St. Patricks National School

Ballaghlea
Ballygar
Co. Galway
F42 KC56
Phone: 090 6660255
Mobile: 086 1380092
Email: info@ballaghleans.ie **www.ballaghleans.ie**

4th September 2023

Dear Parents,

We welcome back all of the children to school this September. A special welcome to our 9 new Junior Infants: Sam Coleman, Ben Coleman, Niamh Daly, Ollie Hughes, Finnán Kelly, Charlie Melia, Cian O'Connor, John Sweeney and Méabh Treacy. And welcome also to Amelia Phillips 4th class and Ada Phillps 2nd class.

Staffing

Welcome also to Samantha Morris who will job-share SNA position with Tina Golding.

Class organisation for 2022-2023 is as follows:

5th & 6th class	Mrs. Catriona Collins	Room 4
4th & 5th Class	Ms. Niamh Kemple	Room 3
3rd Class	Mrs. Michelle O'Grady	Room 5
1st & 2nd Class	Ms. Deirdre Lohan	Room 1
Junior & Senior Infants	Mrs Patricia Sutton	Room 2
Full Time Special Education Teachers	Mrs. Patricia Mitchell & Ms. Yvonne Gacquin (Job share)	
	Mrs. Anne-Marie Farrell	
Shared Special Education Teachers	Ms. Dympna Mannion	
Full Time S.N.A.	Mrs. Tina Golding & Ms. Samantha Morris	
Part-time SNA	Mrs. Valerie Fahy	
School Secretary	Mrs. Geraldine Kelly (4days)	

*Please note our shared S.E.T. will come to the school every day for a few hours.
*S.E.T. 1 (Ms. Gacquin and Mrs. Mitchell) will work with the Junior classrooms.
*S.E.T. 2 (Mrs. Farrell) will work with the Senior classroom.

County Photos

County photos will visit the school on Tuesday 5th September. Please let us know in advance if you do not want your child's / children's photo taken.

Swimming

Swimming for 3rd, 4th , 5th and 6th will commence this Thursday 7th September for 7 weeks. The cost of bus and swimming is € 75 per pupil in full or €11.00 weekly. Your child will be issued a receipt for payment in full – not for weekly payment.

Please encourage your child to dry themselves after showering etc, and to dress themselves in preparation for swimming with the school. Swimming hats are compulsory. Goggles can be worn but are not essential.

School Books & Insurance

As you are aware, primary school children no longer have to pay for schoolbooks or stationery. Our rates always included Arts, Crafts, Photocopying and 24 hour pupil personal accident insurance for every child. The following rates will apply for this year.

1 Pupil total	€ 35.00
2 Pupils total	€ 65.00
3 Pupils total	€ 90.00
4 Pupils total	€120.00

Money should be sent to the office, clearly labelled, and a receipt will be issued. The book money can be paid in instalments up to Halloween Mid-term if so desired.

50/50 Lotto

Thank you to all who supported the 50/50 draw last Saturday, raising €765 for our school, with the lucky winner also getting €765. Don't forget to get your envelopes in again this week for next Saturday's draw in The Thatch Ballygar.

Thank you to Newbridge Action Committee for giving us this opportunity.

Banking

Many parents have opted for Banking On-Line with the school, and we enclose details about this again. If you have any queries/concerns about banking online with the school, please contact Patricia Mitchell who deals with this.

Banking Online Details

Payee:	Ballaghlea NS
IBAN:	IE58BOFI90370192569033
BIC:	BOFIIE2D
Reference:	*Your own name goes here*

Remittance Information: Put in details of what the payment is for.
(For example 1st class Book Money _____)

P.E.

We will use the centre again in Ballygar to cover the gymnastics strand – more details to follow. Children are to wear their half-zip and plain navy tracksuit bottoms on Tuesday and Thursday only.

School Uniform

All parts of the uniform and coats/jackets should be labelled in order to ensure that we can identify the owners of any clothes mislaid in the school. We keep lost items in the school until the end of each term and then we pass them on to charitable organisations.

