

# St. Brendan's NS

The Square, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

Thank you all for your attendance at the Parent Teacher meetings last month, they were very productive and beneficial for your child's learning. Remember if you have any concerns about your child's education you are very welcome to arrange a meeting with your class teacher throughout the year.

Please note the new addition to the calendar; Primary Language Day for teachers. The school will be closed on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January for teacher training on the new Primary Language Curriculum.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

*Eilís Treacy*

School Principal

## Eyrecourt Pupils Donate to Charity

Our pupils and their families really excelled this year with their support of the Christmas Shoebox appeal. The children took great pride in their contribution and the path of their shoeboxes can be followed on [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie)

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class helped support the Eglinton St Homeless Shelter, Galway this year and helped Ms Treacy put an outfit together for an 11 year old girl and boy.

There will be a box at the front door for donations to the Ballinasloe Lions Club. They provide support for families in Ballinasloe and local villages (Eyrecourt included). Any non-perishable items will be greatly received.

We are also taking part in the Christmas Jumper day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> for the Society of Missionary Children. €2 per child recommended or whatever you would like to donate.



## Upcoming Events

### December 11

Attending Banagher Panto

### December 12

Christmas Carol Service

### December 13

Christmas Jumper Day

### December 20

Christmas Holidays

### January 6

School Reopens

### January 14

School Closed for teacher training.

## Money collections:

Music

Thank you for payment of this terms music Sept-Dec €20

## Secretary Hours

Mon-Thurs  
9am-11am

## Swimming

Will start on Mondays in January for a period of 6 weeks. Practice changing clothes and maybe go swimming over Christmas in preparation!

## Cycling

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class will receive cycle training in the new year. Bikes will be supplied by the company but a little practice in advance would be a great help.

## The Grumpy Sheep

This year we will present "The Grumpy Sheep" on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in Eyrecourt Church. We have been very busy practicing and hope to be well prepared so we can go to the Banagher Pantomime on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ms McGrath's pupils are the main actors and will all be in costume. 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class are narrating, singing, playing music and helping with the little actors. 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class will be in their school uniform.

- The Grumpy sheep starts at 7pm and we ask parents to have their child in the church by 6:50pm
- The children know where to sit. Take their coats, gloves and scarves for them.
- The performance will be videoed and a copy of it will be available to purchase for €5 the week before the holidays. If any parent prefers their child not to be videoed please inform the school asap.
- The children have practiced and prepared for the night and we ask that the audience stay in their seats, and be aware of other audience members and not obstruct their view. We are requesting the audience to sit in the main aisle of the church.
- We also ask that there would be no photography or any video taken on phones during the performance as it is very distracting for the young actors. There is also the issue of consent if photos or videos are shared online. Please be aware of this.
- At the end of the play we will pause before the final carols and parents can take photos then if they wish.
- We invite you, our audience to sit back, relax and enjoy the performance.

## Banagher Panto

This year Banagher College present the pantomime Robin Hood. All primary schools are invited to a matinee of the performance on the Wednesday and hopefully we will have the Grumpy Sheep well practiced at that stage so we can attend.

We will be taking all classes by bus to the panto and ask that parents send in €3 to help cover the cost of the bus.

## Safety Before and After School

With the darker mornings and evenings, please note:

- School doors open at 9:20am. Your child is under their parents care until then.
- If cycling to school, helmet and reflective gear is mandatory.
- If your child is walking to school, reflective gear is mandatory. If they are not with an adult make sure they know and respect the rules of the road and the safe cross code.
- At 3pm parents need to be very vigilant for children when driving around the school. The school rule is that children wait inside the gate until they see their car and then walk to their car. Parents need to remind their children to walk to the car and take care crossing the road. Parents need to meet younger children at the gate.
- The front of the school must be kept clear at all times for bus and disabled access.

## Internet Safety

As we head towards holiday time with extended time inside, children are inevitably spending more time on tablets, phones and computers.

[www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) is an excellent resource for parents. We use the school section in school as part of our SPHE. Unfortunately children's online activities are affecting their everyday social interactions. This is not confined to the senior classroom.

This website has a very user friendly parents section with advice and helpful tips on how to regulate internet use, control access and explain the new apps and social media fads as they become live.