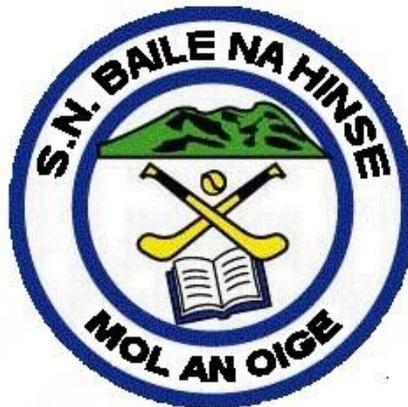


Scoil Baile na Hinse

Ballinahinch,

Co. Tipperary



Welcome Booklet 2018/19

Tá fáilte romhaibh chuig Scoil Baile na Hinse

Welcome to Ballinahinch National School, Tipperary. This booklet provides information for parents and pupils who are enrolling in the school for the first time. While the largest group of new enrolments in any year is the new Junior Infant class, we also welcome new pupils to the older classes and have kept this in mind in preparing the information. Hopefully many of your questions will be answered by careful reading of this booklet. If you have any further queries please feel free to ask the Class Teacher.

We hope that each child will enjoy their period in our school, that it may prove a stimulating, happy and productive time in their lives.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Shane McGrath (Príomhoide)

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About the school



Ballinahinch N.S. is a mixed, vertical, school under the patronage of the Catholic Diocese of Cashel/Emly. That is to say, we take boys and girls from junior infants through to 6th class and the school is a Catholic School. Children of other faiths are also welcome. For the 2018/19 school year we will have 7 teachers on staff, including the Principal and the SEN teachers. Enrolments at the school have been growing steadily in recent years but the school still retains a close, welcoming atmosphere in which staff care deeply for the well-being and development of each individual pupil.

School Personnel

Principal: Shane McGrath

Deputy Principal: Joan Martin

In-School Management

Team: Moya Walsh

Teaching Staff: Claire Upton, Mairead Bourke, Moya Walsh, Joan Martin, Shane McGrath, Claire Lynch and Eilis Ryan.

Special Needs Assistants (SNA): Margaret Moore and Maeve Ryan

Ancillary Staff: Mary Hogan (Secretary),
Dan Murphy (Caretaker)

School Contact Details

Address: Ballinahinch, Birdhill, Newport, Co.Tipperary.

Phone No: 061 379404

E-mail: ballinahinchns@gmail.com

School Website: www.ballinahinchns.ie



Ballinahinch National School is a co-educational Catholic primary school under the patronage of Dr. Kieran O' Reilly, the Bishop of Cashel & Emily. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life of Jesus Christ. Our Catholic ethos represents the norms of behaviour which have emerged and continue to emerge gradually from the repeated interactions and

relationships between people in the school community. While Ballinahinch is a school with a

Catholic ethos, it has due recognition for pupils of other faiths or no faith.

Our Catholic ethos finds expression through the care values of our school and through our actions, attitudes and practices:

- ✓ The staff and management of the school want to create a climate of physical, emotional, social and intellectual safety for students, teachers and parents so that teaching and learning can occur within relationships of mutual value and respect.
- ✓ With this in mind, the teachers of the school see education not just as providing students with knowledge and skills but also as providing for the emotional, social, physical and spiritual development of pupils.
- ✓ We want pupils to be self-motivated and to be at peace with themselves, others and the world. Achievement of these aspirations by the school requires the help and co-operation of pupils, staff and parents.

Our school embraces:

- ✓ A sense of fairness and positive relationships with all other persons.
- ✓ Deep respect for all people.
- ✓ Forgiveness and new beginnings: A place where grudges are not held.
- ✓ Respect and Dignity: Deep intrinsic respect for all others.
- ✓ Affirmation and Tolerance: That we speak to, react to and act towards others respectful of their dignity.
- ✓ Personal Faith Formation: Formal prayer, religion lesson, celebrations of sacraments and the liturgy seasons of the year.
- ✓ Belonging: That all experience a sense of belonging and contribute to the promotion of the desired ethos of the school.
- ✓ Understanding: Teachers and pupils have positive experiences of school and positive relationships are fostered

Religious Education

The Alive–O Catechetical Programme attempts to help children to relate their discovery of themselves, other people and the world to God who is the creator of all things, the source of all life, who loves and cares for each of them and is always with them. The classroom provides a positive environment for such a dialogue to take place between the experience or culture of the child and Gospel teaching. The programme emphasises the following elements: promoting knowledge of the faith; liturgical formation; moral formation; teaching to pray; education for community life; missionary initiation.

