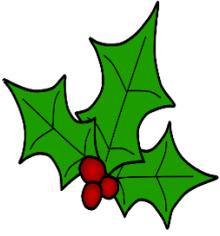


Christmas Newsletter 2022



Dear Parents,

Happy Christmas.

The excitement is building amongst children and staff as we approach Christmas. Crafts are being made, the elf is busy and carols can be heard all around the school.

Everyone has had a busy term and now it is time to take a well-deserved rest.

We enjoyed a wonderful official opening of our new building on November 23rd. It was a memorable celebration to mark the completion and opening of a long-awaited extension.

A special word of thanks to Bishop Crean, to all the staff, parents, parent volunteers, Board members, choir, student's council and pupils who contributed and helped organise the day. A special day for the school and local community.

Thank you, Parents, for all the hard work and effort you put in this term. The staff and Board appreciate your co-operation and support.

Well done to the children. Their enthusiasm and positivity throughout the term never fails to impress us.

We wish you all a happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.

Le meas,

Mary O'Brien.

Principal.

Important Dates / Information

KEY DATES:

School will finish on Wednesday, **December 21st** at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays.

School will re-open on **Thursday, January 5th**.

School will be closed on the following dates

Wednesday, January 18th – School closed – extra day not on original school calendar

February 6th – Public Holiday, school closed

February 16th & 17th – Midterm, school closed

March 17th – St. Patrick's Day, School closed

March 31st - last day of term

OTHER INFO:

February 22nd – Grandparents Day

February 20th to 24th – Scholastic Book fair

Please ensure that the school has your correct contact details. If you have changed your phone number, email or home address please send updated details to secretary@cloynens.com

Please be mindful of other road users when dropping and collecting children from school. Park responsibly not blocking access to any houses and allow pedestrians to use the footpaths safely.

We had a great response to The Shoebox Appeal this year.

Thanks to everyone who supported the appeal. They will be shipped all over the world.

Imagine the happiness and delight on all the boys and girls faces when they open up their presents on Christmas Day.

Happy Christmas everyone!





Congratulations to Sarah McIlroy on her recent success representing our school at the Sciath na Scol football skills competition which was held in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. She competed against girls from around the county and was awarded third place. This was a huge achievement and we are all very proud. Well done Sarah!



Our school choir have been very busy, we recently sang at mass on Dec the 8th to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception and sang lots of songs to honour Mary.

We also helped out Cloyne Gospel Choir at the switching on of the Christmas Lights. Thanks to all who turned out on the night and braved the cold to make for a very special evening and many thanks to the Cloyne Gospel Choir and the Community Council for their invitation to the event! We had a great time and particularly enjoyed seeing one very special attendee! 🎭 🎄



Library



One of the many benefits of the new extension is having a room once again to have a dedicated library space. The Millennium library is now located in a room at the front of the school.

We are gradually installing shelving and taking the books out of storage and putting them back on the shelves. The school community can once again enjoy the books. Thank you to all parents and families who donated books to the school recently.

Grandparents Day

We look forward to being able to celebrate Grandparents Day on February 22nd.

Grandparents Day was one of the many casualties of Covid but hopefully, we will be able to welcome Grandparents back into the school in February.



More details in the New Year.

School Self Evaluation

Schools have been asked to re-engage with school self-evaluation and school improvement plans following the interruption caused by Covid.

We, at St. Colman's N.S. have returned to reviewing, developing and implementing the School Primary Language plan in line with the Primary language curriculum launched by the Dept. of Education & Skills a few years ago.

The Primary Language Curriculum covers both English and Irish. It is a spiral curriculum and facilitates each child learning at his/her own level. Staff will spend a full day on professional training and planning on Wednesday, January 18th.

The school will be closed on that day to facilitate this. The Dept. of Education & Skills have put an emphasis on the Well Being of pupils and staff. Schools have been asked to initiate a Well-Being promotion review and development cycle.



