



## **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017**

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** – We are delighted to have the continued support of O'Neill's Sports in the sponsorship of our annual Christmas Raffle 2017 in order to raise funds to cover some of the costs of our online Mathletics Programme and Reading Eggs Programme. We can only fund these resources if we get full support from all families so we would greatly appreciate if you would make a big effort for our Christmas Raffle.

Each family will shortly bring home a book of 12 tickets to sell at £2.00 each or a book for £20.00. If you require any more books, please do not hesitate to contact the office! The raffle will take place on the last week before the Christmas Holidays.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £150.00 O'NEILL SPORTS VOUCHER**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – CHRISTMAS HAMPER**

**We would also appreciate any donations from parents for other prizes!**

**CHRISTMAS MASS** - Will take place in St. Patrick's Church on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.

**GORTIN CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** - The pupils will be joining with the Parish to decorate a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. We would love if each child could make a little decoration at home based on the theme of ANGELS and send into the school by the end of November.

**PANTOMIME TRIP** – We are taking the pupils to St. Joseph's Hall in

**Omagh to see Peter Pan on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The cost will be £5.00 per pupil – School Funds will contribute to transport costs. Could you please forward the cost before Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Pupils are to wear their school uniform and bring a lunch.**

**NOVEMBER – MONTH OF ALL SOULS – Labels will be sent home for each child to write the name of someone they know who has passed away and whom they wish to pray for. We will put all the names on our Tree of Remembrance in the porch and pray for them daily in November.**

**MCKEOWNS DAY TODAY / LISSAN COAL**



**Congratulations to Shea Conway, Áine mcCreanor and Daire O’Kane, who were £25 winners of a recent colouring competition sponsored by McKeown’s Day Today and Lissan Coal. We were also delighted to be presented with a cheque for £100 for School Funds which will be used to purchase our new “Grow in Love” R.E. scheme.**

**WEBSITE ADDITIONS – Parent Zone**

- 1. Foundation Stage -Jolly Phonics – For those who wish to find out a little more about the Phonics Programme we use for P1 & P2 pupils and how you can help at home.**
- 2. H.O.M.E. – “How to help your child with Maths in the evening” – K.S.1. (P3/4/5). This information is also very useful for those who would like to reinforce some areas of Maths with older pupils – P6/7.**

**MISSION MONTH – “Children’s National Day of Prayer” Assembly.**



**P6/7 recently presented a lovely assembly on Children's National Day of Prayer which included the poem – "The Home I Love" by Kay Hoffman – teaching the children that it doesn't matter whether our house is large or small or full of expensive things – it is the family inside that is important and makes it a home.**

**SWIMMING PROGRAMME – P6/7 will take part in an eight week programme which will begin on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at a cost of £40 per pupil. We would appreciate if you would forward the cost either in monthly installations or in one payment by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

**SHOEBOX APPEAL – Just a wee reminder that our Christmas Shoeboxes will now be picked up on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November so please make a big effort to put one together as a family and forward to the school before this date.**

**PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS – Letters will be sent out next week informing you of a date and time to meet with your child's Class Teacher to discuss their progress. If the appointment doesn't suit, please feel free to ring the office and re-arrange another suitable time with the Class Teacher. Please note that school will finish at 12.00 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December to allow our meetings to begin at 1.00pm.**

**P7 TRANSFER – Will take place in CBS and Loreto Convent on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Please remember to say a little prayer for our P7 pupils on this day that God will watch over them and guide them and help them do their best.**

**Prayer for exams** – “Oh God, help me to remember the things that I have learnt and studied. Help me to remember well and to think clearly. Help me not to be so nervous and excited that I do not do myself justice, and keep me calm and clear-headed. Help me to try my hardest and do my best. This I ask for Jesus’ sake, Amen.”

**SCHOOL PROSPECTUS** – has now been updated and is available to view on the website.

**PRINCIPAL AWARDS** – September – Awarded for “Helping our Peers”

- P1 Anna Corrigan**
- P2 Cahir Conway & Lily Duddy**
- P3 Olyvia McCorkell**
- P4 Anna Kelly**
- P5 S.J. McCullagh**
- P6 Kane Duddy & Michael McGarvey**
- P7 Daragh Ellis & Nicole McCallion**

**READING EGGS – ONLINE READING PROGRAMME (P2 – P7) & MATHLETICS (P4-P7).** - Please continue to take full advantage of these programmes at home to develop your child’s reading and numeracy skills. Each pupil should now have access to their username and password and be able to access all activities at home. As it is costing £10 per pupil, it is vital that we make as much use of it as possible this year. We will be awarding pupils throughout the year for their participation in this programme. We will continue to focus on online learning for homework each Thursday.

**HALLOWEEN FUN DAY** – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October – “Spooky” dinner menu” - sausages, chips, beans, biscuits & custard.

