



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020

COVID UPDATES

Welcome back everyone! Time to kick-start learning again! All our previous Covid Procedures will remain in place. Please ring the office in the morning if your child is absent, to let us know the reason. If your child has any of the 3 Covid symptoms, please book a Covid test and update the school on the result as soon as it comes through. If anyone within the family has Covid symptoms, the whole family must self-isolate until the result comes through. If anyone is a close contact of a positive, they must isolate for 14 days from the first symptom.

TYRONE COUNTY BOARD COACHING

On Friday 6th November, we are beginning coaching sessions for P2-P7 with County Board Coach – Fiachra McNulty. Discussions have taken place with our DE Link Officer and a Risk Assessment has been put in place to ensure the safety of all, in relation to Covid risks. (See Visitor's Policy attached at the end of newsletter.) Tyrone County Board have assured us that the coach will not be working in any other schools on our allocated day to reduce risks. Sessions will take place mainly outdoors, in small group bubbles. Equipment will be sanitised between sessions and will not be shared between different bubbles. Coaches will keep a 2 metre social distance at all times from pupils and will follow the Visitor's Policy and the school's Covid Procedures. All P2-P7 pupils are to wear PE uniform each Friday and bring water.

HOMEWORK

We are now going to progress to homework being returned to school in folders each Friday. The homework will be quarantined for 72 hours before being marked by class teacher and feedback provided if necessary. There will be a gap of a week before the marked homework is returned home. Please check over and discuss with your child and if you need any clarity, do not hesitate to contact the class teacher after 3.15pm.

WEATHER WARNINGS.

It is not always possible to make a decision **early morning** regarding School Closure due to bad weather. When a decision to close is made by the Principal and Chair of Governors, a text message will be sent out immediately.

Please do not drop your child off or send your child to school unsupervised on mornings when there has been a weather warning.... Staff may be delayed travelling to school and it is important that pupils are not left in the building without an adult present. Please check therefore that a member of staff is present in the building before dropping off.

IF THE BREAKFAST CLUB IS UP AND RUNNING AT THIS TIME, IT WILL NOT OPERATE ON MORNINGS WHEN THERE IS A WEATHER WARNING...PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILD OFF WITHOUT CHECKING THAT THE BREAKFAST CLUB IS ON.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – We are delighted to have the continued support of O'Neill's Sports in the sponsorship of our annual Christmas Raffle 2020, in order to raise funds to cover some of the costs of our online "Reading Eggs Programme" and a "Building Resilience Programme" which we hope to develop through the school. A percentage of the proceeds will once again go towards our chosen charity this year, "Care for Cancer" in Omagh so we would greatly appreciate if you would make a big effort for our Christmas Raffle. "Care for Cancer" is a fantastic local charity who not only give much needed practical support to cancer patients, but also their carers and families. In November, each child will 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. For those families with more than 2 pupils, please just sell what you can!

1st Prize - £150.00 O'NEILL'S SPORTS VOUCHER

2nd Prize – CHRISTMAS HAMPER

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

SANTA CONVERSATIONS - In light of some issues last year, we are asking for your support this year in ensuring that the magic of Christmas is not spoilt by pupil conversations involving the 'realness' of Santa...your support in this would be very much appreciated..

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.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS – OCTOBER – Awarded for “Great Listening!”

P1/2 Orlaith Finlay & Elsie Morris.

P2/3 Dáithí O’Neill, Cellách Gormley & Lisa McCullagh.

P4/5 Fintan Ellis, Cahir Conway & Tee-Jay Masumba.

P6/7 Lucy McCrossan, Rían McCullagh, Hannah Ward, Mia O’Connor & Áine McCreanor.

READING EGGS – ONLINE READING PROGRAMME - Please continue to take full advantage of this programme at home to develop your child’s reading 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 £6 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 on our weekly schedules.

MATHS WEEK

We celebrated maths week in the school from Monday 12th to Friday 16th of October. All the classes took part in different activities within their own class bubbles. Fortunately, the weather was good and we were able to get out and enjoy some outdoor maths trails.

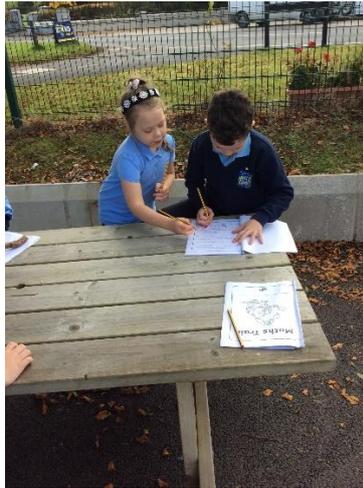
“We went on a Maths Trail to celebrate Maths Week. We saw lots of shapes and colours. We also saw lots of even and odd numbers. I found a tree and I made a pattern with sticks and stones. I made a circle with stones.”