The school respects families of other faiths and no faith, and therefore respects the wishes of parents to exempt their children from the religious education programme. The school, however, cannot undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own faith, nor can it provide supervision during the religious education lessons apart from the class. Pupils remain in the classroom but will be accommodated with alternative activities.

School Organisation

Boards of Management are responsible for the direct governance of schools. The duties of the board of management include the following:

- ✓ Fulfilling its obligations as an employer
- ✓ Appointment of teachers, SNAs and ancillary staff;
- ✓ Approving teacher absences for a variety of reasons;
- ✓ Appointment of teachers In–School Management posts of responsibility;
- ✓ Ratification of school policies;
- ✓ Ensuring compliance with relevant legislation; and
- ✓ Ensuring that schools are adequately resourced, insured and maintained.

The members of the Board of Management of Ballinahinch N.S. are as follows:

- ✓ Patron’s Representatives: Eileen Finnegan & Fr. Bobby Fletcher
- ✓ Principal: Shane McGrath
- ✓ Parents’ Reps.: Angela Hickey & Cathal Bourke
- ✓ Community Reps. : Seamus Younge & Kathryn McGrath
- ✓ Teachers’ Reps.: Moya Walsh

School Day

Our school year begins on September 3rd 2018.



School begins at 9.20am. Please ensure that your child is punctual. Children miss out on essential social elements of the school day if they are late.

The school is opened at 9.00am in the morning & children are supervised in the yard. On wet days they are allowed into the school building.

Morning Break is at 11.00am – 11.10am

Lunch Time is at 12.30pm – 1.00pm

Junior & Senior Infants go home at **2.00pm**. All other pupils finish at 3.00pm.

Please note that Junior Infants will finish at 12.30 p.m for the first two weeks.

(September 3rd – September 14th inclusive). Normal hours will then resume on September 17th.

In the interest of pupil education it is important that class interruptions are kept to a minimum. Each interruption means that the whole class loses valuable learning time. The main areas of concern are pupils arriving late for class and dropping off forgotten items. Items such as forgotten lunches can be given into the secretary's office. All meetings with class teachers or principal must be by appointment.

Junior Infant Induction Day

In June, all new Junior Infants are invited with their parents to visit their new teacher in the Junior Infant Classroom. This induction morning gives the children the opportunity to meet with their new teacher and to also meet the other children who will be in their class. On this morning between 9:20 and 11am the children will play with toys and/or colour a picture. The Principal and teacher will be present to answer any further queries you may have about your child's first day at school.



The First Day

Please be positive with your child in preparing him/her for school and explain to him/her what will happen re: teacher, other children, breaks, sitting down, tidy-up time. On arrival it is very helpful if you can show your child into the classroom and greet the teacher. After meeting the teacher and some other children and finding a place to sit please leave promptly because your child will pick up your anxiety. Most children, even if initially upset, soon become distracted by their surroundings and settle down.

School Calendar 2018/19

School opens on Monday 3rd September

The following are the dates on which the school will be closed during this school year:

Scoil Baile na Hínse

School Calendar 2018/2019



Term 1:

- Monday 3rd September 2018 - School reopens at 9:20am
 - Thursday 25th October 2018 - School closing for Halloween Midterm due to election on Friday 26th (Full Day)
 - Monday 5th November 2018 - School reopens (Full Day)
 - Friday 21st December - School closing for Christmas Holidays (12:30pm)
-

Term 2:

- Monday 7th January 2019 - School reopens (Full Day)
 - Thurs 21st & Fri 22nd 2019 - School closed for February Midterm
 - Monday 18th March - school closed for St. Patrick's weekend
 - Friday 12th April 2019 - School closing for Easter Holidays (12:30pm)
-

Term 3:

- Monday 29th April 2019 - School reopens (Full Day)
- Monday 6th May 2019 - School Closed for Bank Holiday
- Monday June 3rd & Tuesday June 4th - School closed for June Bank Holiday
- Thursday June 27th 2019 - School Closing for Summer Holidays (12:30pm)

Attendance



Your child **should** attend school every day.

