

We, the Parents Association committee members trust that all our children are well-settled back into school since their return in March, and that they are happy to be playing with all of their friends again.

It has been a difficult 12 months that has impacted 2 academic years. Fortunately, the children were equipped with the skills and tools to continue their school work thanks to all of the teachers, staff and parents; THANK-YOU!

While it is difficult for the PA to plan any fun activities for the children under the current circumstances, we endeavour to ensure that our children still have the best possible school experience. We can take comfort in the fact that their teachers are building fun activities into their school day.

In order to determine how other schools are managing during these times, we attended 3 virtual meetings with the NPC (National Parents Council - the organisation that supports parents, and of which Ballintotas PA is a member of). It is a challenging time for all school PA’s whom also are unable to facilitate physical/fun activities for the children.

The children are very excited about their new summer shorts and t-shirts. The PA were delighted to be able to contribute, by covering the cost of the shorts for each child. It must be noted that this would not have been made possible without parents supporting our PA fundraisers; for example, the most recent children’s Christmas cards fundraiser, that gifted the kids a cosy Ballintotas crested snood, yummy sweets and reindeer food for Rudolph and friends.

In addition, the funds also covered essential items such as the reinstatement of hot water taps.

With this in mind and since we are currently unable to continue with Caca Milis Fridays, it has been agreed that Fri 30th April will be a non-uniform day. A donation of €5 per family would be greatly appreciated. The money raised here will allow the children to enjoy a gift of ice-cream on an upcoming sunny day.

It is unfortunate that we have been unable to hold open term PA meetings, however the PA committee have continued to meet and work with the school.

As always, we welcome suggestions and feedback from all parents - since all of us combined, form part of the Ballintotas PA. Please continue to use the post box at the school entrance gate to submit suggestions, or simply just have a chat with a committee member.

Since your suggestions are invaluable, a survey will be circulated in the coming days. We invite you to take the time to complete it so that we have an understanding of what parents want for their children, and for the future of the PA. If there are activities that cannot be held this year, then perhaps they can be held when normal business resumes.

We would welcome and encourage any parent to become involved on the PA committee and/or to simply volunteer your time when necessary. It is very satisfying when we see our children receiving the fun rewards.