



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This Sunday we will celebrate the '1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent'. Advent comes for the Latin word 'adventur' which means 'arrival'. It is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus' birthday. The four Sundays of Advent each represent a symbol: Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace with the white Advent candle being lit on Christmas Day. The children shall be doing a lot of work in their Religion class over the next few weeks preparing for Christmas.

**Fundraising:** as you are aware the school has been and shall continue to be engaged in a number of school fundraising events. We recently held our Hallowe'en Hike which raised €1,247. The Parents Association, staff and pupils shall hold our first Christmas Fair on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 10.45am to 12.30pm at the school.

Parking - parents are requested **not** to park in the delegated car spaces in front of the school. Please **do not** block the spaces where the teachers park in the mornings. I would ask therefore that you continue to park appropriately when collecting/dropping your child(ren) to school and work to minimise the potential for an unwanted incident.

**Junior Infants 2018** - if you or someone you know has a child commencing school in September 2018, please contact the office for an enrolment form.

**Gymnastics** - full payment is due into the office on or before 10<sup>th</sup> January. The full cost of the 6 week Gymnastic programme is €13 per child.

Le gach dea ghúí,

**Maria Brophy**  
**Principal**

## Dates/Upcoming Events:

- ✚ Parent/Teacher Meetings - official date 5<sup>th</sup> December 3pm to 5.45pm\*. **All children from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Class shall go home at 2.45pm on this day.**
- ✚ Confessions for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10am
- ✚ Mass for the Immaculate Conception - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.
- ✚ Christmas Craft Fair - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 10.45am
- ✚ Christmas Carol Service - whole school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the parish hall from 7pm.
- ✚ Christmas Holidays - school closes at 12.30pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and shall re-open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2018
- ✚ Grandparents Mass - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018

# Parent Info Update

- Healthy Eating - Reminder that the school operates a 'healthy eating policy'. Children are allowed a small treat on Friday's and we thank parents for their support in implementing this policy.
- Homework - please sign your child's homework journal daily. It is extremely important that parents are aware of and up to date with the work being completed both in school and at home by their children.

## Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

A total of 53 shoe boxes were donated to the school for the 'Shoe Box Appeal' and I would like to thank you for your kind generosity.

# Sing Out Loud

## By Ms. Lawlor and Ms. Sheehan

Our 'Sing Out Loud' singers took to the stage in the National Opera House on November 18<sup>th</sup> and it was definitely a night to remember. Work for Sing Out Loud began way before the actual performance. In the first weeks of September we received the CDs of the songs and the lyric sheets were given to each of the children. We rehearsed every Wednesday, complete with lyric sheets.

The Opera House was a hive of activity when we arrived. We met with all the performers as well as the other schools taking part. The Choir did a full 'run through' of all the songs with the 'fantastic conductress' Niamh Penston before the show started. After the practise the children went to their changing rooms to have a quick break before they took their place on the stage ready for the show to begin.

All in all it was an incredible experience for all the children who took part. Hopefully the memories they now have of performing live on the stage in the National Opera House, in front of a full house, will remain with them forever.

## **Report from Ms. Redmond's 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class**

This month we worked really hard and a lot of our work was based on the theme 'winter'. We studied different types of trees and discussed the changes in nature which take place during winter. We were very lucky to have the help of Mark Byrne (transition year student) in our class for two weeks this month.

He helped us with all our class work and the children in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class were delighted having someone new working with them. We made beautiful snowmen from clay which we painted last week; and we are busy preparing lots of nice decorations for the upcoming craft fair. I hope to see you all there.

## **Report from Ms. Pitt's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class performed in 'Sing Out Loud' in the National Opera House on November 18<sup>th</sup>. They sung their hearts out on the stage and enthusiastically did the actions to all the songs. Well done to all of the children on a fantastic performance, we are very proud of you all.

This month 3<sup>rd</sup> class have begun learning their multiplication tables. We have been doing lots of fun games and activities to practise the times tables. Please remember to practise your tables every night for homework.

This month our writing genre focus is informational report writing, the children have been busy planning and writing excellent reports about different animals, Vinegar Hill and our school. They can now structure the report using a general statement to start, then the description and finally an evaluation to end it.

We have been learning about Vinegar Hill in SESE, the children were very interested learning about the history of the local landmark. They learned about the events on 1798 and 1916.

We are also busy working on our arts and crafts for this year's craft fair. They have really enjoyed getting creative and are very excited about their creations being sold at the craft fair.

### **Report from Mr. Murphy's 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class**

After enjoying a well-deserved Halloween break we picked right back up ready to work again. In November, we dove into the history and lore of Ireland and the people who shaped it into what we have today.

