**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

 **23rd May 2022**

**Dear Parents,**

**We have a very busy and exciting week ahead!**

**GAA**

GAA training on Thursdays has now finished. Thank you to Tadg Sheehan and St. Mary's GAA club for sponsoring the training. The club would like to present one place on their Summer Cúl Camp to one of our pupils. The camp will run from 18th - 22nd July. Some of you may have plans for that week or your child may not be interested in participating in the camp. Please respond by email by Tuesday 24th May, if you wish your child to be entered into a draw for a free place in their Cúl Camp. The child will need to be registered as soon as possible as the camp will be fully booked.

**Irish Red Cross**

On Wednesday 25th May, two members of The Irish Red Cross in Bandon, will visit our school. They are coming to collect the cheque from the PTA Community Easter Egg hunt and to collect the welcome packs that the pupils made for Ukrainian refugees. These packs are given to the refugees when they arrive in Cork airport or port. If you have not sent in a pack, it is not too late. We will still be accepting welcome packs until Wednesday morning. The list of items required in the welcome packs is attached. The two members of The Irish Red Cross will arrive in their uniforms and in their ambulance so the children will get the opportunity to see around the inside of the ambulance.

**Active Flag Accreditation Visit**

Ms. Sullivan has carefully documented all of our PE activities undertaken this school year. There are lots of photographs of their sports activities on the school website <https://www.ballymoneyns.com/active-school-flag>. We have passed the initial stage of the renewal process. On Wednesday 25th May, a member of the Active Flag Accreditation Team will visit our school to speak to the pupils and to observe a PE lesson being taught in each classroom. This will be the final stage of the renewal process and we hope that she will be impressed by all our pupils' work.

**Ukulele Lessons**

This week is our last week of ukulele lessons with Christine Deady. The pupils have really enjoyed their lessons, their attitude and their confidence at performing has grown as the year has progressed. They have composed a song based on the theme of climate change and they are practising for their first live concert on Thursday! Christine has agreed to return in September for another term of lessons. She has also enjoyed teaching our pupils and their enthusiasm for the lessons.

**School Tour**

On Thursday 26th May, the whole school will go on a school tour to Inchydoney. The cost of this tour is fully covered by our creative cluster grant. This will be a full school day for the infants who will stay in school until 2:30pm. For the past two years, we have been in a creative cluster with Kilgarriffe NS and St. Multose NS. The aim of the creative cluster was to improve attitudes towards music amongst our pupils. The pupils from the three schools will meet in the amphitheatre for a ukulele concert. So far they have only met remotely on zoom to perform for each other. They will play the pieces that they learnt together and each school will perform two individual songs. Each school was set the challenge of composing a song based on the theme of climate change. Our song is called 'This is Our Climate'. During the middle of the day, the children will be given time to create sand sculptures on the beach in small groups. There will be time allowed for them to circulate and appraise each other's sculptures. The end of the day will finish with another live concert in the amphitheatre. Rawney and The Monks will perform for the children. Clonakilty Credit Union has sponsored some ice-creams for everybody. If it stays dry, it should be a very enjoyable day. Please put suncream on your children as they will be outside all day. They will need to bring a raincoat as showers are forecast, a bucket and spade with their names marked on them, a light bag with a packed lunch and a drink.

**Filming**

Rev. Kingsley Sutton is the chairperson of Kilgarriffe NS. He is very good at film making and has agreed to film their ukulele concert with his drone. He will make a video of the day and it will be shown on his private You Tube Channel. This means that the video will only be accessible through a link on each of the three schools' websites. We will send home a consent form today in your child's school bag. The Consent form is also attached to this email. Your child will need consent to feature in the film.

**Cork City Sports Day**

Cork City Sports Day will take place on Friday 3rd June. Some pupils from 1st - 6th class will be participating. The cost of the bus will be €16.70 per pupil.

**Dates for your Diary**

Wednesday 25th May        Visit from The Irish Red Cross

Thursday 26th May            School tour to Inchydoney Beach

Friday 3rd June                    Cork City Sports Day