**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

 **24th May 2021**

**Clothes Collection**

Thank you for all the donations of clothes for the clothes collection last week, altogether 225 kilogrammes of clothes were donated.

**Biodiversity Day**

Carbery has organised a 'Bandon River Biodiversity Day' in the Butterfly Garden next Friday for the two local schools. They have invited us to a talk by Catherine Seale who is a community water officer with Cork County Council. Each classroom has been allocated a separate time slot to avoid any mixing. She will conduct a river dip with the pupils to see what insects are living in the river and talk to them about the biodiversity signs that the tidy towns committee has erected in the park. There will be a poster competition the following week on the theme of biodiversity with prizes for each classroom sponsored by Carbery. Please ensure that your child brings a waterproof coat to school on Friday.

**School Photographs**

A proof of your school photographs was sent home on Friday. There is no obligation to purchase them. The details about ordering them were included in the envelope. You can either order them directly online or through the school. Please return the envelope to the school by Wednesday 26th May, regardless of whether you wish to order them or not.

**Mural**

The screws for the mural have finally arrived. A number of families have volunteered to assist us to screw the bottle tops to the mural. If you have an hour or two to spare, please let us know when you are available and we will set up a rota. We estimate that there may be up to 11,000 bottle tops so we really would appreciate any assistance you can give us!

**Cork County Development Plan**

This morning the senior classroom joined a special zoom meeting with Holly Cairns TD to discuss the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028. They were given the opportunity to submit their ideas about how to improve our local area. Congratulations to Isabel Grunwell from sixth class who spoke so well on our behalf. She proposed a cycle track from Bandon to Dunmanway along the banks of the River Bandon. She outlined the potential health benefits to residents, the opportunities it would create for pupils to cycle safely to school, she listed the wildlife that could be viewed and listed all the tourist attractions along the routes, she also mentioned that the toilets at the BEDA playground needed to be upgraded. Well done Isabel!

**RSE talk**

A permission slip was both emailed and printed and sent home to all the families in 5th & 6th class, please complete the permission form and return it to the school.

**Education Passports**

Education Passports will be sent home to each family in 6th class this week. Please complete the forms and return them to us. They are a means of transferring personal information about your child to their post-primary school. The pupils will have their own form to fill in which they will complete in school. Both forms are sent to their post-primary school with a copy of their 6th class report.

**Ted's Treats**

This morning a local lady arrived at the school gate with a very large tray of traybakes and cupcakes for all the pupils and staff. They were enough treats for everybody and we enjoyed a surprise picnic outside in the sunshine; they were delicious! She introduced herself as a small business owner in Enniskeane but unfortunately she didn't leave her name. If any of you are looking for a caterer for a special occasion her e-mail address is tedstreats7@gmail.com and you can find more information on instagram: tedstreats7.

**Tennis lessons**

Pupils from all classes will begin four weeks of tennis lessons with Alan O'Mahony on Wednesday 2nd June (weather permitting). Please ensure that your child wears runners to school on Wednesdays. Tennis racquets will be provided but the children may bring their own if they wish. The cost of the lessons will be covered by your additional activities payment.

**Small Schools' Grant**

The Church of Ireland Board of Education gives a grant for two teacher schools. They have given us a grant to cover the cost of an outdoor xylophone. It arrived today and the playground was full of enthusiastic musicians at lunchtime!

**Board of Management Agreed Report**

A meeting of the Board of Management took place on Thursday 20th May. The agreed report is as follows:

* The Assistive Technology Policy was ratified by the Board of Management.
* An application for enrolment by Keelan O’Neill Browne was accepted. He will join 4th class on 31st May.
* The Board of Management wish to extend their thanks to the Select Vestry of Kinneigh Union for deciding to waiver the school’s rent for the parish hall for this academic year.