



## Ballycommon Ballinagar & Geashill Town Twinning

8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents & Children,

As you know, Ballinagar and Geashill schools have been involved with the Ballycommon, Ballinagar and Geashill Town Twinning project over the last 7 years. We have had visits from French delegates, we have entered, walked in and won the St. Patricks Day parade in 2019 and we have participated in many online calls with the primary school in Jaux, France. Most recently in November/December we participated in the Legacy Tree Sculpture project with some 6<sup>th</sup> class children. The fruits of their labours are now hanging up in the schools. Due to the online publicity regarding these projects, we have been noticed in Europe!

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Parliament. To celebrate, a group of 30 are being invited from each member state to participate in a European exchange project 2023-2024. This celebration includes a concert in Strasbourg in late May. The BBG TTC have been invited to represent Ireland.

Over the last few weeks, the BBGTTC have formed a small committee including the Principals of Ballinagar and Geashill schools. We have been working out the logistics in the background re Child protection, how many travel from each school, extra funding for cultural events while there etc. etc.

While there are still many aspects of this trip to work out, we are now at the stage of considering if this project is feasible and if so, in what format. Therefore, before we proceed any further, we need to ask the 5<sup>th</sup> class parents and children from both schools if they would be interested in being involved.

### **The basic information:**

- We are inviting children from 5<sup>th</sup> Class in each school along with some school staff and BBG committee members if they are interested in going on this trip to France.
- It is an all-expenses paid trip including flights, travel, accommodation, meals and travel insurance.
- The proposed trip is 4 days and 3 nights and the children will be hosted by families associated with a school in the Alsace region of France called Collège Théodore Monod Ottmarsheim.
- Dates are 30<sup>th</sup> May- 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 approx. (To be confirmed)

- The accommodation will be organised so that a minimum of 2 children will be staying together and hosted by a family with a child of similar age.
- All people with whom the children will be staying will be Garda/Police Vetted.
- All children will be able to contact home as often as is reasonable should there be any homesickness issues.
- The children will have to learn and sing a song in French and English for the concert.
- Each child to have a valid passport and European Health Information Card for the trip.
- The trip is an exchange and therefore next year we hope that the French children will be hosted by us.

We are now inviting you to fill out the expression of interest form below if you are interested in your child being part of this trip.

**To clarify, this trip is not confirmed at this point,** it is still in the planning phase with numerous logistics to be considered, the first of which is if sufficient pupils are interested.

If we receive sufficient expressions of interest and this trip can proceed, we plan to invite all interested parents to an information evening so that we can answer all of your questions and plan the next steps.

Kind regards,

Mary O'Connor

Chairperson, BBGTTC

Mícheál Hyland

Principal, Geashill NS

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## Expression of Interest

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We invite your expression of interest for your child to travel on this trip as outlined above. Please identify any questions or queries that you may have. If you are interested, or maybe interested, please fill out the form below and return it to the school by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

<b>Expression of Interest: Strasbourg Project</b>						
<b>Are you interested in your child going on this trip</b>	Yes		No		Maybe	
<b>If yes and maybe interested:</b>						
<b>Name of Child:</b>						
<b>Date of Birth:</b>						
<b>Name of Parent/Guardian:</b>						
<b>Mobile number:</b>						
<b>Email Address of Parent/Guardian:</b>						
<b>Valid Passport:</b>	Yes		No		Have to get	
<b>Valid EHIC:</b>	Yes		No		Have to get	
<b>Questions and Queries you may have?</b>						