

Ballinspittle National School

Parents Association

Newsletter



We wish to welcome all new parents/guardians and children to Ballinspittle National School. We hope you are settling in well and enjoying the journey into your child's education.

Some of the things the P.A. do

The most important thing we do is have a good open relationship with the school and the principal because without this we wouldn't be able to function. Each year we fundraise by planning a number of events. These events include Used Clothes Collection's, Book Fair, Sale of Christmas Cards & and Reindeer Food and a Church gate collection. Last year we also held a Family Fun day and BBQ which was a very successful fundraiser for the school.

Members:

Every parent/guardian is a member of the PA. The committee is made up of 3 officers and 6 members, 2 of these are also on the board of management. The members for 2016/2017 following the AGM held on October 13th are as follows:

Chairperson: Clodagh Walsh

Secretary: Anna Hickey

Treasurer: Angela O'Rielly

Committee members: Linda Collins, Deirdre White, Tara O' Mahony, Fiona Coughlan and Natasha Mc Loughlin,

Board of management Reps: Fiona McCarthy & Michael O'Donovan

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathy Gillen who was our previous secretary and also Christina Twomey for their work on the committee. We welcome our new committee members Deirdre White, Tara O' Mahony, Fiona Coughlan and Natasha Mc Loughlin,

If you have any ideas for fundraising or ideas that will aid in our children's fun and education please speak with someone on the committee

We have enclosed a brief outline of our recent AGM together with an information sheet; we hope you find this useful.

We look forward to see you all at the next Parents Association meeting in February.

Kind regards,

Parents Association

Brief Outline of discussions at the AGM 13th October 2016

- Chairperson Clodagh Walsh welcomed all who attended and introduced the committee.
- Minutes of previous meeting were read by outgoing Secretary Kathy Gillen.
- Copy of the treasurer's report was handed out. The chairperson thanked everybody who bought Christmas Cards, supported Clothes Collections, Church Gate Collection, and BBQ this year. Due to this support the Parents Association were able to help the school improve facilities for our children.
- The Chairperson thanked Pauline O' Regan for her help in organising the Christmas Cards last year. It was agreed that we would ask Rhino Print and Design to print the cards again this year. It was great to be able to support a local business that was able to provide the Christmas Cards with a healthier profit margin than the previous supplier.
- **Raised Playing Area:** Last year at the AGM there were concerns raised regarding the height of the raised playing area and the possibility of children falling from here and hurting themselves. - after highlighting these concern to Mr Gunning fencing was erected around the raised playing area. The Parents Association paid €1000 towards the cost of the fencing.

BBQ - A family fun day and BBQ was held on the school grounds on 14th June 2016. The BBQ was organised by the Parents Association and the staff in the school. We received great support from parents in the school, local business and the local community. The Chairperson thanked all those who donated prizes, baked, made salads, BBQ'd on the day and helped in setting the yard on the day. €1900 which was donated to the school..

IT Equipment: €2000 was given to the school in September 2016 towards new IT equipment for the resource room and new Laptops.

Mr Gunning expressed his gratitude for the donations from the Parents Association.

- The Chairperson gave a brief update on the school building and P.E. arrangements.
- **Book Rental Scheme:** Judy Moloney gave an update New members are required for the Book Rental Committee. Please connect Judy or a member of the Parents Association committee if you are interested in helping out.
- **Clothes Collection:** We have organised our winter clothes collection for **November 16th**. Due to space constraints the GAA have generously allowed us to use one of the dressing rooms as storage for the collection. Drop Off times to be arranged.
- **Online Payments:** Online payments came active this September. Parents at the meeting gave positive feedback regarding the efficient system. The chairperson paid thanks to Fiona, Deborah and Tommy who have put a lot of work into getting this online payment active.
- **Cork Simon:** It was agreed that we would support the Simon Community again this year with our Christmas Appeal.
- **School Photograph :** Previous AGM it was discussed and decided that it would be taken in February Will follow up with Mr Gunning after AGM.
- **Conformation and Communion dates:** Conformation this year is on March 15th and First Holy Communion is on May 6th.
- **Car Parking Policy:** Reminder that there is the one way flow through the gate in the community hall and exit out at the GAA pitch, no parking in the Yellow box or double parking outside the school.
- **Green Flag:** Work on the Green Flag certification is ongoing.

Other Useful Information:

School contact information

School office hours Monday – Friday 9.30-12.30

School phone number 021 4778239

School mobile phone number 086 4106216

School e-mail address: secretary@ballinspittlens.ie or principal@ballinspittlens.ie

School website: www.ballinspittlens.ie

School blog: <http://ballinspittlens.scoilnet.ie/blog>

Teachers and Staff

Principal – Mr. Tommy Gunning

The School consists of 8 class rooms

Room 1 - Junior infants - Eileen O' Regan Vice Principle

Room 2 – Junior Infants – Mrs Hurley

Room 3 – Senior Infants and First Class - Mrs O Donovan

Room 4 – First Class - Ms Twomey

Room 5 – 2nd Class and 3rd Class - Ms Lyne

Room 6 – 3rd Class - Ms Sheahan

Room 7– 4th and 4th Class – Mr O' Riordan

Room 8 – 6th Class – Mrs Wall

Resource & Learning Support Team

Mrs Hull, Ms Lalor, Ms O' Byrne and Ms Conlon

SNA's Teresa Murphy and Sharon Toner

School secretary – Deborah Gately

Child Protection.

Designated Liaison Person- Tommy Gunning Principle

Deputy Designated Liaison Person –Eileen O' Regan Vice Principle

A copy of the Child Protection Guidelines is available in the school and on the school website.

Board of Management

Chairperson -Fr. Michael O'Mahony

Secretary - Tommy Gunning

Treasurer - Fiona Mc Carthy

Teachers Rep - Kathleen O'Donovan

Parents Rep – Fiona McCarthy and Michael O'Donovan

Community Reps – Diarmuid Fahy and Geraldine Nyhan

Patrons Nominee – Tracey Moloney

Typical class day:

09:10: A teacher is present from 09.10am. Children should not be dropped at the school prior to this time.

09:20: First bell-School starts. All children must be present at 09.20

11:10: Small break (10mins)

12.30: Lunch break (30mins)

02.00: Second break (10mins) School finished for Juniors and Senior infants

03.00: School finished

Texting System/ Email

The School operates a texting system to keep parents informed. Please ensure your mobile number is on this listing. If you change your number or you are not receiving texts please call to the school office to ensure this is corrected. Other information is sent by way of email. The school website and school blog are updated on a regular basis.

Dates for your Diary



✓ **Clothes Collection on November 16th**

Drop Off points will be at the GAA Dressing Rooms on:

- Thursday November 10th 7pm - 8:30pm
- Monday November 14th 7pm- 8:30pm

✓ **Book Fair and Parents – Teacher Meetings November 23rd & 24th.**

The Book Fair will be held in the School Hall during the Parent teacher Meeting's on November 23rd and 24th.

✓ **Annual Community Bazaar**

This year we are having a Christmas Raffle at the Bazaar. First prize is a visit to Santa for 2 Adults & 2 Children to FOTA Discover. We will also have a Lucky Dip at the Bazaar for the children for 50c a dip and some more surprises too!

✓ **Christmas Concert**

This year Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday December 15th for Senior Infants – 6th Class and on December 22nd for Junior Infants. More details to follow from your class teacher.

✓ **Simon Community Christmas Appeal**

As we did last year, we will support Cork Simon Community this Christmas. More details to follow