

Ballybay Central National School

Lárscóil Náisiúnta Béal Átha Beithe

Kiltoom
Athlone
Co. Roscommon
N37RC82

Cill Tuama
Baile Átha Luain
Co. Ros Comáin
N37RC82



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

2nd October 2024

Welcome back to all our parents and pupils, especially new arrivals to our school. We wish to thank you for your support and co-operation on the reopening of our school. Below are some important updates and reminders. We welcome new members of staff Ms Jenny Higgins, Mr Brendan Reilly, Ms Eileen Healy, Ms Tammy O'Shea, Mr Declan Martin and Ms Maria Brennan.

Catholic Ethos: We are celebrating Mass in the church at 10:00am on Friday, October 4th to start our new school year. All parents, guardians and grandparents are most welcome. First Reconciliation is on March 12th, First Holy Communion on May 17th. and Confirmation is on March 20th.

Calendar 2024/2025: The planned school closures for this year are outlined on our website. <https://ballybaycns.ie/calendar/>. Please consult the calendar as you plan holidays and family events so that children's school absences are minimised. Even occasional days disrupt children's learning as their teachers work step by step through their year's planned work. **The school is closed on November 22nd for in-service.**

Arts & Crafts/Photocopying: We would be grateful if you could send in any outstanding contributions for Arts & Crafts/Photocopying (€40 per child) at your earliest convenience.

School Uniform: Since the term began, most children have arrived at school looking very smart in their uniforms. I compliment both children and parents on this. Teachers will inform their classes when they have Physical Education and will need to wear the school PE uniform. Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are labelled.

PE Uniform: PE sweatshirts and plain navy tracksuit bottoms comprise our uniform on days when pupils have PE. The majority of pupils respect this and don't wear leggings, stripes, logos etc. The PE sweatshirt and navy tracksuit bottoms are also available to purchase in Fossal/Singer, Athlone.

Contacting the School: Just a reminder that our school email address is office@ballybaycns.ie. All general, day to day queries and enquiries should be sent to this email address. Antoinette, our secretary, is available to take calls between 9:20 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and again between 12:45 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. and insofar as possible, important messages should be conveyed to the office during these hours.

Meeting with Teachers: If at any stage you have a concern about your child, please arrange to speak to your child's class teacher, who is the first point of contact. Please call or email the office to make an appointment.

Punctuality and Arrival: Children should proceed directly to their designated area and line up at their classroom door. School commences at 9:20 for all pupils. There is no supervision of children in the yard before this time. Please ensure that your child is on time for school each day as late arrival causes disruption to classes.

Medical Requirements: If your child has a medical condition that may require administration of medicine at school, it is imperative that you ensure that we have an up to date supply, accompanied by clear instructions. If your child needs medication as a once off, it must be accompanied by a letter of consent and clear instructions.

Roll Call, Absence and Late Arrival: Attendance is recorded on-line. The roll is called in all classrooms each morning between 10:00 and 10:10, marking only those at school present. Circular 28/13 of The Department of Education and Skills states that 'a pupil will be marked either present or absent at the time of roll call'. Parents must give a **written explanation** (by email, the designed note in the homework diaries or handwritten note) for their child's absence or late arrival. We are required to file explanations for all absences, and return details to TUSLA.

Basketball and GAA Coaching

Basketball coaching takes place on Mondays for pupils in 2nd- 6th Class. GAA coaching is on Fridays for all classes.

Sign Out Book: Exceptional circumstances may arise where parents may need to take children from class before the end of the school day. We operate a sign out book for such instances. Parents must ring/email the school office to alert us that they will be collecting their children early. On arrival, they must sign the book.

School Lunches and Allergies

We encourage healthy eating among children. Therefore, we discourage inclusion of biscuits, sweets, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks etc. in school lunches. There are children in the school who are allergic to nuts. As this is a very serious matter, we ask that you keep this in mind as you prepare lunches. Children are not allowed to swap or share lunches in school.

Allianz Pupils' Personal Accident Insurance

This insurance scheme for pupils is now available to purchase through the school. Each child will have received an application form recently. Please return the completed slip (please tick chosen cover), together with the appropriate amount in cash in a clearly marked envelope by 4th October. Please do not make payments for insurance via electronic transfer. For further information on the insurance scheme, you can visit <https://www.allianz.ie/schools/pupil-personal-accident/>

Contact Details

If your contact details (address, phone numbers and emergency contacts) change, please inform the school as soon as possible, by sending an email to the school with your name in the Subject Box.

Birthday Invitations

Birthday party invitations must be distributed outside of school time (after school, not before) where it can be done discreetly.

Items Not Allowed

Electronic devices and mobile phones are strictly prohibited in the school. Children are not allowed chewing gum or liquid Tippex in the school. Ballybay CNS is a smoke and vape free zone.

Headlice

As we are at the beginning of a new school year, we would appeal to all parents to check their children's hair for head lice on a regular basis. If you detect head lice please let the school know immediately. Thus, we can inform the parents of the other children in the class so that they may have their hair treated.

Athletics-Cross Country

Since we returned in August, pupils from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes have taken part in Cross Country running during their lunch breaks under the guidance of Ms. Clyne, Ms Higgins, Mr Reilly and Ms Mulroy. A team of 24 athletes were very successful in the Roscommon Primary Schools Cross Country Championships which were held in St Brigid's Club recently with the 5/6th Class boys coming 1st and 3rd/4th Class boys and girls coming 2nd. Ariane was placed 12th as an individual. We congratulate all who took part and wish them the best of luck in the Connaught Championships in Mohill on October 11th.

Music Generation

Violin, viola and cello lessons are taking place in school again this year for pupils in 3rd- 6th classes. Lessons will take place on Thursdays. Many thanks to our Music Teacher, Natalia and Music Generation for providing this wonderful opportunity for the children in our school.

Parents' Association

We encourage parents to get involved in our Parents' Association. The committee meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8:00PM. We greatly appreciate the PA's continued fundraising and their support and dedication to our school. Upcoming events include a cake sale on October 11th and a children's disco on October 25th.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur Geraghty, principal.