to the class teacher or by telephoning or emailing the school.
* ***Parent Teacher Meetings***: There will be a structured parent teacher meeting during the school year. If you need to meet with your child’s teacher, please arrange an appointment by:

1. Calling the school office (061-376340).
2. Briefly state the reason for requesting the meeting. This will allow the teacher to prepare for the meeting.
3. A suitable time will for the meeting will be arranged.

Calling to meet a teacher without making an appointment is not acceptable as the teacher will not be properly prepared and class time/ preparation can be unnecessarily disrupted. Should an emergency arise, please contact the office.

* ***Expenses***: If you have not already paid the school expenses, could you kindly do so as soon as possible. Thank you to everyone who has already paid.
* ***Pupil Insurance***: All pupils in the school will be covered under the “Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Insurance” scheme for the 2019/2020 year. Your child will be covered 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year under the scheme. Please log onto the website below to view further information on the schedule of benefits. Should you wish to make a claim, forms are available online at https://www.allianz.ie/schools/pupil-personal-accident/