School Opening and Closing Times & Traffic Management

School begins at 9.20am each day with school doors opening at 9.00am and 9.10am for children to get to their classes. The Board of Management does not take any responsibility for the supervision of children before this time or after finish time. School finishes at 3.00pm, while Junior and Senior Infants go home at 2.00pm. We encourage parents to consider carpooling with friends/neighbours. We thank you for your co-operation with the queuing system, and urge you to ensure that anyone who picks up your child knows the system. If your child's collection arrangements change, please let us know in advance.

Bus

When a child uses a bus service, whether private or school transport, please liaise with the bus driver regarding pick-ups and drop-offs. Please ensure that your child / children knows what days they are travelling by bus .

Traffic System

The school bell will ring at 2.50pm and 3.00pm, at which time Vincent's bus pulls up at the school gate and children using this service get on the bus. A queuing system will operate on the far side of the road (not school side) facing the N63 – Newbridge to Ballygar road. In other words, cars fill and move off in rotation, no car skips a queue.

Each parent assumes responsibility for getting their child safely to the car. There will be no parking for cars on the school side of the road at any time. There will be no turning at Fitzmaurice's gate for any cars except people coming from Cloonlyon, Creggs, Glinsk, St. Brendans direction. These cars will turn at Fitzmaurice's Gate and park outside Fitzmaurice's house on left hand side, and their children will walk up to them.

If you are travelling from Newbridge or Ballygar direction at 2 or 3, go down to the first turn on the left after the school to turn (known locally as Bothar Buí), come back up and queue. The exact same system will operate at 2pm

In the mornings when dropping your child off, pull at the school gate or further up towards Fitzmaurice's (not the N63 side of the school gate) drop your child and proceed to turn at Bothar Buí. Only cars travelling from Creggs direction to turn at Fitzmaurice's gate and allow children to walk down.

No car should do a U-turn on the main N63 road or outside the school, (If you have someone else picking up your child at any time, please tell them about the system).

Communication

The communication between home and school is crucial to the success of the educational process for each child. If you have any concern about your child please arrange an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss the issue. The school Email info@ballaghleans.ie or Aladdin App (which can be downloaded on your phone) can also be used to request an appointment with a brief message stating who you would like to meet/call you or to let us know If your child is absent.

The school Telephone Number 090 6660255 & Mobile No. 086 1380092 should be used to communicate with the school in case of emergency. The School Office is open Monday,

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, school hours. As I am a teaching Principal I would be grateful if you could arrange to meet me by appointment before or after school if you need to see me.

Pupil Information and Parent Contact

We are anxious to keep up to date all contact details for children. This is particularly important in case of emergency and we want to ensure that we have correct mobile phone, and emergency numbers. We must have at least 2-3 contact numbers.

Head Lice

Please ensure that you check your child's hair every few nights and that hair is tied back/kept neat. Please inform the school, should you find anything.

School Website

A copy of this letter and all communication with parents will be posted on our school website. Please check out the website as it is updated monthly by Patricia Mitchell/Yvonne Gacquin. Feel free to visit and browse our Facebook page.

Parent Teacher Meeting

A provisional date of Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th November 2023 has been set for our Parent Teacher meeting . If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or the principal to arrange an appointment.

I hope the coming school year will be very successful for parents, staff, Board of Management and above all the pupils. Looking forward to your continued support throughout the new school year.

Yours sincerely,

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Anne Marie Farrell
Principal

St. Patrick's N.S., Ballaghlea

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Mobile: 0861380092
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School Closures For 2023/2024

August/September	**School Re-opening**	Thursday 31st August
October/November	**Mid-term Break**	
	Closing	Friday 27th at 3.00pm
	Re-opening	Monday 6th November
December	**Christmas Holidays**	
	Closing	Friday 22nd December
	Re-Opening	Monday 8th January **2024**
February	**St. Brigid's Day**	Monday 5th
	Mid-term Break	Thursday 15th & Friday 16th.
March	**Bank Holiday**	Monday 18th
	Easter Holidays Closing	Friday 22nd
April	**Re-opening**	Monday 8th
May	**Bank Holiday Closed**	Monday 6th May
June	**Bank Holiday Closed**	Friday 31stMay & Monday 3rd June
June	**Summer Holidays Closing**	Tuesday 25th June 2024