December 2019

St Colman's N.S. Newsletter

Dear Parents,

HAPPY CHRISTMAS. We have almost reached our Christmas holidays. Staff, pupils and parents have worked hard all term and deserve a well-earned rest now.

The Board of Management are grateful to all parents, staff and pupils for their continued support and co-operation on all school activities. A special word of thanks to the Parents Association for their input to the school.

Best Wishes to Ms Gearóidín Kearney and her fiancée Pat who will be married over the Christmas holidays. We wish them well.

Cork County Council recently appointed a School Warden to our school. We wish Angela Geary, our school warden well in her new role. Please respect the warden's instructions and always follow the direction of the arrows in the set down area. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

The school will close on Friday (20th) at 12 noon and re-open on Monday, January 6th. Children will be brought to mass on the first day back to mark the Epiphany.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir.

Wishing all families a happy, peaceful Christmas and a healthy, safe 2020.

Mary O'Brien.

Principal.

Grandparents Day

We will celebrate Grandparents Day during Catholic Schools week on January 29th. Further details with times etc. will be available in January.

Enrolments for 2020/2021

Enrolment forms for Junior Infants due to start school in September 2020 will be posted in the New Year to parents who have indicated that they intend to enrol their child in the school. Completed forms should be returned to the school by January 30th.

The STAY SAFE Programme will be done with all classes next term. Stay Safe is part of the SPHE Curriculum.

Dates to remember next term

January 6th – School re-opens

JANUARY 9th – School closed

JANUARY 29th – Grandparents Day

January 28th, 29th, 30th &31st – Scholastic Book Fair

February 20th & 21st – School Closed (Mid Term)

March 3rd – All children will finish at 1.40pm

March 3rd – First Penance for children in 2nd class

March 16th & 17th – School Closed

April 3rd – Last day of term

ATTENDANCE

We monitor attendance regularly. The school is obliged to report any absences of 20 days or more to the Education Welfare Board. In our school, we had 96% attendance in September, 95.1% in October, and 93.9% in November and so far, in December we have 92.6% attendance. The class with the best attendance in November was 5th/6th (Mr Collins) with 97.9% attendance. A great achievement. Well Done.

Green Schools

Green Schools are continuing with the theme of biodiversity this year. Biodiversity is the fifth Green Schools theme and looks at steps which can be taken to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, animals and habitats, and to increase species-richness in a locality.

We have a fantastic committee joining us this year to promote environmental awareness around the school, while also maintaining our previously awarded flags. Our new members are Tom Cronin, Duane Ndiwalana and Denis Murphy (6th), Lee McCarthy, Matas Klavs and Isabelle O'Reilly (5th), Erin Hegarty, Zahra Bilal an Isabelle Wenham (4th) Eoghan Blackmore, Lilly Carey and Ethan Lyons (3rd), Ruth Uwakina, Nicole Ramsell, Samuel Casey and Caoimhe Nunan (2nd).

This year we will run a slogan competition, host an action day and the committee will be visited by the Biodiversity Officer to inspect all our hard work and achievements in biodiversity before we can be awarded our next flag.

Green Schools

Last month our 4th class pupils took part in a practical cycle safety workshop. The children had great fun putting their cycling skills to the test and learning some new tactics. This training was organised in conjunction with the Green Schools and Active Flag. We hope to make it a 4th class tradition!

Caroline Casey from Cork County Council visited the school to provide children with training on our new traffic warden system. This training has given the children better awareness of how best to walk to school safely. We also want to see all our parents using and modelling our school warden crossing for all children. Big thanks also, to Angela Geary for making herself available over the two days of training with the children.

Paul Moore from the Cork Bird Watch Ireland branch came to speak to 3rd -6th class on biodiversity. He was very impressed with the children's awareness of biodiversity and how to protect it.

The Green Schools Committee launched a slogan competition for our biodiversity theme. We hope to announce the winner in the New Year. Best of luck to all!

Our WOW walks will continue this year also. Big thanks to Maria O'Brien, Catherina Blackmore and Carol Carroll for leading our 'walking buses'.

Cycle right are returning this year to provide a workshop on cycling and bike safety for our 4th class pupils.

St. Colman's has won the "Environmental Competition for Primary School Children in Munster 2019" run by Sherkin Island Marine Station for our 'Water and Beach Safety Brochure' that was produced in 2017/18 school year. For this, the school have won a set of reference books. Our brochure is posted on their website below, if you would like to have a look and view some of the other winners - http://www.sherkinmarine.ie/competitionClass.htm.

Keep an eye on our website for more updates on activities.

Active Flag

GAA skills have continued this term. Pupils are really enjoying fun movement and developing their skills – thank you to all involved.

6th class started soccer skills. Well done to all involved.

Pupils have covered the gymnastics strand in PE this term.

We have enjoyed dancing to Christmas music during break time – some great movers.

Congratulations on the Aldi stickers – we sent away two posters. Hopefully we will hear some good news.

Keep an eye out for Wellness Wednesday activities, which will be starting in January. The Active Flag committee have been really busy coming up with great ideas.

Any further ideas welcome.

Don't forget to get out, about and active during the Festive Season!

Gaelbhratach

Tá an coiste ag obair go dian, Molly, Dylan, Fionn, Addison, Adeolu, Doireann, Elizabeth, Jake, Kara, Conor, Josh, David, Darragh S, Julian, Darragh H agus Eoin.

Táimid ag foghlaim amhráin agus dánta as Gaeilge bainteach leis an Nollaig. Beidh "Caruloke" againn ar an 20ú Nollaig. Táimid ag tnúth go mór leis an Nollaig. Coiméad súil ar https://cloynens.com/index.php/school-activitiesnews/gaelbhratach/ Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh!

Shoebox Appeal

The Shoebox appeal was a great success again this year. Thank you to all who contributed. You will have made Christmas very special to many boys and girls around the world.

6th Class News

As of recently, St. Colman's N.S. has a school warden and a manned crossing has been appointed opposite the school on the right side. This is not a zebra crossing, but the school warden, Angela Geary, will be crossing people at this location. Her job is to ensure that children and adults alike, cross the road safely, and to prevent accidents.

We would like to thank Caroline Casey, from the Road Safety Authority for coming to speak to all classes about Angela's job. She showed us a wonderful power point about how to stay safe while crossing the road with Angela and what the signs that Angela uses mean. She proceeded to take us outside for a practise and to test what we had learned. Everyone crossed the road safely with the help of Angela

By Saoirse Bhreathnach, Sixth Class, St. Colman's N.S., Cloyne

Donations to Charity

Last year's Sixth Class kindly donated 160 euro of the profit from the summer sales of their calendar to Make a Wish Foundation and Marymount Hospice. We hope that their generosity will make a difference to somebody's life.

MOTUS Learning – Sixth Class

Motus Learning, a team from UCC, provided a one-day Mental Health Programme for Sixth Class. Through interactive games and discussion, children developed a greater understanding of their emotions. They learned how to identify, regulate and manage them. We hope that in conjunction with the SPHE curriculum and Weaving Well Being Programme, this workshop will help prevent mental health problems, promote social skills, better decision-making and academic success. A teacher/parent seminar was also provided after school. Many thanks to the Parent's Association who subsidised this beneficial and enjoyable workshop.