Schools have an obligation to report absences of **twenty days or more** to the Child and Family Agency. Upon your child's return to school, a written note should be presented to the class teacher outlining the dates and reasons for the absence.

For safety reasons children will not be released during school hours to anyone except parent or nominated adult, unless a signed note is provided to the teacher by the parent(s)/ guardian(s) in advance. Children should only be collected early if it is absolutely necessary and you will be required to fill in the sign-out book in Reception. If your child is ill, please do not send them to school. Take your doctor's advice regarding rashes and infections.

Uniform



The fully crested Ballinahinch tracksuit should be worn every day. If for any reason a child is not wearing the full tracksuit he/she should have a **note from his/her parents explaining why**. We depend entirely on parents' co-operation in this matter.

Tracksuit: School Tracksuit top with crest; Navy tracksuit bottoms with crest ; School polo shirt (blue) with crest..

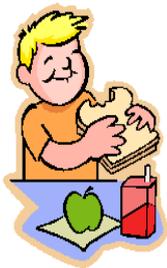
School tracksuit is available from **Sportsman Dream, Kenyon St., Nenagh, Co. Tipperary**

There is no restriction on the type of footwear which is allowed. However, **please ensure that children wear suitable footwear** and clothing that allows for safe and free movement during break-times and sports activities. It is also very important that the children feel comfortable and confident in their own clothes. Long hair should be tied back.

Minimal jewellery such as a watch or stud earrings are permitted. Other items such as bracelets and drop earrings can cause the child an injury or distress when broken or lost are not allowed. Make-up is not allowed.

Please **label** all jackets/coats/sweaters: Have your child practice putting on and taking off their coats. Velcro fastened runners are ideal for young children and they promote their independence.

Lunches



The school day is short and we want your child to receive the best education that they can. Diet plays a big part in your child's behaviour. We promote a healthy eating policy in our school.

The following are not encouraged: crisps, chocolate, chocolate bars/biscuits, sweets, winders, fizzy drinks, nuts (due to allergies) and popcorn. There is a very high sugar content in cereal bars. While we do not disallow them, please read the labels on these as often they may be misleading. Chewing gum is not allowed.

An example of a healthy lunch – sandwiches/crackers/breadsticks/wraps/rice cakes
Fruit (which the child can easily manage) e.g. grapes, raisins, bananas, peeled oranges, apple slices

Salad, tomatoes, rice/pasta dishes

Vegetable sticks e.g. carrot sticks/celery

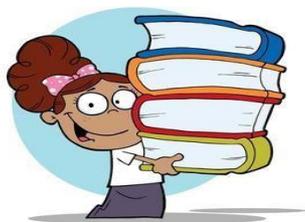
Water, milk, juice, smoothies

Yoghurts – please ensure that they are set yoghurts and that your child has a spoon.

Please ensure that your child's lunchbox is clearly labelled

Don't give your child a big lunch as they only have a short time to eat. If your child does not finish their lunch, we will leave it in their lunch box.

Books



You will receive a book list outlining the books your child needs for the year. School Work Books can be bought at any book shop.

Copybooks, pencils, crayon etc. for Junior Infants will be provided by the class teacher. All other classes buy their own copybooks as specified on booklists.

Your child's books, copies and portfolios are kept in the school until the end of the year. At times books may be sent home for homework.

Book Rental Scheme

In the present financial climate, we are conscious of keeping costs to parents to a minimum. Last year we set up a book rental scheme for all pupils and it was a tremendous success. It will be in operation for the coming year 2018/19. The scheme is being coordinated by Claire Lynch and a Parents Committee.

Contact Numbers/ Mobile Phones



It is very important that you keep us up to date with contact numbers in case of an emergency. Please ensure that your emergency contact number is different to your own number.

Also, remember to let us know, if you change your mobile or landline number or email address.

