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January/February 2020 Newsletter

School Closures: Please be aware that we are closing at 12pm on Wednesday March 11th in order to facilitate in-service training on the new Primary Language Curriculum. We are also closed on Monday the 16th and Tuesday the 17th of March. The Easter holidays commence on Monday the 6th of April and the school will reopen on Monday April 20th.

Sport: Hurling and basketball training has recommenced in the school. We will be entering an u11 and u13 hurling team for boys in 3rd- 6th class. Our 6th class boys will be entering the Basketball Limerick league also.

Peter Nash, Games Development Officer with the Limerick County Board will be coaching 1st to 4th classes as part of their PE for the next 4 weeks to start the season. He completed a four week block in seniors, first and second class before the Christmas holidays. We also have Kenneth McNamara of Munster Rugby, coaching senior classes for the next 4 weeks.

Attendance: All of the 35 boys who had full attendance in the first term were presented with certificates at a recent assembly. Maith Thú!! Again a reminder that if you are absent, please provide a written note of explanation to your son's teacher on return. There is no need to ring the school, unless it is a prolonged absence.

Board of Management: The new Board of Management met for the first time last month. At the meeting, Claire McMahon Byrne was appointed as treasurer while Olive O'Sullivan is now the health and safety officer. I thank them for taking on these roles. The Protected Disclosures policy was ratified on the night.

Catholic Schools' Week and Grandparents Day: Many thanks to all of the Grandparents and family members of pupils in Junior Infants to Second class who attended Grandparents' Day in the school. It was a really special occasion and one that the children really enjoyed. The theme of Catholic Schools' week this year was Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation. Many thanks to the class teachers for preparing the pupils and to all of the pupils who contributed to the ceremony.



After-school activities: There are a number of after-school activities that are now available to our pupils over the course of the week. On Mondays we have basketball for 6th Class boys, Tuesdays is hurling for 3rd – 6th classes. There is Speech and Drama Classes on Tuesday evenings also, provided by Creative Concepts. On Wednesday there is an art club with Miss O'Grady and on Fridays, Limerick Youth Service provide a fitness and team building club for our 4th and 5th classes.

Analogue Devices: 6th class boys were treated to a day of computer programming and introduced to the area of robotics compliments of the Analogue Devices Educational programme. They were engaged in very technical work for the day but all reported it was very enjoyable and gave them a really good insight into the use of the technology. At the end of the day, three boys were selected to go forward to the county competition on the 29th of February.

Spare tracksuit bottoms: If you have any spare school tracksuit bottoms of any age, we would appreciate you dropping them to school as we currently have a shortage.

First Confessions: Congratulations to our second class boys who made their First Confessions today in St Patrick's Parish Church. Thanks to Mr Ryan for preparing the boys. We wish them well in their preparations for their First Holy Communion

Cake Sale: Many thanks to all of the parents and pupils who supported our recent cake sale so well. €640.40 was raised on the day. Sincere thanks to all of the parents who gave of their time during the day and made the event possible.

Shamrock: We are again selling shamrock in the school as part of our St Patrick's Day celebrations. We always have great support for the initiative as St Patrick is obviously our Patron Saint. It would be greatly appreciated if each family could purchase at least one shamrock. Regardless, all cards must be returned to the school for verification purposes. Any funds raised from their sale will go towards the development of our school garden, which we are currently very busy completing.

School Garden: Over the last few months we have been developing a new school garden. 5th and 6th class along with Mr O'Dwyer and a Heritage in Schools' advisor have been very busy designing its layout, making the raised beds, laying weedblock and pathways. Well done to all involved on the work so far and we are really looking forward to the next phase of the project, which is planting our first crop next month.



Coronavirus/ Covid 19: Please look at the news section of our school website for updated information regarding the Coronavirus provided by the HSE. Taking preventative measures is obviously key to controlling the spread of the virus. Therefore, we ask if you have been to any of the affected areas recently, please inform your GP and the school immediately. Further useful tips include the following:

1. Wash your hands well and often to avoid contamination
2. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue
3. Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Sincerely,

Anthony Liddane