

January 2019(Available on website, read it in colour)

Dear parents,

We had a sad start to the year with the passing of Fionn. He was such a lovely, fun loving boy. He is missed but not forgotten. He will be part of our school forever. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



A hammerhead shark ,his favourite!

This term the children will learn lessons from the Stay Safe Programme. This programme tells them how to keep safe, they learn about good and bad feelings and how to have good friendships. The worksheet will be sent home to be signed. It is important to have a chat about the worksheet as this consolidates what has been taught in school. It will be taught in varying stages between now and the Easter holidays.

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are on the school website. Mrs Murphy is the DLP and Mrs Callaghan is the DDLP. The notice board in our entrance porch has all this information.

This week is Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year is the celebration of the tradition of our catholic schools. This week we will look at the traditions in our school, we will celebrate diversity and on Grandparents' Day children will write cards, letters or draw pictures for their Grandparents.

Mrs Murphy



Ms Byrne's class on the day they presented their JEP projects to the Dragons. They had great ideas and presented so well. The project chosen was Tie Dye Cushions. These will be sold in school.

Watch this space!

Dates for your diary:

School is closed this Friday for New Primary Language Curriculum training.

Parent/teacher meetings take place Wednesday 13th and Thursday the 14th of February. Children will go home at 2.45.

Half-term is Thursday the 21st and Friday the 22nd of February.

Confirmation will be at 11am on the 9th of April.

Building Update: We are awaiting the documentation of the tendering process for a new design team. The Board are hopeful that this will be imminent.

Snow Protocol

Let's hope it doesn't snow! If it does and the school must close, parents will be notified by text that the school is closed. Assume school is open if you do not receive a text.

Congratulations to Mr Callaghan on his forthcoming wedding. We wish him well and hope he has a great day.



Choir:

The choir will travel to Kells on the 7th of February to take part in a practice for the National Children's Choir. Mrs Callaghan and Ms Farrell will travel with them. They sound amazing.

Parents' Committee

The family fun quiz afternoon was great fun. There were some tricky questions, the Bushby family were the quiz champions. Congratulations. €500 was raised, thank you to all for your support and as usual generosity. Thank you to those who donated prizes.

Traffic

The traffic at the front of the school has become extremely dangerous again. Please note there are single yellow lines opposite the school so there should be no parking there. The yellow lines at the front of the school mean no parking at anytime. There will be an accident and this is worrying. I would ask each one of you to please park away from the school and allow the children to walk to and from school safely.

Curriculum:

We continue to focus on Oral Language, our current theme is weather and éadaí in Gaeilge. In February it will be food/bia.

In maths we are concentrating on problem solving with an extra emphasis on the language of maths.

In Gaeilge we continue to promote the spoken word. We are putting the emphasis on writing in Gaeilge. Awards are given for scríbhneoireacht at the assembly.

Health and Well Being: We are in the process of planning Friendship Week starting the 11th of February. More detail to follow.

Music: This month, we focused on Country and Western music. At the assembly the children listened to and sang Nathan Carter songs and clapped a rhythm using crochets and quavers. Some children demonstrated this rhythm using percussion instruments.

You can continue to support your child by reading to them, listening to them read, chatting around the dinner table, talking about what is happening in their world. Turn off the devices! Not easy I know.

Creative art grant: A survey was sent to all parents and teachers to get feedback from the whole school community. Please complete if you haven't done so already. This information will inform the arts project that we have been chosen to do going forward.

Student teachers

Student teachers from DCU will come to the school to do teaching Practice in February to Mr Caffrey's, Ms Kiernan's, Ms O Mahony's, Mr Hall. Student teachers bring a lot to the school, new ideas, new methods which we can all learn from and equally the staff here and their wealth of experience benefits the students. Teachers monitor the students and ensure all is going well.

Punctuality

It is very important that children are on time for school. I have noticed that many children are coming late. I would ask that every effort is made to be on time. It is good practice for the children. If your child is late, sometimes there are reasons for this please write a note in their journal to explain. Thank you for support in this matter.

Aladdin:

We are upgrading our communication system. The aim is to reduce cost. School budgets are always tight! Hence we will ask you to download an app on your phone. A date will be given by which this will need to be done, then all future messages will be communicated using the App. You will receive information when this upgrade is to commence so for the moment all is the same. No change until you are notified.