Under no circumstances are pupils allowed mobile phones at school. We also discourage children bringing in toys or games from home unless the teacher asks them to do so. They can be the cause of conflict in the class. Also, the school takes no responsibility for any toys or games that a child brings into school.

Birthday Parties



Teachers do not take responsibility for distributing invitations to birthday parties or hosting birthday parties in class. It is the parent's responsibility regarding this outside of the school. A class list of contact numbers is available at Reception. Please do not distribute invitations or birthday treats through the school as it can upset other children.

Allergies/Administration of Medication



The Board of Management has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils. However, as a general rule teachers will not be involved in the administration of medication.

The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that staff members are made aware in writing, of any medical condition suffered by their child. This information should be provided at enrolment or at the development of any medical conditions at a later date.

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions or allergies, parents should outline clearly in writing, what should and what should not be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child.

Accidents in School



If an accident happens in school, your child will receive first aid for minor cuts and bruises. If there is anything more serious you will be contacted.

It is very important that we have a contact number of somebody who will be able to collect the child if the parent/guardian is not available. Parents are asked to make sure that the emergency phone number entered on their child's Registration Form is up to date.

Home/ School Contact & Parent Teacher Meetings



Please check your child's homework journal often and use the journal to send messages to the teacher. If you wish to meet with a teacher, please make an appointment and the teacher will be happy to facilitate you. Parent-Teacher meetings will be organised in the second term, at which you will have an opportunity to formally meet your child's class teacher.

- ✓ Circulars are issued to parents/guardians on a regular basis to update them on school events. Please keep an eye on your child's schoolbag for notes for parents.
- ✓ The school prepares a school newsletter regularly.
- ✓ The Text-a-Parent service is used to notify parents/guardians by mobile phone of forthcoming school related events and of school closings.
- ✓ The school website has been redesigned and provides you with regular up-to-date information regarding school events, achievements and policies.

Meetings with teachers/ principal are by appointment only. Appointments can be made by contacting the school on (061) 379404. A request for a meeting should be accompanied by the reason for the meeting.

Please inform the office of any changes to contact details (mobile phone numbers, address etc.).

We will send home reports in June each year. These reports can be discussed with the teacher if requested.

Parental Involvement



We believe that parents, the school and the community working together enhance the education of our students. Parental involvement in Ballinahinch is encouraged, welcomed and appreciated.

We have an active **Parents Association Committee** in the school. This year they were involved in organising a Halloween Cake Sale, Table Quiz and Auction, a Fun Walk for the whole community, the Book Rental Scheme, and refreshments for families after the First Holy Communion Ceremony. We welcome parental involvement in policy formation, fundraising and general events in the school (such as school outings, school celebrations, parents' meetings). Please sign up for the PA Committee if you are interested in becoming a member.

Angela Hickey and Cathal Bourke are our two parent nominees to the **Board of Management**. Parent representatives are invited to join and assist in policy formation and in dealing with general school matters.



In Ballinahinch NS, the **Parents 'Association AGM** takes place in September. Information evenings for parents on interesting topics are arranged.

Parent/Child Projects

During the year we will be inviting parents/guardians to help in the school with some parent/child projects and grandparents are also invited for **Grandparents Day**.

Green School Flag Programme & Recycling



Ballinahinch N.S has attained Green Flag status. As part of our initiative pupils are encouraged to reduce waste, recycle, and conserve energy and water. Waste separation is practiced in all classrooms and we operate a litter patrol system in the school. All lunch leftovers must be brought home every day.

Through the cooperation of pupils and staff, the school is currently working towards our third Green Flag- Water.

Subjects



The Department of Education and Skills is responsible for the education of children in Ireland. Under the curriculum laid down by the Department all students will be taught the following subjects – English, Gaeilge, Maths, Science, Drama, Geography, Music, History, Physical Education, SPHE, and Visual Arts. A religious education programme called Alive O’ will also be taught to children. The Irish language and culture plays an important role in the everyday life of Ballinahinch NS. We encourage staff and children to speak Irish informally during the day. If you have any basic Irish please use it as much as possible informally at home.