Senior Infants

Miss Wall and Ms. Power's classes have worked together this term on a variety of topics and subjects. We came together as a big class as often as possible to encourage socialisation and collaboration to nurture friendships. We love joining together for P.E., art and music. It is wonderful to see all of the senior infants working and interacting so well together!

Senior Infants started their PM Readers after Mid-Term. They have busily reading their books every night as part of their homework and reading them in class. The children have worked very hard on their phonics, blending and sight words. They should be so proud of their efforts! The theme of this term's Aistear was 'The Post Office'. The children learned all about the different reasons you go to the post office – posting letters, buying cards, envelopes and stamps, paying for television and dog licenses, etc. Miss Wall and Ms. Power's classes have been taking part in a variety of Aistear activities. The children created maps of a postman's journey delivering the post, created postman related arts and crafts and participated in role-play. They made Christmas cards and Christmas letters which they posted themselves in the post box outside Mrs. Macs which was a great way to consolidated all of our learning! We were lucky to have David Keeler come in to visit us. He spoke all about his job and he answered loads of our questions. He told us all about the sorting office, what the biggest parcel he delivered was, how many letters he delivers a day and his favourite part of his job. He also had a special delivery for us directly from the North Pole. We were very excited! We really enjoyed his visit and learning all about 'The Post Office'.



Senior Infants were very busy preparing for their play 'What a Star'. The play was about a star named Leo who was given a very special job by God. He had to shine brightly over Bethlehem to guide the way to baby Jesus in the stable. The children practised their singing and dancing every day. They performed the play on Friday the 9th of December in the Halla. It was a wonderful occasion and we are so proud of all of their hard work!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF SENIOR INFANTS!



Design a Bridge Project

Our class did a bridge project recently. It may sound easy but it was more difficult than it seemed. Firstly, we learned about the Golden Gate Bridge and how it was designed. Secondly, we researched which bridge type was strongest. These included, the beam bridge, the suspension bridge, the truss bridge and the arch bridge. Then we made paper bridges to examine which was the best to hold a heavy load. Most people found that the Truss Bridge was the strongest. Thirdly, we brainstormed in our groups to see what design would be best for our bridges and what materials we would use to make them. There was a huge range of materials such as metal, wood, cardboard, nails and plastic. Fourthly, we constructed our bridges and some groups changed the design during the building process to strengthen their bridge. Lastly, we tested them and then presented them to the class. Our class really enjoyed building the bridges and it improved our teamwork skills.

By Ben Keeler (Mrs Healy's 5th & 6th Class)

‘Artemis’ Rocket Launch – To Infinity and Beyond!

Earlier this term, 3rd & 4th Class learned about rocket propulsion in Science. Over a number of Art lessons, we designed and decorated each individual part of a rocket – the fuselage, cone and fins -combining all the parts using glue and sellotape. Next we collected empty 2 litre plastic bottles to provide the thrust to power our rockets. We waited patiently for fine weather conditions to facilitate our launch. On Friday afternoon, the countdown began – T minus 10 minutes! For the next half hour, the school yard became Cape Canaveral. Our budding astronauts launched their rockets into ‘Space’ by jumping enthusiastically on the empty bottles and propelling their aircrafts skywards. We didn’t quite manage to get into orbit but everyone enjoyed the trip nonetheless.

Accelerated Reading

We’re coming to the end of our designated slot for Accelerated Reading. Since early November, the children have been busy readers, devouring whole books and testing their understanding with the accompanying computer quizzes. As a combined class grouping, we’re closing in on the five-hundred thousand word-count mark and have read over 300 books. Well done to all!

Junior Infant news



Ms. Beecher and Ms. Kearney’s junior infants have been practising hard for their Christmas play. We have performed for some classes and are eagerly looking forward to our big final performance for parents. Broadway awaits!

We have been working very hard on our sounds and are starting to read words. We are learning to write our letters and have been making great progress!

- *The staff of St. Colman’s would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.*
- *“We hope you have a safe and relaxing holiday season.”*