



Ballina Primary School
Ballina, Killaloe, Co. Clare
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September Newsletter 2023

Welcome

Welcome back to everyone in our school community. We welcome especially the forty-six new Junior Infants in our school. Five pupils joined other classes up through the school also. We wish you all every success and happiness in Ballina Primary School.

School Calendar

The school calendar for 2023/24 is available at www.ballinaprimarieschool.com and also on Aladdin.

Appointments

This year we welcome back Múinteoir Eimear McLoughney (Junior Infants) and Múinteoir Róisín Begley (Junior Infants). We also welcome Múinteoir Sarah McKeogh (Rang 5) to the staff.

Lunch Bag Service: www.lunchbag.ie If your child uses the Lunch Bag service please ensure they are listed under their new teacher for the coming year. This can be done through the app under the student profile in the main menu (pick "Edit" and new teacher).

Cross Country Trials:

The County Tipperary Primary Schools Cross Country Championships is scheduled for Wednesday 27th September 2023 at Thurles Crokes Athletics Grounds. Pupils from 3rd to 6th will be competing. Trials for the team will take place **next Wednesday the 13th of September** after school in the field beside the school. Trials will be finished at 3:20pm. Usually, there are four teams selected. A 3rd / 4th girls' team, a 3rd / 4th boys' team, a 5th / 6th girls' team and a 5th / 6th boys' team. There will be five pupils per team.

Dates for your Diary:

- **20th of September Parents Association AGM.** The AGM will be held on Wednesday 20th of September 8pm in the school hall. New members are always welcome and we would encourage all parents to become involved.
- **12th and 13th of October: Scholastic Book Fair** will be held in the school hall. Further information will follow on times when books are for sale in early October.
- **Friday 13th October: Goal Jersey Day.** Children can wear GAA/ Soccer/ Rugby jersey and each pupil is asked to contribute €2. A link for payment will be available on Aladdin.

- **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 nearer the time using Aladdin. Junior Infants Parent Teacher Meetings will be held in January 2024.

School Activities:

- **Dancing:** This term Senior Infants, Rang 1, Rang 2 and Rang 4 will attend classes every Friday with Marie Hogan.
- **Gymnastics:** Each child will complete six weeks of gymnastics with Rody Kennedy during this school year. To begin this school year Rang 3, Rang 5, Rang 6, and Junior Infants will attend every Wednesday.
- **Tin Whistle:** Paula O'Regan will be teaching Rang 3 and Rang 4 tin whistle every Wednesday this term. Please ensure your son/daughter has a D tin whistle in their schoolbag.
- **Cycle Right Programme:** Rang 6 will begin the Cycle Right Programme on the 2nd of October.
- **Spanish Classes:** An eight-week programme of Spanish lessons are starting this week for Rang 5 and Rang 6 as we are taking part in the "Say Yes to Languages" Primary Sampler Module. We have successfully secured funding for this programme from Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI).

Tracksuit Days for Rang 3 to Rang 6:

Pupils are asked to wear their **school tracksuits only** on the following days starting from next week:

Rang 3 Múinteoir Ciara Slattery	Tuesday and Wednesday
Rang 3 Múinteoir Maeve	Tuesday and Wednesday
Rang 4 Múinteoir Maryclare	Monday and Friday
Rang 4 Múinteoir Ciara O' Sullivan	Tuesday and Friday
Rang 5 Múinteoir David	Monday and Wednesday
Rang 5 Múinteoir Sarah	Monday and Wednesday
Rang 5 Múinteoir Paul	Tuesday and Wednesday
Rang 6 Múinteoir Cáit	Tuesday and Wednesday
Rang 6 Múinteoir Claire	Tuesday and Wednesday

The full school uniform should be worn on all other days. These tracksuit days may change as the term continues. The class teacher will notify parents of changes using an Aladdin notices.

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**. 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.
- **Healthy Eating:** Parents are reminded of our school healthy eating policy for school lunches. Pupils are not allowed to bring crisps, chocolate or sweets to school. Popcorn is a good option instead.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Expenses:** Thank you to all the families who have already paid their school expenses to date. An ePayment request has been sent to you via Aladdin. We would appreciate payment of expenses as soon as possible. Expenses are €40 per pupil from Junior Infants to Rang 6.
- **Pupil Insurance:** All pupils in the school will be covered under the “Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Insurance” scheme for the 2023/24 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/>

Agreed Report from the Board of Management 18th July 2023:

- The Administration of Medication and First Aid Policy has been updated and ratified by the Board of Management.
- The Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy has been reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management.
- Both of these policies are available on our school website www.ballinaprimaryschool.com