Infant Education

Early childhood is a time of great opportunity for learning and development. In the early years children learn through loving, trusting and respectful relationships, and through discussion, exploration and play. They learn how to communicate and they learn to interact with others and the environment. This early learning lays important foundations for later learning. We recognise the importance of the first two years of your child’s education in forming a firm foundation for his/ her years in primary school. Our curriculum reflects “the many dimensions of human experience, activity and expression and is directed towards the development of the full potential development of the child” (Primary School Curriculum: Introduction). **Play** is a key aspect of infant education. Play is voluntary, spontaneous and meaningful. When playing children can experience risk within safe and secure boundaries. They can often concentrate for long periods of time too. Play is also often very social—children enjoy playing with other children and with adults. Above all, play is fun and an important part of children’s learning and development. Learning is enhanced when parents/family and the early childhood setting work together. By being involved in their children’s early learning, **parents can improve their children’s motivation to learn**. Through different relationships children learn about their world. Trust, respect, love, and care are at the heart of relationships which enable children to grow, learn and develop. Opportunities for co-operation, playfulness, problem-solving, and conflict resolution are all valued.

Additional Educational Needs



All children are valued, respected and welcomed to the school whatever their additional need. We will support their learning and ensure they are

fully included in school activities. Assessment is an important element of the Primary School Curriculum and takes many forms. From senior infants all children are administered annual standardised assessments in Maths and English by class teachers. Other tests may also be used with children who might be experiencing difficulties in learning. The help of support teachers will be provided to children who need it. Should your child require any special assistance, be it short term or long, a member of staff will contact you and invite you to the school to discuss your child's needs.

The school also has the services of an educational psychologist, who works closely with the school in assessing children who may be experiencing difficulties. If you have any queries about our SEN supports feel free to make an appointment to discuss them with a member of our SEN Support Team.

If you notice that your child is struggling with any aspect of schooling, let us know. Likewise we will inform you, if we have any concerns regarding your child's educational, physical or emotional development. If this occurs, please don't panic. **It is better to find out if there are any concerns at an early stage in order to provide support.**



The HSE now provides a team assessment for free for children up to the age of 5. This may alleviate any concerns you have and also will help us support your child. Please contact your local Health Centre or drop into the school for further information.

Child Protection

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, the BoM has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2011 as part of its overall child protection policy. The schools

Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the Deputy Principal and the **Deputy DLP** is the Principal

Language Acquisition

If English is not your child's first language, we would encourage children to speak as much English as possible at school. We do not encourage children to use their mother tongue in school. However we encourage parents to use their native language at home. This helps in the acquisition of languages by the child.

Health & Safety

As part of our school health programme we encourage regular washing of hands, particularly around eating time and after toilet use. If your child develops any contagious illness such as chickenpox please keep him/her away from school until the period of contagion is over and inform the teacher immediately.

Unfortunately, head lice are a problem in primary schools. Please inform the school if you discover that your child has head lice. Treatments for head lice are available from the pharmacy.

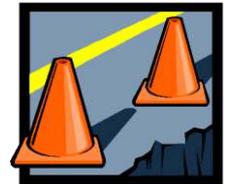
When the class teacher feels that a child is not well enough for school either as a result of becoming sick or an accident the Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately. Generally if your child is too sick to go to yard he/she is too sick to come to school.

Road Safety

The school Board of Management encourages the cooperation of parents/guardians with the following points to ensure the safety of all:

✓ We are very fortunate to have the facility of a stop and drop area. Speed ramps have also been constructed outside the school.

In particular, we ask you to observe the pickup and set down area as it is intended and do not park here. Please observe and obey the clear signage.



✓ It is imperative that everyone drives to the front door end of the facility before stopping in so far as possible. Your child should then use the railed pathway to walk back down and enter the school yard. For this system to be successful, we must allow it to flow and drivers must be conscious of the vehicles behind them waiting to enter the stop and drop. Please encourage your child to walk on the inside of the railing.

✓ Please do not reverse into the stop and drop and please refrain from other dangerous manoeuvres.

✓ Please do not park your vehicle or leave it unattended at any time in the stop and drop.

✓ For your child's safety please ensure he/she exits the car on the path side of the stop and drop. It is extremely dangerous to exit on the other side as cars will be overtaking and might not see a small child.

✓ Please refrain from parking on the double yellow lines or outside the stop and drop island as it is a public road and to park on same causes an obstruction.

