

# St. Brendan's NS

The Square, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

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Dear Parent,

The Christmas season is almost upon us and we are weeks into our Christmas Carol service preparations. Thanks to all who supported our fundraiser, the final total was €10,040. Overleaf I have outlined how that money will be spent.

Thank you for your attendance at last weeks parent teacher meetings, our pupils are very lucky to have such constructive cooperation between home and school.

Yours sincerely,

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 are supporting the Eglington St Homeless Shelter, Galway this year and are helping Ms Treacy put an outfit together for a girl (10 years) and a boy (11 years).

Members of the community and past pupils of this school are very involved with Chernobyl. They have provided us with a resource to learn all about it and to raise awareness and support this children visiting for Christmas we will have a "Mad Hair Day" on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils will have to pay a "fine" to wear their crazy hair, hopefully it will be a great day of fun.

## Christmas Carol Service

This years Carol Service takes place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Ms Yvonne Barrett our music teacher along with the school staff have been busy preparing the pupils for weeks. Costumes will be sent home in the next few weeks and the junior and senior infant pupils will be dressed up. The rest of the school will be in uniform.

- The Carol Service 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 Carol Service will be videoed and a copy of it will be available to purchase for €5 on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December.
- 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 also ask that there would be no flash photography and if possible sit back, relax and enjoy!



## Upcoming Events

### December 15

Christmas Carol Service

### December 16

Mad Hair Day

### December 22

Christmas Holidays

### January 9

School Reopens

## Money collections:

### Music

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

## Secretary Hours

Mon-Thurs  
9am-11am

## Swimming

Will be in the second week back for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class for a period of 6 weeks. Practice changing clothes and maybe go swimming over Christmas in preparation!

## Cash for Clobber

€400 raised

## Board of Management Agreed Minutes

There was a meeting of Eyrecourt NS Board of Management on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

- Thanks to parents, pupils, Parents Association, Staff and members of the Eyrecourt and wider community who supported our school fundraiser and Halloween Disco.
- All sponsors were thanked individually and advertised through our webpage and facebook page.
- The Board of management would like to thank the Parents Association for their continued support to the school, with the Halloween Disco, Calendars and Christmas cards
- The Board commends the staff on their recent English curriculum evaluation.
- Buses

Questions have been raised on the reasoning of using buses for every school outing, even to Clonfert pitch.

In 2010 the school Board of Management decided that buses should be used on any transportation of pupils during school for Child Protection and Insurance reasons. While parents have generously offered to transport children in their own cars, buses must be used to ensure compliance with our school insurance, health & safety and child protection guidelines.

- Financial Statement

Our school is run by a number of grants. This is the grant calendar and is available to view on [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

PRIMARY GRANT CALENDAR 2016 / 2017	
January	Capitation Grant (1st moiety)
March	Ancillary Services Grant
April	1. Standardised Testing Grant 2. School Book Grant
June	Capitation Grant (2nd moiety)

- The Capitation Grant is for general running of the school and is €170 per pupil. It is paid in two installments January and June.

Interestingly Secondary schools receive €296 per pupil and receive 3 installments, the first being in September.

- The Ancillary Services Grant is to pay the secretary and caretaker and is based on the number of pupils enrolled in the school.

- The Standardised Testing Grant = €5.10 per pupil and is used to purchase testing materials.

- School Book Grant = €11 per pupil. This is put towards the purchase of rental books on a yearly basis. Some of our rental books cost up to €20 each.

- There is also another grant called the Minor Works grant. This is never included on the calendar because some years it is not paid. It is for the general upkeep and maintenance of the school. (Painting, refurbishing, maintenance of ICT equipment) It was announced this November it would be paid this year and it comes to €6795 this year for our school.

- As you can see from the calendar above, the school did not receive a cent yet this year from the Department. Yet electricity bills, water bills, heating bills, cleaning bills, wages all must be paid. Our school insurance (building/public liability) due in Sept was €2,278.77. Our most recent electricity bill was €452.17.

- We also owed a bill for computers of €2592 for replacement of two projectors and fixing of computers and the network last year. We also owed €1770 to the bus company.

- There were severe cuts to school funding from 2011 onwards. At the time the school had reserves and since these cuts the school was overspending each year and using some of the reserves. During the refurbishments to the school in the summer of 2015 these reserves were used further to paint the school and refloor the classrooms (the grant for that summer work only covered the drylining itself).

- We began this school year with very little in reserve. Through some very creative accounting Patricia held off some of the big payments due until after the fundraiser. We are now in the position that all our debts are paid and up to date, the Minor works grant was sanctioned this year and we hope to get the school painted in the new year.

Unfortunately our children are low priority for funding from our government. Hopefully the breakdown of the funding we receive will help parents understand the serious need we had this year for extra funding. We are so thankful for all the support and generosity everyone showed to our school.