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October/November 2019 Newsletter

Parent-Teacher Meetings: Parent teacher meetings will be taking place on Wednesday and Thursday, the 27th and 28th of November. Depending on circumstances, some meetings may take place on separate dates. It is really important that once given an appointment, you make every effort to attend. If you are unable to do so, please inform the teacher at the earliest opportunity so that an alternative time can be given.

Friendship Week: Friendship and Kindness week took place in the last week before mid-term. The week was a huge success. All the school community focused on being kind, caring and having respect for everyone. During the week the boys won prizes for random acts of kindness. In class they made complimentary cards and wrote positive messages about each other. Each class made a 'Be' poster to display around the school. The message to be friendly, be kind and other positive behaviour signs were attached to the posters. Everyone learned the song 'You've got a Friend in Me' from the Toy Story movie. It was a fantastic week and we look forward to witnessing more random acts of kindness and positive behaviour every day. Well done to all for participating with such enthusiasm during the week. Thanks to Mr Murray and Ms White for organising the week.

Bingo: The Parents' Association will be holding a fundraising bingo in the school hall from 3pm on Sunday November 17th. We are asking every family in the school to support this event, which will raise finances for the purchase of additional iPads for our pupils. There will be adult and children's games on the day with cash prizes and chocolates etc. for the adults' games' winners and Smyth's vouchers for the children's games. A lot of work has been put into organising it and it will make for a very enjoyable occasion. Books will cost €5 for adults and €3 for children. Refreshments available on the day.

Football: Hard luck to our u13 football team who lost to Our Lady Queen of Peace in the semi-final of our city league. Well done to all of the boys for taking the time to train after school and represent their school so well. Thanks to Mr Ryan, Mr Shanagher and Mr Murray for coaching the teams. Hurling and basketball training will begin again in the early Spring.



Rannta le chéile: Well done to all of the pupils who performed Irish songs and poetry that they had learned during the course of the term. There was a very high standard across the school which demonstrated some of the wonderful talents that our pupils have. We had songs from Molly Malone to the Haka, all as Gaeilge, which provided a very entertaining morning. Many thanks to all our teachers who prepared the boys.

Maths Week: We had a very active maths week in the school last month. There were daily tasks for all pupils including maths trails, quizzes and colouring competitions. Pupils were challenged to use their maths 'eyes' to find shapes and other maths related items in their environment. Many thanks to Mrs O'Sullivan for organising a really enjoyable week.

Halloween dress up day: In total €260 was raised by our pupils for our fancy dress colours day. Thanks to all of the boys who contributed and help create such a wonderful atmosphere in the school on the day. All funds again will go towards the purchase of additional iPads.

J.P. McManus Scholarship Awards: Sincere congratulations to Ben Ryan-Fitzgerald and his family on his excellent achievement of receiving a J.P. McManus Scholarship. This means that he will receive funding for the duration of his studies at third level. Ben was among the top eight Leaving Certificate results in CBS Sexton Street in 2019 who receive the award annually. He was a tremendous student when he was with us and we are all very proud to see that he continued to excel in his studies. Many thanks to all of the teacher who helped him along the way!



Arts & Crafts Money: Sincere thanks to all who have paid their arts and crafts money for the year. It is greatly appreciated and contributes to the increasing costs of trying to run a school. If you haven't paid thus far, would you please do so at your earliest convenience

Sacramental Dates: The Confirmation will take place on the 9th of May at 1.30pm while the First Holy Communion is set for the 23rd of May at 11am.

Attendance: Attendance for the months of September and October ran at 94.7%. The best class for attending in September was 2nd Class with an excellent rate 97.4%! Well done! I cannot stress highly enough the importance of maintaining attendance for the whole year. If you are planning holidays, please go during school holidays. Good attendance in school will stand to your children right into their adult lives.

School Closure: Please note that the school will be closed on the 19th of November as we will be attending in-service for the implementation of the new Primary Language Curriculum. In accordance with Department of Education and Skills circular, we are obliged to take another half-day closure before the end of the school year. We will inform you in due course when this will be taking place.

Enrolments: We are currently accepting enrolments for our Junior Infant Class for September 2020. Application forms are available from Cliona in the office or on our website www.stpatricksboysns.com. Our deadline for enrolments is the 16th of January.

School Policy Review: We are currently reviewing the following policies: Substance Use Policy, Literacy, Drama Policy. These are all available to read on our school website and I would greatly appreciate any feedback which you may offer.

Christmas Preparations: Junior and Senior Infants will be performing Christmas shows for their families at 11am on Tuesday December 17th. Families from these classes will be invited in on the morning from 10.45am. We will hold a carol service in the school hall on Wednesday December 18th at 7pm for 1st to 6th Class boys. All parents will be welcome on the night.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Anthony Liddane,

Príomhoide