✓ The health and safety of our school community is of utmost importance. Each driver has a responsibility to ensure that safety is maintained. Please pay your part with patience and courtesy.

Playtime

At playtime children go to the yard when the weather is dry enough to go out. Children are assigned a specific area. We have some painted hopscotch/snakes and ladders and other games for the children to play with on the infant yard. They play traditional playground games as well as other activities such as skipping. We ask children to play with other children their own age. Older pupils are allowed to play on the yard/grass which creates more space for games. These pupils are allowed to play ball games on a rota basis. Good behaviour is expected of all children at play as well as at work and the safety and feelings of others must be respected. Parents will be informed if there is a pattern of misbehaviour. In the case of serious misbehaviour you will be informed immediately.

Behaviour



We believe that all children are equal and deserve to be respected. We expect that all children will follow the code of behaviour. All staff and visitors must also follow this **Code of Behaviour**. Bullying is not acceptable in our school. We like to affirm our students. There will be class rules and the children will have an input. Sanctions will be utilised for misbehaviour. The Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies are available on the school website.

Assembly



At assembly pupils are recognised for their achievements. School rules and practices are affirmed and pupils are informed on important school events. Also pupils get an opportunity to showcase the work they are doing in their classrooms to pupils in other classes.

Homework

Try and have your child complete their homework when they come home from school, as they are still in school mode, leaving homework until late means your child will be tired and learn to resent it. The following guidelines are from our Homework Policy:

- ✓ Homework is usually given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- ✓ Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- ✓ Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

- ✓ If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.
- ✓ If you find that your child is spending too long on their homework or does not understand some aspect of it, ask them to stop and send a note to the class teacher explaining what aspects of the homework caused the child difficulty.
- ✓ If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the purpose of doing homework. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

The following are general guidelines for time spent on homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are guidelines only:

Junior and Senior Infants	10 mins. approx.
First and Second Class	20 mins. approx.
Third Class	25–30 mins. approx.
Fourth Class	30–40 mins. Approx..
Fifth Class	35–45 mins. approx.
Sixth Class	45mins. –1 hr. approx.

Health Promoting School Committee 2018/19



The Health Promoting School Committee is made up of representatives of parents, teachers, pupils and school management. The HPS Committee is charged with making the school a safe and happy place for pupils. The Committee connects with the pupil body and implements new programmes and activities. Last year, the H.P.S. Committee introduced new activities to promote wellness and mindfulness in pupils and also reviewed the school Healthy Eating Policy.

Grievance Procedure

We hope that you and your child will enjoy eight perfect years here at Ballinahinch, but we know that's a lot to ask! Sometimes little things go wrong and you may have a worry or concern about something. In that case, please send a short note to your child's class teacher asking for an appointment to talk it over, or phone the office to fix a suitable

time to meet him/her. The teacher will be happy to meet you once they have had a chance to make arrangements for their classes. Usually a short chat achieves a lot. Hopefully the matter will be resolved quickly with the class teacher but if not you can then request to meet with the principal. Most matters are small and best dealt with at early stages. If you need to take the matter further, the chairperson of the Board of Management is the person to whom you should write. **No other person or group acts as “complaints department”**. On the other hand, if you’re very happy, everybody readily accepts compliments – feel free!

Student Teachers

The school facilitates the placement of Student Teachers in some classes from time to time during the school year. They bring with them great enthusiasm, energy and new ideas which benefit pupils as well as the school.

HSE Medical Services

The HSE carries out a school Medical Inspection on pupils during the year. Consent forms will be issued to parents in advance of medical inspections. Parents may attend and will be invited to do so. The following medical inspections may be provided:



- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓ Hearing and Vision Screening | Infants and Sixth Classes |
| ✓ Dental | Second/Fourth and Sixth Class |
| ✓ Booster 4-in-1 and Repeat MMR | Junior Infants |
| ✓ Repeat MMR | Sixth Class |

Home Issues

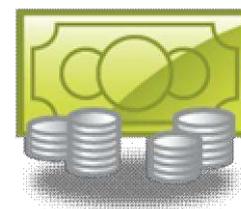


If there are issues at home such as separation, family bereavement etc. it can be helpful for the class teacher to be made aware of the situation. Parental separation or family bereavement can be traumatic for the child(ren) concerned if not supported. Any information is treated confidentially. Teachers can then support the student at school or link the family into suitable services. Teachers approach the issue with sensitivity and with a focus on the well-being of the children.

