



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2019

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS – will take place on Wednesday 4th December from 1.00p.m. School will finish at 12 noon on this day. We will also timetable some meetings in on another evening during that week to reduce the numbers on Wednesday – a time will be forwarded to you shortly. To keep the timetable flowing and to reduce waiting times, we would appreciate if parents didn't go over the allocated 10-minute slot but arranged to meet at another time if they wish to discuss anything further. If the day and time does not suit, don't hesitate to contact the class teacher to rearrange a more suitable time.

SHOEBOX APPEAL – Letters will be sent home shortly with all the details. We donated 73 boxes last year to this worthwhile cause. The Halloween break is an ideal time to put a box together with your child. Please note that ALL BOXES will be collected at the school on **Friday 8th November** so we would really appreciate if all boxes could be forwarded before this date.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – Just a little reminder to forward your free meals application to WELB if you think you are eligible. If your child is taking free school meals in school, this information will remain within personnel and will NOT be communicated to pupils.

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS – St Patrick's Church Gortin – FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER at 10.00a.m. Everyone is invited along to join with us in prayer for a happy, healthy and successful new school year :)

ECO NEWS – ECO-COUNCIL 19/20

We welcome our new Eco-Council – Aodhan Ward, Grace Brogan, Ava Brogan, Connor Devine, Cara Devine, Pheebey McCorkell and Anna Corrigan.



EXTENDED SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

DESIGNED TO MOVE P2/3



By Conan McGovern P3.

HIP-HOP



“I love going to Hip-Hop with my friends. We did tricks. I lay on the ground with Hayley and Jamie jumped over us. It is so much fun. I can’t wait until next week. We also played games and did lots of different types of dancing.”

By Erínn McCullagh P4.

SOCCER



“I love soccer because I scored a goal. I am really good at it and it’s really easy. My coach’s name is Jamie. We did a drill when Fintan hit the crossbar, and when the ball came back, I scored!”

By Cahir Conway P4.

Gaelic P6/7

“Every Tuesday Fiachra McNulty comes to our school to teach us Gaelic. He teaches us all the skills we need to play well. Sometimes we have mini-games which we all love to play. We all really enjoy it and look forward to it every week because it is great fun!”

By Ellie Daly P7.

A big thanks to St. Patrick's GAC for supplying the school with footballs for the Afterschool Gaelic Club.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR - Our focus in September was Church visits, Mass responses, daily prayers and Pope Francis's strong family message of showing respect – see our display in the school porch. We would appreciate if parents would support our September theme and ensure that pupils attend Mass each weekend and are familiar with the responses.

KEEPING SAFE IN THE DARK – Many thanks to Alaine Ward for providing pupils with reflective safety wrist bands and lights to ensure safety on the roads during dark mornings and evenings.

OCTOBER'S FOCUS IS MISSION MONTH – World Missions Ireland – Children Helping Children. As part of Mission month, we will be saying a decade of the Rosary with the pupils every Monday morning during October and would love if this tradition could be carried on at home. We would appreciate if pupils could bring Rosary beads with them every Monday. Each class in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will compose their own Prayers and thoughts about children in need in other countries during this time.

BREAKFAST CLUB – Just a wee reminder that P1 pupils can join our Breakfast Club after Halloween - £1 per day – doors open at 8.30am!

ONLINE LEARNING – We are continuing this year with our Online Programme – Reading Eggs (P3-P7). All pupils will be provided with usernames and passwords. As well as incorporating these programmes into Literacy learning during the school day, K.S.1/2 pupils will be set tasks for homework each Thursday. Please monitor these tasks and if the pupils are experiencing difficulty accessing this programme at home, please forward a note to the class teacher. Alternative homework will be sent home for those who are having difficulty getting online at home.

MATHS WEEK – will take place from 14th – 18th October. During this week, the pupils will take part in lots of practical fun competitions and challenges based on our focus this year “Times-tables” and “Mental Arithmetic.” Also check out our school website where we have downloaded a very useful link – “Helping with Maths” in the parent zone section.

