



# SCOIL ÍOSAF NAOFA BALLINTEMPLE

## Le Chéile Is Féidir



Scoil Íosa Naofa  
Crab Lane  
Ballintemple  
Cork  
T12 WA02

Phone: 021-4293608  
Email: [oifig@ballintemplens.ie](mailto:oifig@ballintemplens.ie)  
[principal@ballintemplens.com](mailto:principal@ballintemplens.com)  
Website: [www.ballintemplens.com](http://www.ballintemplens.com)

### Christmas 2021 Newsletter

As we come to the end of the first term in school, we look back on what has been a challenging but most enjoyable first term in school. We overcame many challenges along the way and I feel extremely proud of the whole school community for how we have all worked together to ensure the children were safe, happy and had an enjoyable first term.

A sincere thank you to the children for continuing to follow the guidelines and covid restrictions. It has been a particularly difficult time for all of us who had to self-isolate, restrict our movements and had to wear face masks. The children have continued to come into school with a smile on their face and are a credit to themselves, family and school.

Thank you to the parents/ guardians. The constant support and understanding you have shown throughout the term is greatly appreciated. I know that this will continue into the future as we continue to work together so as each child can reach their full potential.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the staff. In what has proven to be a difficult end to the term, your unerring professionalism and caring nature has ensured the children have experienced a most fulfilling and fun first term.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Bryan.



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### Parent/ Teacher Meetings

Following consultation between the staff and the Parents' Association, we have decided to hold our Parent/ Teacher meetings in early February. This is with a view of having them face to face when the numbers of Covid-19 will hopefully have reduced. If this is not possible, the meetings will be held over the phone. As always, please contact the school if you have any questions in relation to your child.

### Admissions 2022/2023

The offers have been sent to parents for the 2022/2023 junior infant class. There will be one class of 30 junior infants for the 2022/2023 school year.

### Football Training

Thank you to Ms. Johnson, Mr. Lucey, Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Cashman on training the 4th, 5th and 6th class boys' and girls' football during the first term. The training finished up with a fun internal school blitz in Páirc Uí Chaoimh 4G.

### School Website and Twitter

Keep up-to-date with more regular news on our website at [www.ballintemplens.com](http://www.ballintemplens.com) and our Twitter page @BallintempleS.

### *Important Dates for Your Diary*

Wednesday, 22nd December- Children finish at 12 noon for Christmas holidays.

Thursday, 6th January 2022- School reopens following Christmas Holidays



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### December 2021 - PA update

As we near the end of another year dealing with Covid in our lives, we have all had a challenging time with our day to day lives curtailed, not least as a school community. Firstly, we would like to thank Bryan McCarthy and his fantastic staff who have worked so tirelessly to ensure our children have had a safe environment in school. A lot of hard work has gone in behind the scenes in keeping our children protected, so a big “Thank you” from the entire parent community.

Last year’s First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies were held in October with limited preparation time available, so thank you to Ms O’Flynn and Ms Harrington for their hard work in organising both ceremonies. The PA organised a goodie bag for each child in both classes and thank you to Avril Murphy who organised these lovely keepsakes, in the absence of a reception in the school.

We have organised Christmas hampers again this year as the children really enjoyed this last year. Each class has been provided with their own hamper to be raffled by the class teacher before the holidays and we are asking for €5 per family as a donation (via Aladdin) towards our fund. Sincere thanks to Aoife McCann and Shauna Murphy who organised the lovely hampers. We have also funded the Santa visit and school treats for each child in the run up to Christmas holidays.

Our AGM was held last month and was very well attended. Once again, restrictions have prevented the school community in coming together in any meaningful way during this past year, but we have continued to support our children by funding a number of new & ongoing initiatives. Recent purchases have been outlined in recent months, but our new Student Council are currently engaging with School Management to identify their wish list items for the year ahead. These items include new playground games – polygons /climbing frames etc, additional PE equipment and some gardening resources, which will make their time outdoors a lot more exciting! It should be noted that all of these items purchased will move to the new school in time so will benefit the children for many years to come.

Your support as parents is vital in enabling our continued support for these important initiatives which mean so much to our children, so once again a sincere thank you to those families who have signed up. Suggested contributions are €10 per month per family by standing order, or €120 once off annually.



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### 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, we welcome any feedback or ideas that parents may have and we can be contacted on our email below.

In the meantime, 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.

Email: [pa@ballintemplens.com](mailto:pa@ballintemplens.com)