



SCOIL ÍOSAIF NAOFA BALLINTEMPLE

Le Chéile Is Féidir



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April/ May 2021 Newsletter

Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion

The Diocese of Cork and Ross have not given any further information in relation to dates for First Confession, Holy Communion or Confirmation. As soon as any further information becomes available, it will be forwarded to parents. Teachers will continue to prepare the children for the sacraments.

Stay Safe

Children from 1st to 5th class will be taught the Stay Safe programme from the week of the 10th May. Please see parent information note attached [here](#). If you have any questions about the programme, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

Standardised Tests

As determined by the Department of Education and Skills, the school will administer our Drumcondra standardised tests for 1st class to 6th class this year. The dates are:

- Thursday, 13th May- Drumcondra English Reading
- Tuesday, 18th May- Drumcondra Maths
- Wednesday, 19th May- Drumcondra Spelling

This year, we are administering the new Drumcondra standardised assessments. I have attached an information note for parents [here](#). This note gives information about new standards and interpreting the scores achieved by your child. We are administering the tests on paper format.

Furthermore, as this year has not been a standard school year, the score your child receives may not give a true reflection of the children's abilities in the relevant areas. The assessments will give us an indication of where each child/ class is at and help identify possible areas we may need to concentrate on for the next academic year.

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Principal: Mr. Bryan McCarthy

Deputy Principal: Ms. Deirdre Sayers

Assistant Principal: Mr. Colm Lucey



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School Tours

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Due to Covid-19 restrictions, school tours will look a little different this year. 4th, 5th and 6th class will be the only classes attending external tours. Junior Infants up to 3rd class will be participating in outdoor activities eg. picnics, trips to local parks, orienteering that are within walking distance of the school. Please see '*Important Dates for Your Diary*' section below for dates. Further information about the relevant school tours will be forwarded to parents this week.

5th Class History Projects

Well done to all of the boys and girls in 5th class on their recent history projects. Congratulations to John Toomey who came in second place in the overall primary school category for his project on Jack Lynch. Also, comhghairdeas to Nina Murphy who won the best War of Independence Commemoration Project on the Dripsey Ambush.

High Street Books

With support from High Street Books, the school is once again offering the option of ordering next year's school books online from High Street Books. Once ordered, High Street Books will deliver the books, free of charge, to your door. Alternatively, you may choose to collect the books from the store. Further details will follow in the coming weeks when booklists have been finalised.

Active Week

Active week will be held in school on the week of the 14th June. Further details about activities for the week will be communicated in May.

New School Update

No further updates are available at this time.



SCOIL ÍOSAF NAOFA BALLINTEMPLE

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School Tracksuits

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Children will no longer have to wear the school uniform during the months of May and June. The rota will be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday- School tracksuit (school shorts must be worn if wearing shorts. These are available from Laura's in Douglas.)

Tuesday and Thursday- Own clothes.

Important Dates for Your Diary

Monday, 3rd May to Friday, 7th May- School Closed.

Tuesday, 11th May- School closed at 12.30 p.m. to facilitate whole school training.

Standardised Assessments for 1st to 6th class. Infants do not complete these assessments.

- Thursday, 13th May- Drumcondra English Reading
- Tuesday, 18th May- Drumcondra Maths
- Wednesday, 19th May- Drumcondra Spelling

Friday 28th May- 6th Class School Tour to Ballyhass Lakes, Mallow.

Monday, 7th June- School Closed for June Bank Holiday.

Wednesday, 9th June- Booklists for 21/22 being forwarded to parents.

Friday 11th June- Reports being released to parents on Aladdin Connect.

Monday 14th June- Beginning of Active Week.

Friday 18th June- School Sports Day from 10.30 a.m. to 1p.m. Venue TBC.

Tuesday, 22nd June- 4th and 5th Class School Tour to Cuskinny, Cobh.

Friday 25th June- Summer holidays at 12 noon.

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Note from Parents' Association Chairpersons, Leigh Hegarty and Erica Mahony

We hope you all keeping well and enjoying some welcome sunshine!

This past year has been very difficult for all and especially our school community, as we have been unable to organise any social events for children and parents alike. Unfortunately, we do not expect this position to change in this current school year. The PA and school jointly organised a walking challenge in March, which was a great success with a large number of families partaking. Reaching our initial target of Mount Everest after just two weeks, we marched onto Tokyo, reaching there well before our deadline! Well done to the prize winners – the Hennessy's, Singleton's and O'Regan families.

The PA have also continued to support our children in school throughout this time, by investing in IT, health and sporting equipment which benefit our children. We continue to liaise with the school on what items are needed to improve our children's learning and physical activities.

Whilst school tours may be possible for some of the older classes this year, the school will be organising some fun days for the younger classes. The PA intends to support any such excursions and have agreed to cover some of these costs involved, namely cost of hiring buses or ice-cream treats for the younger classes etc. Further information will follow in due course.

PA Fund: We have a good number of families now supporting our PA fund, which is used to support these ongoing initiatives and provide new resources for our children in school. Many thanks to those families who are contributing to date and we would welcome further support going forward. Standing orders can be set up (€10 per month per family) or a one-off annual payment (€120), which can be transferred to the PA bank account online.

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

As always, if any parent has any ideas or suggestions of ways, we can further support our children in school, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Erica Mahony & Leigh McCarthy.

PA Co-Chairpersons, Ballintemple National School.

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