**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

 **7th October 2020**

**Dear Parents,**

**Clothes Collection**

There will be a fundraising clothes collection on Wednesday 21st October. The company confirmed today that it will go ahead with the clothes collection, within level three restrictions. If you have any clothes or shoes to donate, please put them in a closed black plastic bag and leave them in the shelter from Monday 19th October onwards. They do not accept duvets or pillows. The bags will not be taken into the school building and will not be touched by the pupils or the staff.

 **European Citizenship Award**

Congratulations to our pupils who have been awarded a European Citizenship Award for their work during the spring term last year. Their plaque arrived last week. The project was called ‘My Big Friendly Guide to the European Union.’ It was an innovative teaching and learning programme that aimed at developing awareness, knowledge and debate at primary school level on the European Union and Ireland’s role within it. The children had to use their critical thinking skills to think about citizenship and media education. We were fortunate to have the assistance of an artist in residence to guide the pupils to make clay slab boxes based on the countries of the European Union. The boxes were fired in her kiln in March and we enjoyed a day of painting and glazing them outside in September. The original plan was to display their work in the Glucksman Gallery in Cork but due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we sent them home instead.

**Discover Primary Science and Maths Award**

Congratulations to the pupils who have been awarded a Discover Primary Science Plaque of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths). This involved their Open Science Evening in February, their science school tour to Bandon Grammar School during science week, maths trails during maths week,  a visit from a scientist and completing science activities that covered various elements of STEM. Thank you to Ms. Sullivan who compiled the log of evidence. You can view it and photographs of the activities on the school website, under the section ‘About us’.

**Friends for Life and Fun Friends**

Both classrooms are working on programmes in S.P.H.E. to reduce their anxiety and build their resilience. The junior classroom has commenced the ‘Zippy’s Friends Programme’ and the senior classroom has commenced the ‘Friends for Life Programme’. We are having assemblies on zoom between the two classrooms and they enjoy seeing each other and sharing their news.

**Polytunnel**

Our polytunnel is very popular with the pupils. The junior classroom has harvested their cress and mustard. The senior classroom has lettuce, spinach and radishes growing in the tunnel. We have also planted daffodil bulbs outside and some flowers and hyacinth bulbs inside in the polytunnel.

**Seesaw**

Ms. Sullivan has updated the school website and we are continuing to upload photographs of school activities onto Seesaw so that the pupils can share their school news with you.