**P6/7 TRIP TO BUTTERLOPE FARM...**

‘On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, P6 and P7 went to Butterlope Farm for a day trip. We learned all about farming, now and in the past. We looked at

**the types of trees and hedges and looked at what grows there. We got to feed hens and grow our own vegetables. They had lots of vegetables growing there: turnip, carrots, cabbage and lots more. We got to work with hay and used things that they would've used long before machinery. The history of farming was brilliant. We got to do pond dipping to look for living things and we found freshwater shrimp and louse. Their presence showed the water was healthy. We got to see the many types of sheep and how their face colour tells if it is hardy mountain sheep or not. It was a very interesting day and we all enjoyed it'. Ultán McConnell P6**



**The P6/7 pupils will take part in a follow up workshop in the school in November...check out the website for more photos!!**

### **P4/5 TRIP TO THE LIBRARY -Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**'We went to Omagh Library on a yellow bus. We had a tour around the Library. We looked at different sections. They all had computers.**

**There was a teenage study section. We saw some teenagers working and studying. A lady showed us the different kinds of books and showed us how to loan books and return books. We saw Tia return books and we saw Alecia take some books out. We saw how they stacked the books in alphabetical order of the Author's surname'.  
Lucy McCrossan P4**

**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK – Begins Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The pupils will be involved in a number of Presentations, Assemblies and Workshops based on the theme “All equal, all different, all together.” Please see information attached. This is a very important week in the school calendar for us. We use it as an opportunity to refocus minds on the important message that bullying of all kinds is wrong.**

### **ECO SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**



**We are delighted to announce that we have our Eco-School Committee up and running again this year. This year we welcome Claragh Mossey, Cahir Conway, Erin Daly, Lucy McCrossan and Daire Marlow. We hope this year to continue to build on the good work which is going on in the school with regards to raising awareness of the importance of taking care of the environment so we can look after**

**our school for the next generation. In particular, we will be saving energy, encouraging all classes to recycle where possible and finally we will be taking care of the school grounds.**

**WES MAGEE – AUTHOR VISIT - We are delighted to be welcoming the famous author, Wes Magee to our school on 21st November. Wes has written a number of popular children’s stories and all pupils will be taking part in storytelling sessions with Wes as well as Literacy Workshops. Cost on the day will be £1 per pupil. These workshops will form a basis for our activities on World Book Day.**

**SPEECH/LANGUAGE SERVICE – We are delighted to be able to avail once again of the services of the Western Trust Speech/Language therapists as part of our Cluster Focus this year. During November they will be carrying out assessments in P1. If necessary, Parents will be contacted after these Assessments regarding follow up Programmes.**

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY – based on our school focus this year – Everyday Mindfulness.**

**“If we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can smile and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace.”**

**ONE MINUTE EXERCISE – Sit in front of a clock or watch that you can use to time the passing of one minute. Your task is to focus your entire attention on your breathing, and nothing else, for the minute. Leave your eyes open and breathe normally. Be ready to catch your mind from wandering off (because it will) and return your attention to your breath whenever it does so.**



Northern Ireland  
Anti-Bullying Forum

## What we do about bullying

Our school defines bullying as... **the repeated use of power by one or more people intentionally to harm, hurt or adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others.**

- \* To access our Anti-Bullying/ Behaviour Policy you can find it under Policies in our website..
- \* If you have concerns about bullying you should contact the Principal, Mrs Grugan
- \* What should I do if my child is being bullied? ..please refer to the information for parents in our AntiBullying Policy on our website

### Need help or advice?

#### Support for Children and Young People

If you are experiencing bullying behaviour, or are worried about someone that may be, it is important that you tell an adult you trust about it. This might be a parent or carer or another member of your family. It might be teacher, youth worker or another adult that works with you. It doesn't matter who you tell, just tell someone.

If you would like to talk to someone about your concerns or worries about bullying you can talk to:

- \* ChildLine – 0800 1111
- \* Lifeline – 0808 808 8000

#### Support for Parents, Carers and Other Adults

If a child or young person tells you they are experiencing bullying behaviour it can be very distressing and worrying. If you would like to talk to someone about your concerns or worries you can contact:

- \* Parenting NI Helpline – 0808 8010 722
- \* NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000
- \* Children's Law Centre (Chalky) – 0808 800 5678

NIABF think that it is important for schools and youth groups to work together with parents/carers to tackle the issue of bullying as 'Together We Are Stronger'.

This Top Ten Facts resource can be used in school to learn more about the issue of bullying, encourage conversations about this issue and can also be sent home as 'homework' for children & young people to discuss the facts about bullying with their parents/carers.

## Top Ten Facts for children to tell their Parents & Carers about Bullying.

Normally bullying is defined as having the following three elements: bullying as the repeated use of power by one or more persons intentionally to hurt, harm or adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others.

Bullying, no matter how it happens or why it happens, is always wrong.

39% of pupils in Year 6 and 29% of pupils in Year 9 report having experienced bullying at least once in the previous two months.

There are many possible reasons why children are bullied. For instance, the colour of their skin, their religion, a disability, their sexual orientation, their social status or because they are Looked After Children.

Schools have anti-bullying policies in place as required by the Department of Education and parents/carers should be consulted about changes to the content. Children can be bullied in many different ways e.g. verbally, physically and by being socially excluded. Cyber bullying has emerged as a particularly challenging form of bullying.

Dealing with bullying can be very complicated. A range of strategies can be used by schools, parents/carers and pupils to help everyone involved to end bullying behaviour. For more information see the NIABF website:

<http://www.endbullying.org.uk/>