**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

 **10th May 2021**

**Clothes Collection**

There will be a fundraising clothes collection on 20th May. As second hand clothes shops have been shut for several months, we are hoping that many households will have clothes to donate. The bags of donated clothing can be left in the shelter from Friday 14th May. The company accepts clothing, curtains, towels, sheets, paired shoes, handbags, belts, blankets and soft toys. They do not accept pillows, duvets, fabrics or cut off materials.

**Fundraising Donations**

Thank you to those of you who have handed in your red envelopes with fundraising donations, your generosity is very much appreciated.

**Maths Equipment and library books**

Some of the maths equipment that the senior pupils took home in January, has not been returned yet. We are missing tangram sets, clock faces and some library books. All the library books are stamped with the school stamp inside the front cover. Please check your houses to see if you have any school equipment.

**European Week**

Europe Day takes place on Sunday 9th May. We will be celebrating European week all week as part of our work towards our Blue Flag. There will be different activities related to the European Union taking place each day. Please ask your child to wear something blue to school on Wednesday, if they already have some blue clothing.

**Department Update on Covid-19 restrictions for Schools**

We received a letter from the Department of Education clarifying the arrangement for school activities for the remainder of the term. Unfortunately they have specifically asked us to exclude parents from Sports Day and Graduation Celebrations. Sports Day will take place as usual with just the pupils and the End of Year Assembly will take place remotely.

**Standardised Tests**

Standardised tests will take place at the end of this month for all pupils between 1st class and 6th class. It is compulsory for us to conduct these tests although the results will compare the pupils to standardised norms of children who have not missed six months of face to face teaching. There is no need for the children to do any preparation for the tests and they will not be told when they are due to take place so that they do not get anxious in advance.

**School Garden Competition**

We are really enjoying using our polytunnel. There are photographs on Seesaw to show you some of the plants we have grown so far. Unfortunately, Muintir na tire have decided to cancel their School Garden Competition for 2021 in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Dates for your diary**

10th - 14th May          European Week

Thursday 20th May    Clothes Collection

Friday 4th June            School Closed

8th - 11th June            Active Week

Friday 11th June          Sports Day (Weather permitting)

Thursday 17th June  RSE Talk for 5th & 6th class

Friday 25th June        School holidays begin at 12pm