**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

**23rd September 2021**

**Dear Parents,**

**CO2 Monitors**

Three CO2 monitors were sent to the school by the Department of Education. There is one in each classroom and one in the resource room. They are measuring the ventilation in each room. All of our readings have been low so far and are in the green (safe) range.

**PTA Meeting**

There will be a PTA meeting on zoom on Monday 4th October. Niamh Kelly is the current chairperson. Please speak to Niamh or one of the teachers if there are any topics which you would like discussed at the meeting. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**School Tour**

Next Tuesday the whole school will be going on a school tour to West Cork Secret. The two classrooms will travel there on separate minibuses to avoid the bubbles mixing. They will have different age appropriate activities to do during the day so the two classrooms will be separate for the day. We were unable to have any external visitors to the school last year so the balance from the AAP that you paid last year is being used to pay for the school tour. The Church of Ireland Board of Education are also contributing the cost of hiring the buses. This is a grant that was only offered to two teacher schools to facilitate school tours within the Covid -19 restrictions. The pupils should come to school in their old clothes and they should bring a change of clothes. They may choose to wear a wet suit instead of old clothes. They should also bring shower gear, a towel, a black bin bag or similar plastic bag, old shoes and a clean pair to change into. They will be given pizza but they should also bring a light snack and a drink. The weather forecast says the temperatures will drop to 13 degrees on Tuesday and it will be raining but the tour will go ahead regardless of the weather as they will be wet and muddy anyway.

**SFI Discover Science and Maths Award**

Yesterday we heard that our school has achieved an SFI Discover Science and Maths Award. This was awarded because our log of evidence provided evidence of children's engagement with STEM in the areas of science, technology, engineering, maths and STEM showcase. Our log of evidence can be viewed on our school website. Thank you to Ms. Sullivan who kept track of our STEM work during the year and compiled the log of evidence on our behalf. Congratulations to all the pupils. The Plaque of STEM and their certificates will arrive in the next few weeks.

**Ukulele le Chéile**

Ukulele le Chéile is an arts collaboration between St. Multose NS, Kilgarriffe NS and our school. The three schools secured a grant to fund ukulele lessons over a two year period. Unfortunately we were unable to proceed with lessons last year due to the restrictions in schools. The lessons finally began today. These lessons will be offered to the pupils in the senior classroom. Christine Deady will be visiting the school to teach the children each week. The pupils will take their ukuleles home every Thursday and bring them back to school on Monday so that we can practise in class.

**Poetry Competition**

Last year the senior classroom entered a poetry writing competition called 'The Something Fishy Poetry Competition'. The competition was run by Inland Fisheries Ireland and it was for 5th & 6th class but our 3rd & 4th class entered it too. The judges particularly liked Vivienne Draper's poem. Although she did not win the competition, the judges selected her beautifully written poem as one of their favourite poems, especially as she was so young and competing against 5th & 6th class students. They are posting her a goodie bag as an award for her poem. Well done Vivienne!

**School Garden**

Thank you to Ita Harris for all her help with the school garden over the past week. The weeds had grown so much during the summer holidays that it was too hard for the pupils to dig out the weeds properly. Ita cleared the beds for us and added compost to them.

**Health and Wellbeing Promotion**

The health and wellbeing promotion unit have sent us a leaflet for parents which covers health topics such as mental health, healthy eating and physical activity for children. The leaflet outlines the key messages on each topic and details further websites where more information can be obtained. We have attached a PDF of the leaflet to this newsletter.

**BOM Report**

A meeting of the Board of Management took place on Tuesday 14th September. The agreed report is as follows:

* The Child Protection Report was reviewed.
* The Anti-bullying Report was reviewed.
* The Covid-19 Response Plan was reviewed.
* The enrolments of two girls, Timmy Light Nkenpurutse (junior infants) and Ostia Chadella Muhezagiro (2nd class), were approved. They will be relocating to Ballineen from Burundi in the next few weeks.
* The Board will upgrade the lighting in the senior classroom, the kitchenette and staff toilet.

**Open evenings for new pupils to secondary school**

As secondary schools aren't able to have open evenings this year, we have enquired about their alternative arrangements. A summary of the response we received from each school is given below.

**Bandon Grammar School**

Website:  [www.bandongrammar.ie](http://www.bandongrammar.ie/)

Download an intention to enrol form and send in before 9th Oct.  The school will contact you to attend an open day in Oct.  The first one is on the 9th October. This open day is designed for any 5th & 6th class pupils and their parents who may wish to view the school ahead of applying. Parents who have already expressed an interest have been invited directly. If you wish to attend, please book a visit time on <http://bit.ly/BGSTour2021>.

**St. Brogan's College**

Virtual open evening will be on Thursday 7th October at 7:30p.m. and we will be sending out brochures and letters for the parents of fifth and sixth class students later.

Applications for a place will be accepted via an online application form which will be available on the website from the 1st Oct. to the 22nd Oct. '21.

**MICC Dunmanway**

There will be a virtual open night on Thursday 30th September. Parents / Guardians can register for this by following this link <https://forms.office.com/r/zU9vp2HzsL>.

**Clonakilty Community College**

Open evening will be in October  Check website  [www.clonakiltycc.ie](http://www.clonakiltycc.ie/) for date.  School will be left know about this.

**Bandon Convent**

Virtual open evening on 30th Sep. Go to the website to register your interest.  Accepting enrolment form from 1st Oct - 23rd Oct '21.

website:  [www.presbandon.ie](http://www.presbandon.ie/)

**Hamilton High School**

See letter attached.