We looked at 'The Liberator', Daniel O'Connell and 'The Big Fella', Michael Collins. We saw how both of these men fought for Irish independence. We debated the decisions they made and how things might have turned out differently. We studied the geographical landforms found in Ireland from mountains to rivers to lakes. We discovered lots of facts and even that New Ross is home to three sisters. (R.Suir, R.Nore, R.Barrow)

In Science we braved the cold to look at how sound differs depending on distance. We investigated various instruments and how far they could travel.

In Art, we have been producing pieces of 'Pop Art' and learning about the famous artist Andy Warhol. We drew some everyday objects and turned them into the extraordinary.

In Maths we have tackling the fearsome trio of multiplication, division and decimals. So far the MATHIA (Maths Mafia) have been working hard to understand these concepts and become masters of them.

In PE, the children have got their dance shoes out and really busted out some moves. We have been practicing the 'Walls of Limerick' and also dancing to some newer music as Oompa Lumpa's or Footloose dancers.

In English we celebrated Thanksgiving Day, as we wrote down what each of us was thankful for this year and why. We recounted moments this year that we each found important.

### **Taekwondo:**

We had some success to cheer this month in the classroom too. Zara Evans travelled all the way up to Northern Ireland to compete in the IATF Taekwondo competition. The competition was tough but Zara prevailed winning a trophy for coming first place.

### FAI Soccer Blitz:

On the 23rd of October some students from both 3rd and 4th Class represented the school in St Joseph's Community Centre in the annual FAI blitz. They tried their best reaching a winner takes all group game against the Faythe, but just lost out on the day. They finished with a record of 3 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat.

### Report from Mrs. Brophy's 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class

We've had another busy month in our class during November. We were delighted to welcome a new student Jamie Larkin to our room. Currently, we are getting ready for our craft fair on 10<sup>th</sup> December and have made lots of lovely things to sell i.e. teddy bear, cushions, minion jars, bookworms and cup cosies to name but a few.

In English we've begun reading 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier. This novel is set in Poland during WW2 and tells the story of three Polish children who are separated from their parents at the beginning of the war. It is a sad but sometimes funny story as we journey with Ruth, Bronia and Edik towards Switzerland in the hope of finding their parents. We look forward to reading more of this novel in December.

Sa Ghaeilge bhíomar ag foghlaim an téama 'Sa Bhaile'. Leigh na páistí sliocht sa leabhar agus scríobh siad aiste sa cóipleabhar. Tá siad ag obair go dian sa rang agus táim an bhródúil futhu. Tá siad ag déanamh a dhicheall gach lá ar scoil. Maith thú ☺

Stair - we looked at WW1 this month and learnt about 'Trench Warfare' and the causes of that led to this 'Great War'. The children learnt about the 200,000 Irish men who fought for the Allies and the final outcome that led to the Treaty of Versaille being signed in 1919. All the children seem to be enjoying learning history and they take an active interest in the subject.

Tíreolaíocht - the children are currently working on their 'Mountains' project which is due on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. They learnt about the five different types of mountain i.e. Fold, Dome, Plateau, Volcanic and Fault. I am looking forward to reading their projects. We are moving onto looking at maps and reading maps next month.

## Parents Association News

**Children's Christmas Party** - The PA have organised for each child to receive a hot chocolate and cookies from Santa's Elves along with a small gift ☺

Finally, we wish to remind you that **all parents** are members of the Parents Association and the Committee formed simply represents the 'parent body'. By having an effective Parents Association in our school, parents can enjoy the support of other parents and are enabled to meaningfully support the aims of the school.

# Spirituality and Personal Development

## A Message from Fr. Finn - The Coming Season

I attended a Storytelling House recently where an elderly man told a very interesting story about his childhood.

It was set in the late 1940's when there was very little car traffic on the roads. Twice a year his mother's relations from Carlow came to visit at his home. On the evening of their arrival they would tidy themselves up earlier than usual, his mother would be preparing for these visitors for days. His relations would hire a car to bring them to visit at his home. They would listen excitedly for the sound of a car, and when they did hear a car they were sure, because there were so little cars on the road, that the arrival of their relations was imminent.

The word **ADVENT**, when translated means 'This kind of watching, waiting and excited expectations'. Advent starts on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and four weeks follow before Christmas Day, of preparing ourselves for the celebration of a Saviour coming among us. Advent becomes a time of looking at the scriptures that are fulfilled, our own life in its relationship with God and to experience the graces and the blessings of the Christmas Season.

In the midst of all the hype, all the pressures let us be wise enough to find space to shed all the things that are unnecessary in the coming weeks and make room for reflection and prayer.

### **SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises**

Monday to Friday ----- 9.20am to 3.00pm

Infants (Junior & Senior) ----- 9.20am to 2.00pm

Outside of these times there is **no supervision** for children on the school premises.