Parent Contributions

Like many other schools, the Board of Management faces difficulties in financing the day to day running of the school. The Government grant for running the school is not sufficient to meet the basic expenses of the school.

Parents are asked to make an annual contribution towards expenses not covered by the grant for the day to day running of the school.



Therefore the Parent Contribution includes payment for each of the following items:
Personal Accident Insurance, Standardised Tests, Pupil Reports,
Homework Diary, Art and Craft materials, Photocopying, School resources and equipment, Text a parent service and Water.

The suggested contribution is €50 per child. Parent Contributions should be paid before Friday October 20th. If paying by cheque, please make payable to 'Ballinahinch National School'. Receipts will be issued for all contributions for 2018/19.

Tours

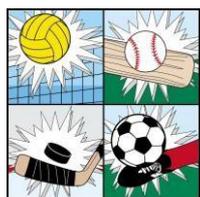


Parents are asked for permission when we are going on school tours. However, for local tours, example, going outside in the local area, permission is not sought once parents sign the permission slip in the Student Information Form. Children are often engaged in active

learning and leave the school to support the curricular objectives.

We also ask for signed permission for photographs/use of photos for the website of your child to be taken. Photos may be taken when children are on school trips or involved in school activities.

Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular Activities



In Ballinahinch N.S. we avail of opportunities to expose pupils to a variety

of educational and sporting experiences in addition to the formal curriculum. We strive to recognise and foster the children's individual talents. Some children are very able readers, some excellent mathematicians, more are fine artists or singers or sportspeople. We try to give them at least a "taste" of extra-curricular activities while they are here so they experience success and enjoyment, develop an interest for their future, a sense of teamwork and build their self-esteem enormously along the way.

A large number of staff members are involved in extra-curricular activities. The middle classes go to University of Limerick Pool for swimming lessons. School teams annually participate in hurling, camogie, Gaelic football, basketball, soccer, athletics, chess and quizzes. The school choir enhances our ceremonies and celebrations throughout the year including sacraments, assemblies, masses and award ceremonies.

School concert and shows are very enjoyable events for all involved. Workshops are organised annually. In the recent past we have organised whole school skipping workshops, dance workshops, demonstrations during Science Week and Engineers Day, drumming workshops and visits by other guest speakers. Our Christmas Play is a showcase for pupils' acting and performing talents.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in competitions in Visual Arts, Write a Book, Quizzes and others as appropriate. Pupils regularly visit our school library. Our annual 'Sports Day' is one of the highlights of the school year. Classes are also taken on educational trips during the school year.

Other activities include:

- ✓ The school also avails of the services of coaches from different sports who come to the school including hurling, basketball and soccer.
 - ✓ The Green Schools Programme.
 - ✓ School concerts & shows.
 - ✓ One day retreat for 6th class.
 - ✓ Infants also pair with senior classes for 'Reading Buddies'.
 - ✓ Literacy Lift Off & Small Group Literacy Instruction.
 - ✓ The Health Promoting School Programme.
 - ✓ Transition from Primary to Secondary Education Programme
 - ✓ Charity collections for the Hope Foundation/ Trócaire/ Local charities etc.
 - ✓ ICT Education
 - ✓ City Sports –Athletics
 - ✓ Swimming lessons for middle classes in UL swimming pool.
 - ✓ Visiting speakers to the school, including writers/ poets/ local historians etc.
 - ✓ Junior Entrepreneur Programme
 - ✓ Local nature walks.
 - ✓ Discover Primary Science
 - ✓ Art and craft every week as part of the curriculum. Entering Art competitions sponsored by Texaco / Credit union /other commercial sponsors/Community games.
 - ✓ School tour every year for all children.
 - ✓ Project work for middle and senior pupils.
 - ✓ Write-a-Book project. The children are very proud of their very own publications.
 - ✓ Bicycle safety lessons and First Aid demonstrations.
 - ✓ School Choir. The choir provide beautiful music for the First Communion, First Confession and Confirmation ceremonies as well as Concert and Christmas carol performances.
 - ✓ Book weeks, library trips, visits and the most popular Book Week Fancy Dress.
-To name but a few!!