By Lisa McCullagh P3.



“We made an astronaut on the moon from shapes. It was great fun. We also got to go outside to do our Maths Trail. Everyone had a partner. I really enjoyed it because we were exercising outside as well as learning all about Maths! It was great fun.”

By Cahir Conway P5.



“We started Maths Week with a Math Trail booklet that Mrs Cunningham gave to us. We did different activities related to Maths throughout the week. We ran to each line in the top yard and timed each other, then we came in and counted the windows of the hall and measured the hall using a metre stick. Next, we went online and did fun Maths games and we used different shapes to make a picture. Then we did “Maths Bingo,” where people ask questions and you mark the answer on the bingo board. We drew Autumn pictures and we had to use a ruler to measure out the exact symmetry. We had lots of fun learning maths during Maths Week!”

By Hannah Ward P7.





ANTI-BULLYING WEEK – Begins Monday 16th November. The pupils will be involved in a number of Presentations, Assemblies and Workshops based on the theme “United Against Bullying.” This is a very important week in the school calendar for us. We use it as an opportunity to re-focus minds on the important message that bullying of all kinds is wrong.

EASI-FUNDRAISING – Now that we are approaching Christmas, can we remind everyone planning to order online through popular sites such as Argos, Amazon, Asos, M&E, eBay, etc. to go through the Easi-fundraising site www.easyfundraising.org.uk as they will donate a percentage of the order to school funds. Thank you to everyone who has used it to date. Any small amount at all is very welcome!

CHILDREN IN NEED – Friday 13th November. To raise money for Children in Need, pupils may wear their onesies (with shoes) to school on this day. (Or ordinary clothes!) All donations will go towards Children in Need.

LATECOMERS - Could all pupils please arrive at school before the door closes and the security system kicks in at 9.15am. It is totally understandable that occasionally this isn't always possible and on these occasions we would appreciate if you would accompany your child into the school. For those pupils who arrive late on a regular basis, it would be very much appreciated if parents could ensure they are dropped off between 9 and 9.15am to avoid the disruption of "door buzzing" constantly in the morning!

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

**It's OK if
you're having
a wobble.**

Some days we will be on
good form and other
days we won't.
The secret is being kind
to yourself as you dance
between the two.
We are all just muddling
through the best we can.

@chrisrileypsychic

ST. PATRICK'S P.S. GORTIN
PROCEDURE FOR VISITORS (COVID 19)

- All visits to the school must be arranged prior to attending, either by telephone contact with the school office, email or by contractual agreement. (Work orders must have a work number.)
- If you have had any of the symptoms of COVID 19 in the previous 14 days you must not enter into the school building – cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, change to your sense of smell and / or taste.
- If you have travelled internationally in the past 14 days you must not enter the school building.
- If you have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID 19 in the past 14 days you must not enter the school building.
- Upon arrival to the school you wait outside the front door to be met by a staff member.
Upon entering you will:
 - Complete the health & safety questions before entering.
 - Leave your name and contact details for tracking and tracing should it be necessary.

Whilst in our school you must;

- Sanitise your hands upon arrival at the school.
 - Wear a face covering (that you will bring with you) at all times inside the school building.
 - Regularly wash your hands with soap and water or sanitise your hands with the hand sanitiser provided.
 - Follow all PHA guidance on personal hygiene, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and reducing risks in relation to COVID 19.
 - Maintain a social distance of 2m from all adults within the school.
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- If working with a child or with a group of children, you must clean all surfaces with the disinfectant spray and disposable cloths provided at the end of each session and in between sessions with different children. If a child becomes ill during your session, you must inform their teacher immediately.
 - When on-site you must work from the designated area and stick to the timetable agreed. **DO NOT** enter a classroom to get a child – the child will be brought to you in the room assigned for the support work.
 - Please do not use the Staff Room at any time. Lunch must be eaten in designated area.
 - If collecting a child, please remain outside the front door and the child will be brought out to meet you.
 - Workmen will be required to wear a mask when working on premises between 8.30am and 3.15pm.

Thanks for your support and partnership.

MARY GRUGAN
PRINCIPAL