**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

**28th April 2021**

Dear Parents,

**School Transport**

The deadline for applications for school transport for the 2021-22 school year is **Friday 30th April**. The primary school transport scheme supports the transport to and from school of children who reside not less than 3.2 kilometres from and are attending the nearest national school, having regard to ethos. Parents must apply online at [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie/). The bus must have ten pupils to retain our school transport service. The cost of a bus ticket is €100 per pupil and the maximum family charge of €220 applies for families with three or more children. Eligible children holding valid medical cards are exempt from school transport charges.

If you live more than 3.2km from the school and a transport service is not available to you, you may be entitled to a 'Remote Area Grant' towards the cost of private transport arrangements. Please note that you can only apply for a 'Remote Area Grant' if you have applied for school transport and been refused. As Desertserges National School has closed, our school may now be the closest national school with regard to ethos and some families may be eligible for the grant this year which were not eligible in previous years.

**Fundraiser**

At our PTA meeting on 4th November 2020, fundraising during this very unusual year was discussed. Usually we would have held two bingos by this stage of the school year. One of the most practical suggestions at the meeting was a 'Red Envelope Donation'. This is where a red envelope is sent to each family and those who can afford to contribute their own chosen amount. This is an anonymous donation. The red envelopes will be sent home this week in your child's schoolbag.

**Debate**

Our debating team represented the school very well last week but unfortunately they were defeated. It was a very high standard for that stage of the competition. We have all learnt a lot about the Developing World in the past two weeks whilst researching for the debate. Issues such as fairtrade, textile sweatshops and the unequal distribution of vaccinations have been discussed and debated.

**School Photographer**

Usually we get a school photograph taken every two years but last year the school was closed so it was not possible. We booked a school photographer to visit the school months ago. They will visit the school on Friday 7th May. At the time we had not foreseen that barber shops and hairdressers would still be shut. It will be a school photograph that will capture the times we live in and all the wonderful DIY haircuts!

**Staff Meeting**

There will be a staff meeting on Wednesday 5th May. The school will close at 12:30pm on that date. The school bus will operate at 12:30p.m.