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| Ballinlough National School,  Ballinlough,  Kells,  County Meath.  A82 PX57  Tel: 046 92 43965 |  | Principal: Tanya Farrelly  Roll No: 09238I  Charities register no; 20130923  Email: nsballinlough@gmail.com  WEB**:** www.ballinloughns.com |

***September 2023 Newsletter***

**Welcome**

Welcome back to all our pupils. A warm welcome to our new Junior Infants: Donnacha, Joe, Lauren, Sophie, Faye & Avery. We welcome Aoibhinn to Senior Infants.

**Attendance – Everyday counts**

We are still working on improving attendance throughout the school. Every child has the right to an education, and we must work together to give our children the best possible chance and we would ask for your full co-operation and support with this strategy.

How you can help

* Eliminate random unexplained absences
* Contact the school if your child is sick/ has an urgent appointment or for an urgent family reason
* Avoid taking holidays during school term (the school returns early in August and finishes early in June) it is disruptive for children and teachers.

**Dates to Remember**

Parent Teacher meetings – Friday 20th October.

Confirmation Thurs 7th March @ 3pm in Kilskyre.

First Communion – to be decided.

**Sport**

We received 4 days of Athletics Taster sessions this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed them. We hope to have another week planned for next term.

Cumann na mBunscoil competitions are up and running this week. We wish our boys team & our girls’ team the best of luck. The 5th& 6th class girls will have a football blitz in Eureka on Friday 22nd Sept. If anyone is available for lifts, please let Mr Finnegan know. We would love to purchase a set of 20 school jerseys as our current ones are quite old and tatty. If any parent would be willing to sponsor a set of jerseys or perhaps approach a local business who would be willing to sponsor a set of jerseys for the school, we would greatly appreciate it.

**School Fees**

Our school fees are listed below. Payable before Friday 27th October.

If you wish to pay in instalments, please make arrangements with the school and we can accommodate you. For those of you who wish to pay electronically, you can transfer direct to the school bank account as follows:

Account Name: Ballinlough School

Bank: Bank of Ireland, John Street Kells

BIC: BOFIIE2D

IBAN: IE62 BOFI 9034 4525 1113 56

NB Please put your name in reference.

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| **2nd – 6th Class Contribution** | **Junior & Senior Infants & 1st Class Contribution** |
| * Art & Craft   Materials €20   * Photocopying, Tests SALF Folders €20 * Music €25 * Communication Apps €10   (Aladdin, Bua na Cainte, Accelerated  Reader)  **Total €75** | * Art & Craft   Materials €25   * Photocopying, Test booklets €25 * Communication Apps €10   (Aladdin, Bua na Cainte, Accelerated  Reader)  **Total €60** |

**Fund our Schools Campaign**

As many of you have seen in National Media reports this week, primary schools are struggling to meet the costs of running a school. The Capitation Grant paid by the Dept of Education amounts to just €1 per child per day. When heat/electricity/service charges(bins), maintenance & servicing of septic tank/alarms/photocopies, ancillary staff wages and stationery costs are taken out of this grant, there is very little left for the day to day running of the school. We are unable to invest in equipment, resources. School leaders are burdened about finances on a daily basis. The Irish National Teachers Organisation have asked schools to raise awareness about this issue among our parent body so that you too can lobby politicians about this crisis in Education Funding.

**School Belongings**

Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled. This extends to stationery, lunchboxes etc.

**Parents Association**

The current Parents Association term is coming to an end. Thank you to Aideen, Laura and Caroline for their time and commitment over the past two years. Elections for a new committee will be held at the end of the month. More information nearer the time.