**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

 **15th October 2021**

**Dear Parents,**

**Debate**

Congratulations to our debating team who won their first debate this morning. The speeches were written by all of 5th & 6th class but the speakers for this debate were Anna O'Halloran, Leon O'Shea and Siún Browne. The next round will take place in November.

**Additional Activities Payment**

There are two reasons for our 'Additional Activities Payment', firstly to fund extra activities e.g. tennis and secondly to reduce the amount of time spent collecting money throughout the year. This payment is due in October. The recommended amount of money is €100 per pupil. The following is a breakdown of how the money will be spent based on prices from previous years: Personal Pupil Accident Insurance, Tennis coaching, drama lessons, visits from heritage specialists, stationary, photocopying, art supplies, swimming bus, music concerts from visiting musicians.

**Maths Week**

Maths Week takes place from 18th - 22nd October. We will have a variety of additional maths competitions and activities happening throughout the week. The senior classroom attended a zoom interview with Dr. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin last Tuesday. She spoke about her career as a mathematician and her first degree in theoretical physics. The junior classroom has hired a class set of bee bots and they are learning how to code them. The senior classroom will start using Minecraft for Education on Monday.

**Have you got your Maths Eyes?**

We will be running a 'Have you got your maths eyes?' photography competition within the school next week. The pupils are asked to take a photograph of something in their environment that has an element of maths in it. Examples of maths that you might see in your environment may include a pattern, a sequence, symmetry, 2D shapes, 3 D shapes, money, weight, or length etc. Entries can be emailed to the school. A prize will be given out to the best entry on Friday 22nd October and the winner will be entered into the national competition.

**Halloween Pumpkin Carving Competition**

We will not be playing the traditional Halloween games such as bobbing for apples, because of the covid restrictions. We have some alternative games planned such as a giant spider web and a mummy making competition. We will have a school Halloween Pumpkin Carving Competition. Each family is invited to bring a carved pumpkin into school before Friday 22nd October. A prize will be given to the best entry. The entries can be brought in from Monday 18th October.

**Colouring Competition**

There will be a Halloween colouring competition in both classrooms. There will be a prize winner for each band of classes - junior & senior infants, first & second class, third & fourth class and 5th & 6th class.

**Halloween**

On Friday 22nd October, the pupils may come to school dressed up for Halloween. They may bring a treat to school to eat in their lunchbox. The school will close for mid term break at 2:30pm and will re-open on Monday 1st November.