

FEBRUARY MID-TERM NEWSLETTER

Remote Learning

Since returning to remote learning in January, the children have been fantastic. The effort shown by them on a daily has been a credit to themselves, their families and the entire school community. It has been a difficult time for everyone but perhaps the most difficult thing for the children has been the lack of interaction with their friends.

Since beginning our remote learning back in January, the children and staff of the school have interacted in over 250 Zoom calls on a daily basis, with all children in the school being given the opportunity to log in to at least two Zoom calls every week ranging from social interactions, taught lessons and exercise.

Return to School

We hope that our return to school will happen very shortly, when we can celebrate the wonderful achievements of the children during this period of remote learning. Prior to re-opening, we will send out reminders about our health and safety protocols in the school.

Whole School Interactive Initiative

In conjunction with the Parents' Association, the school is organising a whole school initiative to help bring the entire school community together. This initiative will be a walking/ running/ jogging activity where we plan to travel together to a famous world landmark. More details will be forwarded to each family next week.

Important Dates for Your Diary

St. Patrick's Day- Closed Wednesday 17th March.

Easter Holidays- School closed at 12 noon on Friday, 26th March and will re-open on Monday, 12th April.

Parents' Association Update

Dear Parent,

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are keeping well over these past few weeks during lockdown. Hopefully the children will all get back to school in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, on behalf of the Parents Association and the wider parent community, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all the teachers and staff for their efforts in organising the weekly zoom calls and seesaw activities, which the children are really enjoying. A big thank you also to Bryan McCarthy for his weekly workout classes, it is great for the children to have these interactions with their Teachers, Classmates & Principal.

Christmas Raffle: A big thank you to all families for supporting the Christmas raffle held in each class, a total of €1,045 was raised and as the cost of the hampers were donated, the total amount raised goes directly into the PA fund.

Events: Whilst it is not possible to organise any of our annual family / social events due to ongoing restrictions, we are currently organising a whole school interactive family initiative over the coming weeks. We will be in contact next week with the details of the initiative.

PA Fund: We have had a good uptake in the number of families contributing to our PA fund in recent months, which as you all know, the sole purpose of this fund is to support ongoing initiatives and resources for our children in school. Many thanks to those families who are contributing to date and we would welcome increased support from the wider parent community going forward. Standing orders can be set up (€10 per month per family) or one-off payments (€120) can be made online or directly to the school by cash/cheque if preferred.

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

Should any parent have any suggestions or feedback, we can be contacted on our email below.

Kind Regards

Erica Mahony & Leigh McCarthy

PA Co-Chairpersons, Ballintemple National School

Email: pa@ballintemplens.com