
CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Thank You

As we come to the end of our first term in school, I would like to thank everyone for the help and support you have provided since September.

Firstly, I would like to thank the children. Your smiles and positivity have been a pleasure to be around. You make coming into school each day a most enjoyable experience and it has been wonderful to see your development during what has been a very different and challenging time.

Next, I would like to thank the parent body. The school is very appreciative of your support and understanding in making the return to school run as smoothly as possible.

Finally, thank you to the staff of the school. Your care and passion has ensured that the return to school has been a success and for that we are all extremely grateful.

Holy Communion

Congratulations to the boys and girls in Third Class who received their Holy Communion on Saturday, 12th December. Thank you to Ms. Clancy, Evelyn O'Sullivan and Toni for providing the children with such wonderful support for the day.



Parent- Teacher Meetings

Following guidance provided by the Department of Education in November, the Board of Management has decided that the Parent- Teacher meetings will take place in late January/ early February via phone call. Parents will be able to book their times via the Aladdin Connect app after Christmas.

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas celebrations have been in full swing in the school in recent weeks. All the classes have been extremely busy practicing and performing their Christmas songs. On Monday, a recording of all the performances will be shown in each classroom, so the children can enjoy the participation of siblings and friends throughout the school. Children have been creating beautiful art work, decorating the school Christmas Tree of Good Intentions, having parties, receiving a virtual message from Santa Claus and much more. One lucky child in each class will win a Christmas hamper packed full of lovely treats and surprises. A special word of thanks to the Parents' Association for their support with our Christmas celebrations.

Aladdin

The school continues to use Aladdin for correspondence with parents, money collection and much more. If you are not signed up for Aladdin or are experiencing any difficulties, please let us know and we will help as best we can.

School Uniform

Reminder that children are to wear school uniforms on Monday and Thursday, tracksuits on Tuesday and Friday and their own clothes on Wednesday.

Important Dates for Your Diary

Christmas Holidays

School will close at 11:50 a.m. (Senior School) and 12 noon (Junior School) on Tuesday, 22nd December and will re-open on Wednesday, 6th January.

**Happy
Christmas**

Message from Parents' Association Co-Chairpersons

Leigh Hegarty and Erica Mahony

December 2020 – PA update

PA Fund

Following on from our AGM held in November, we have had a great uptake in families supporting our PA fund, by way of monthly standing orders. We have had a further 28 families partake so we now have over 55% of families contributing. Given we are not able to organise any fundraising events this year (& for the foreseeable) due to Covid, these contributions are vital as they are our only means of raising funds, to continue supporting our children in school.

We would like to thank all those families who are contributing to date and we would welcome increased support from the wider parent community going forward.

PA Fund Bank Account:

Account Name: Ballintemple National School Parents Association

BIC: AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE77AIBK93417893373195

Please reference all standing orders and bank transfers with your family name

First Holy Communion

Finally, the children (now third class) received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 12th December, after a number of postponements since May. The PA usually hosts a reception for all families to enjoy in the school afterwards, which unfortunately we could not do this year. Instead, we provided goodie bags for each child on their special day as a keepsake. Huge thanks to Avril Murphy who organised these beautiful goodie bags! The PA also funded some treats for the children to enjoy in class following their big day, and thank you to Erica Mahony who organised same.

Christmas Festivities

Usually, the PA funds a Santa visit to the school each year, so this year a virtual Santa visit has been organised for the last day of school, to be streamed to each class. Treats have also been provided for each child to enjoy whilst listening to Santa's message. This year, we have organised a hamper for each class to be raffled on the last day of school, to add some excitement for the children on their last day. The class teacher will

do the raffle and tickets can be bought via Aladdin app, €5 per ticket or €10 per family (2 or more children). It is intended that each child will only have one ticket, so it is an equal chance for each child to win. Two families have kindly sponsored the cost of these hampers, so every ticket sale proceed goes directly into our PA fund, so we would welcome your support for this initiative.

As always, we welcome any feedback or ideas that parents may have and we can be contacted on our email below. In the meantime, we will continue to think of ways to create exciting initiatives for the children over the coming months, whilst restrictions remain in place.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and enjoy the holidays.

Erica Mahony & Leigh McCarthy
PA Co-Chairpersons, Ballintemple National School
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