**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

**14th February 2022**

**Dear Parents,**

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

**Clothes Collection**

The PTA fundraising clothes collection will take place on Friday 18th February. Donations can be left in the school shelter from now until 9am on Friday. They accept clothing, paired shoes, curtains, towels, sheets, handbags, belts, blankets and soft toys. They do not accept duvets or pillows.

**Picker Pals**

The Picker Pals Programme is an environmental programme to develop children's awareness and community responsibility around the issue of litter. The active part of Picker Pals involves children taking it in turns to bring home the Picker Pack. The idea is not to clean up the whole neighbourhood but to pick up a few items of litter and engage in conversation around the issue of littering. Most importantly, you should both enjoy the activity and the feeling of being part of the solution together. There is no pressure on families to participate, but we hope that as many children as possible will get a chance to experience the joys of litter-picking and being part of their class's group effort. A permission form will be sent home tomorrow and the Picker Pack will go home to a different participating family each weekend.

**Ficheall Chess Tournament**

The senior classroom are currently competing in a class chess competition. We have a high level of participation and they are really enjoying it. Ficheall will host a nationwide online chess tournament for primary students on 9th March. Entry will be free and there will be tournaments both during and after school hours. We would love to have the whole class participating if possible. Online chess accounts will be given to each pupil. They will be given a username to play with rather than their real names. The chat function has been disabled. We hope that we can teach all of the pupils from first class upwards to play so that everybody can participate.

**Cycle Right Programme**

The senior classroom will be participating in the Cycle Right Programme after midterm. This is a six week cycle safety programme for 9 to 12 year olds. Bicycles and helmets will be provided. The majority of these lessons will take place on Fridays, commencing on Friday 4th March. Please ensure that your children wear PE gear and proper runners. The majority of the lessons will take place in the playground and on the roadway outside the school. As the weeks progress, they will spend more time on the actual roads around Ballineen and Enniskeane. There is a consent form for parents in the senior classroom to complete which will be in your child's school bag tomorrow.

The junior classroom will also complete a three week cycling programme. All of their cycling will take place in the school grounds. The cost of both of the programmes is €10 per child. This is covered by your Additional Activities Payment.

**Paper Towel Dispensers**

We have got five new paper towel dispensers which we hope will use less paper. We are wondering if anyone would be able to assist us to screw them into the walls. Please let us know if you can assist us.

**Midterm**

The school will be closed for the midterm break for one week from Monday 21st - Friday 25th February.