S.T.E.M.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) are critically important disciplines for modern society. Ballinahinch N.S. is placing an even greater emphasis on improving the quality of education in this area.

Last year Ballinahinch N.S. was awarded a Discover Primary Science & Maths plaque of Stem Excellence. A plaque of STEM Excellence is the highest award that a school can achieve and commends Ballinahinch N.S. for deeper engagement, whole school involvement and external science engagement in Science & Maths Programme. Classes participate in Maths Week, Science Week, Engineering Week and many more projects and activities.

School Facilities



The school accommodation for the 2018/19 school year will comprise of the following: 5 mainstream classrooms; 2 SEN Rooms; 1 Disabled WC & Shower Room; Storage Room; Staff Room and Meeting Room. The majority of classrooms will have ensuite toilets.

Each classroom has a fully integrated Interactive WhiteBoard, teaching laptop and speaker system. The school continues to invest heavily in teaching and learning resources for each curricular area. The community halla, is occasionally used for P.E., Assemblies, School Functions & Talks and also by other local organisations e.g. Karate

How Can I Help the School?

As parents you want to be involved in your child's education. There are numerous ways in which you can become involved.

The Parents Association always needs support – at meetings or simply support for events. Examples of support –



- ✓ Parents who have trades or professional skills & knowledge in specific areas– can help us with general work in and around the school.
- ✓ Extra-Curricular Activities – Come in and work with the children .
- ✓ Support and help for the school events/help with setting up etc.
- ✓ Board of Management – Parents are invited to become members of the Board of Management.
- ✓ Participate in parent/child activities.
- ✓ Field Trips – accompany classes on outings.

Any ideas and suggestion you might have for becoming involved in the school are welcome. Please contact the school.

Ways in which you can prepare your child for school



1) Talk about school, concentrate on the positive aspects of school, such as the friends your child will make and the activities they will do such as painting, making jigsaws and going on trips. Ask them about their day. Don't be surprised if they say they did nothing in school as often they don't realise that they are learning. Early oral language development has a strong impact on a child's reading ability.

2) Give your child an input into their school life such as buying a new school bag, pencil case, new school shoes.

3) Practice nursery rhymes at home and read some well-known fairy tales. Familiarity reassures children and gives them greater confidence. Reading readiness is the key skill to introduce your child to the mechanics of reading, reading direction, the conventions of writing, awareness of text and most importantly nurturing a motivation to read and a love for books.



4) Play helps a child develop motor skills, oral language skills, visual discrimination skills and vocabulary. Play also encourages children's

social skills in order to establish friendships. Games such as snap, matching, jigsaws etc. have much educational value.

5) Make sure your child has plenty of sleep. Starting school can be traumatic and exciting, and also very tiring.

6) Each morning try not to stay too long in the classroom. Remember it is a valuable part of your parenting skills that you have developed your child to be independent enough to go to school. Give your child a hug and let them go into the school. If there are any concerns we will contact you.



7) Encourage independence where your child hangs up their own jacket, carries in their own bag and takes down their own chair.

8) Limit television viewing, especially before your child comes to school and before they go to bed.

9) Encourage your child to colour, write, scribble, paint, manipulate play dough, cut safely as this strengthens the child's hand muscles to enrich gross and fine motor skills.

10) Become involved in school life!

Remember, schools are happy places! Let your child have fun and enjoy school. Children learn long term social skills at school that will impact on their adult life.

PARENTS ARE TEACHERS TOO

*I dreamed I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they had was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.*

*One was a teacher, the tools he used
Were books and music and art;
One was a parent, with a guiding hand
And a gentle, loving heart.*

*Day after day the teacher toiled With
touch that was deft and sure, While
the parent, laboured by his side And
polished and smoothed it o'er.*

*And when at last their task was done, They
were proud that what they had wrought, Could
neither be, sold or bought.*

*And each agreed they would have failed
If they had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood THE SCHOOL,
And behind the teacher THE HOME.*

Notes