SWIMMING PROGRAMME – P6/7 will take part in an eight-week programme which will begin in January 2020 at a cost of £40 per pupil. We would appreciate if you would forward the cost either in monthly installments, or in one payment by Friday 6th December.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER – will be taking individual pupil photos on Tuesday 29th October as well as P1 and P7 class photographs. If you wish to have a family or group photo taken, please forward a note to the class teacher on the day. Pupils should wear their full school uniform on this day and bring their PE clothes if it is their PE day.

TIN WHISTLE-P3-P7 - A number of pupils are forgetting to bring their tin-whistle to school for the Friday lessons with Mrs Sweeney. We would appreciate if you would remind/check each Friday that pupils have their tin-whistle in their bag. These lessons are funded by parents and we don't want your money going to waste.

STUDENT COUNCIL 19/20

We welcome our new Student Council – S.J. McCullagh, Rían McCullagh, Lucy McSwiggan, Caoimhe O’Kane, Ellie Daly, Rónán McCullagh & Harry McCrossan.



NUT/EGG ALLERGY – We currently have pupils in the school with both nut and egg allergies. Could I ask all parents to ensure that **NUTS IN ANY FORM** are not sent into the school for break or lunch. (Please check contents on lunch items). We can no longer accept cakes, treats, etc. being sent into the school for pupils' birthday celebrations. We would appreciate your support in this matter. Please also discuss with your child the reason behind **NOT SHARING** their break or lunch with other children. Sometimes this is difficult for the pupils to understand when we are usually trying to promote the ethos of sharing. Staff will also not be able to offer a break alternative to those who do not bring one to school – so please try and ensure that your child has a healthy break sent in in their schoolbag each day. It is a long period from morning until 12.30pm.

UPDATED CHILD PROTECTION POLICY – Please check our website for our updated Child Protection / Safeguarding Policy.

HOMEWORK MONITORING – Please continue to sign and check your child's Homework nightly and ensure corrections are completed – please also try and ensure your child sticks to a sensible bedtime each evening. The “yawning” during the school day is beginning to decrease but there are still a few who would benefit from an earlier bedtime to give them the best chance to learn during the school day. Please also try and ensure that your child uses the correct posture when working at a desk. i.e. feet together under the desk and elbows off the desk! If you have any queries regarding homework, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

LUNCHES – We are once again appealing to you to ensure that your child brings a healthy lunch to school. A number of pupils' lunches are not reflecting a balanced diet and this is already having an impact on learning and behaviour in the afternoons. We would appreciate if ONE treat only was included in the lunch boxes and please keep monitoring whether your child is actually eating the healthy food you are providing.

PROSPECTUS – Our School Prospectus has now been updated and is available in the school office. Please contact the office if you would like a copy.

PUBLIC MEETING - Rural Housing & the NI Housing Executive will be holding a public meeting on Monday 21st October at 7.30pm in Gortin Community Centre. The aim of the meeting is to ascertain if there is a need for new-build social housing in the area. If you are in need of social housing in Gortin, but have not yet registered with the Housing Executive for a home in the area, they are currently working with the Rural Housing Association to bring new-build social housing to the Gortin Community and need people to come forward who are in need of social housing, but have not yet registered with the NIHE. To find out more contact: Ruth Montgomery, Rural Housing Association; Email: rmontgomery@ruralhousing.co.uk or mobile: 07784359820.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

<u>NATIVITY MASS</u>	Wednesday 18 th December in St. Patrick's Church Gortin at 7.30pm.
<u>FIRST CONFESSION</u>	Monday 30 th March in St. Patrick's Church Gortin at 7.00pm.
<u>FIRST COMMUNION</u>	Sunday 7 th June in St. Patrick's Church Gortin at 11.00am.

CLOSURES

HALLOWEEN HOLIDAYS – Thursday 31st October & Friday 1st November.
Please note - there will also be a Staff Training day on Monday 4th November.

Please remember – All Saints Day - 1st November & All Souls Day - 2nd November.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

