



## **Term 2 Newsletter Feb/Mar 2023**

Happy New Year to everybody.

Spring is finally in the air and brighter days ahead. Just some points of information for the coming few weeks.

### **Mid-Term Break**

February 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> school is closed.

February 6<sup>th</sup> closed for Bank Holiday Monday

### **Swimming**

Parents voted overwhelmingly in favour of swimming lessons (89%). We are finalising the details, but it looks like swimming lessons will be from 11.30-12.15 every Thursday from 20 April to 8<sup>th</sup> June. Bus will collect pupils @ 11.00 am and they will be dropped back by 12.30pm. All pupils are encouraged to go swimming for the positive physical and mental benefits. Swimming is part of the Aquatics Strand of the P.E curriculum. We would encourage parents to ensure your child goes swimming every week unless there is a genuine medical reason (GP cert required). If a child is too sick to go swimming they should not be in school in the first instance. Supervision arrangements will only be available to pupils who have a medical cert to excuse them (i.e., an injury/broken arm/etc) Details on payment for swimming lessons will be issued shortly.

### **School Fees**

A number of pupils have yet to pay their fees. Letters were issued in the post about the importance of paying fees. Money is very tight at present with rising maintenance costs and schools have not yet received their Minor Works Grant to cover costs. If you have any difficulty paying fees email the office and we can permit the payment in instalments. Fees should be paid by the end of the month. A further reminder will issue next month.

### **Sports & Music**

Lessons have recommenced and we hope to get rugby coaching back up and running shortly.

### **Website**

We are currently upgrading our school website. This is also a considerable cost to the school! No ICT grant has issued yet to assist with the cost.

### **Confirmation**

Takes place in Carnaross on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March @ 12pm. The school photographer (Memory Lane Photography) will visit the school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, details will be forwarded nearer the time.

### **Student Work Experience**

We have had a number of TY students completing work experience with us last term and this term. We will also welcome back past pupil Julianne McGee who will be completing her teaching placement with 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class in March.

**St Patricks day**

School is closed on Fri 17<sup>th</sup> march. We will be having a 'Go Green Day' on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Children are free to wear green clothes/accessories on that day.

**Book Fair**

The Scholastic Book Fair will return to our school for a week from March 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. Books can be purchased by the children during that week.

**Easter Holidays**

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fri 14<sup>th</sup> April. We reopen Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**First Confession**

Will be held in the school on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Enrolment**

January was our enrolment month. We are expecting 7 new pupils next September and 9 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will be leaving for Secondary school. If you know anyone who may be interested in enrolling their child, we would ask them to get in touch with the school office for an enrolment form.

**Chess Tournament**

3 teams will represent Ballinlough NS in the school Chess Tournament on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.