



## **OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2020**

### **COVID UPDATES**

– A massive thanks to everyone for all your co-operation and support regarding our Covid Procedures. The pupils have adapted so well and deserve full credit for following all new procedures without making a fuss or complaining! They have all settled so well into the new routine and we look forward to a wonderful year ahead! We will continue to review all procedures monthly and adjust accordingly. The first adjustment will be in relation to dinners.

**DINNER ORDERS** – Dinner will be available from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October for everyone who wishes to order. There will, however be a change to the ordering system – to avoid money and paperwork coming into the office on a daily basis.

**DINNER ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN ON A FRIDAY ONLY – FOR THE WEEK AHEAD. THE ORDER FOR THE WEEK MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH PAYMENT.**

To facilitate with money handling, we would appreciate if payment could be by cheque rather than cash. Cheques must be made payable to “Education Authority Western Region.”

An order form will be sent home each Monday in the homework folder and must be returned on the Friday in an envelope with payment.

**NO ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE WEEK.** The first order form will be sent home on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Please return on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, if you wish to order dinners for the following week.

**THE DINNER MENU FOR OCTOBER IS ALSO NOW ON THE WEBSITE.**

**GATE OPENINGS**-The school gate will remain closed for pupils in the mornings until 9am..Pupils cannot enter before this time as staff are involved in preparation and staff briefings until 9am and supervision is not available.. We are also operating a **bubble system** and do not want pupils from different bubbles mixing in the school yard in the mornings...Your cooperation is very much appreciated..

We would also appreciate if you could move quickly out of the school yard at pick up times.. Pupils are not permitted to use the climbing equipment at this time due to all equipment being sanitised after dinnertime in preparation for the next day..

**ABSENCES**-If your child is off school **FOR ANY REASON**, please ring the school office from 9.15am to let the school know the reason for the absence. **.IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ONE OF THE 3 MAIN COVID SYMPTOMS,THEY MUST GET A TEST AND THE RESULTS MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE SCHOOL BEFORE THE CHILD RETURNS.** .The child and any siblings must remain at home until the result comes through..

**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.

**LUNCHES** – Could we please ask that sugary treats are restricted to **one treat only** in the lunch box. Sandwiches, fruit, yoghurt and **one treat** is sufficient for a substantial lunch and prevents hyperactivity in the afternoon!

**PRINCIPAL AWARDS SEPTEMBER** – As usual we started the year with “Showing respect,” a vital element of our Mission Statement. Congratulations to all our recipients.

P1/2 - Rose Mc Bride & Avá Clarke.

P2/3 – Clodagh Gormley, Naomhan Ellis & Eimear McCrory.

P4/5 – Anna Corrigan, Hayley Devine & Katie McCullagh.

P6/7 – Carla Turner, Annie McNulty, Grace Brogan & Alecia McCorkell.

**PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS** – Will take place in Term 2. Further details will be sent out then.

**UNIFORM ORDERS-** All sizes are now available in Kemps if anyone still requires any item of uniform for this year..

**SHOEBOX APPEAL** – Letters will be sent home shortly with all the details. We donated 62 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 6th November** so we would really appreciate if all boxes could be forwarded before this date.

### **ECO NEWS – ECO-COUNCIL 20/21**

We welcome our new Eco-Council – Hannah Ward, Shea O’Neill, Shea McCullagh, Olyvia McCorkell, Fintan Ellis, Hayley Devine, & Niamh McCullagh.



**CLUB DAY 2020!-**







**CLUB DAY RAFFLE** - Congratulations to Mrs Mc Bride who won the match ticket and Olyviah Mc Corkell who won the kit! Thank you to both clubs for their very generous donations...



**INTERMEDIATE COUNTY FINAL**

“I was very excited because my daddy was going to be playing in the County Final. He was busy training and everyone in the club were getting ready for the big day. At school, we did lots of art and other activities for the final. Some of my family and the club made 200 headbands for everyone in our school. There was a raffle for a Gortin kit and a match ticket too. The match started off so close – it was just point for point, but Edendork’s county players were too strong. Daddy scored Gortin’s only goal. I was so proud of him! We were disappointed we didn’t win but we had a great time leading up to the match and we are all very proud of the team.”

**By Jamie Clarke P7.**

“On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Gortin football team were in the County Final. They were playing Edendork at Healy Park in Omagh. The match was at 6.30pm. I went with my mummy to the match. Daddy and grandad were on the pitch. Gortin played well, but Edendork won the match. Shane Clarke scored the only goal for Gortin. It was brilliant to get to the final!”

**By Daire O’Kane P5.**



**OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST** – We welcome our new Parish Priest to Lower Badoney. We are delighted to welcome him as a Trustee on our Board of Governors and we look forward to having him as a new member of our school community.



**BEDTIMES** – The yawning continues! We have been witnessing some very tired, pale faces and lethargic bodies over the past couple of weeks! We appreciate it has been particularly hard after lockdown to get back into school routine and school week bedtimes, but it is vital that children get adequate sleep to fully participate in learning the next day. Please see the very useful table below to get an idea of recommended bedtimes based on what time children have to get up.

**At what time should your child go to bed?**

Age	Wake-up time						
	6:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	7:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 AM
	Sleeping time						
5	6:45 PM	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM
6	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM
7	7:15 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM
8	19:30	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM
9	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM
10	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM
11	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM	9:45 PM
12	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM	9:45 PM

**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. 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.

**OUR NEW P1'S**





# INDUCTION WEEK



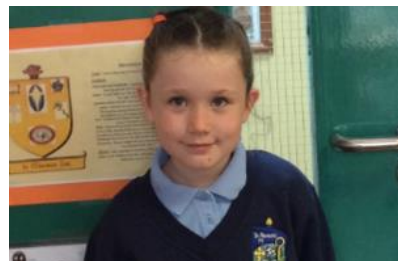




**MATHS WEEK** – will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October. During this week, the pupils will take part in lots of practical fun competitions and challenges based on our focus this year “Times-tables” and “Mental Arithmetic.” Also check out our school website where we have downloaded a very useful link – “Helping with Maths” in the parent zone section.

**STUDENT COUNCIL 20/21**

We welcome our new Student Council – Roise Mossey, Grace Brogan, Aimee Ward, Conan McGovern, Ellie McGuigan, Lisa McCullagh & Carla Turner.



## **FIRST CONFESSION**

“P5’s made their First Confession on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. I was nervous but I still did it! The priest was Fr. Forbes. It was not in the Chapel. It was in our school assembly hall instead. Now we will make our First Holy Communion on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October. We are really looking forward to it!”

**By Erínn McCullagh P5.**

**FIRST COMMUNION** – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Please note that there will be **one seat only** allocated per family (for parents & siblings only) and masks must be worn by adults inside the church. **All P5 families must book their seat in the normal way stating the names of who is attending.**.. Mr O’Hara will forward any other relevant information leading up to the day.

**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 mark your child’s Homework Worksheets nightly and ensure corrections are completed if needed. 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.

**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.

**MASK DONATION** - Massive thanks to **Kate Ward** for dropping in some handmade facemasks for all the staff. Thank you so much for thinking of us at this time. It is very much appreciated by all the staff!





## **CLOSURES**

**HALLOWEEN HOLIDAYS** – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
(Inclusive.)

Please remember – All Saints Day - 1<sup>st</sup> November & All Souls Day - 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## **THOUGHT FOR TODAY**

