



Christmas Newsletter 2018 Killeen National School

Dear Parents,

Hard to believe we're almost at the end of 2017 and Christmas only around the corner. September saw the arrival of 10 new Junior Infants and all seem to be well settled at this stage.

School Mass: Our academic Mass took place on Friday September 29th. Fr David was our celebrant and children from the sacrament classes participated in readings, gifts etc. Afterwards Fr David blessed our car park & all weather pitches.

Sacraments: Enrolment for the sacraments has taken place and children from the sacrament classes are now participating in the weekend masses. On Saturday December 02nd children performed a drama of the Gospel on the altar. It was lovely, well done Mr Madden.

Hurling, Camogie & Rugby: Hurling coaching with M. Errity took place for classes 3rd – 6th and we hope this will resume again in February 2018.

Open Night: On Monday October 24th sixth class children visited St Brendan's Community School for their Open Night.

Art Competitions: We took part in poster competitions for the Community School & Credit Union. Sarah Morris and Oran Molloy won prizes in the Community School competition. Áine Kennedy and Sophie Hayes were winners in the Credit Union competition.

Dance: Dance with Lisa Hogan began on September 19th for 6 weeks. All participated, 6th class will demonstrate a little of what they learned at our Christmas Show. Children loved this and we hope to repeat it in the next school year. Thanks to the Parents Council for contribution towards this.

Fitness: A programme was run by Offaly Sports Partnership for 6 weeks. Children from 1st – 6th participated. This finished on Friday December 01st and children were tested on the last day.

Gymnastics: Gymnastics began on Wednesday November 08th for all classes. We had 6 very enjoyable sessions. A big thank you to the Parents Council for their generous contribution here.

Football: Children participated in Cumann na mBunscol football and our boys and girls enjoyed themselves.

Music Generation: We are continuing with Music Generation again this year.

Rosary Rally: Children from 6th class participated in this in Birr Church on October 10th. Each of our 5 Catholic Schools were represented and led the Rosary. Well done to Alexandra Crowley, Molly Hogan, Kate Hagan & Ella Mc Dermott.

Halloween Fancy Dress: All children took part in our Halloween Fundraiser "Trick or Treat for Temple Street" and a total of €175 was raised for Temple Street Hospital.

Shoe Box Appeal: Mrs Carroll organised the 'Shoe Box' Campaign and once again parents and children were very generous here.

Parent-Teacher Meetings: Parent-teacher meetings took place on Monday November 27th and Wednesday November 29th. It's heartening to see the great support our children get from their parents.

Green Schools: We are now working on our 7th Green Flag on the theme of 'Global Citizenship - Energy'. 'Mind-the-GAP' visited our school with their circus, clown and dance performance 'It's not fair!' The theme of which explores the development education issues in the 'Global Citizenship' flag programme. We all really enjoyed this performance. We look forward to a follow up workshop in January.

Shows: 3rd – 6th class attended 'Jesus Christ Superstar' in the Community School and it was great to see so many past pupils participating. Juniors – 2nd attended a Christmas show in Birr Theatre on Monday December 11th.

Pilates: This will take place in January 2018 for classes 3rd to 6th. These classes will run for 6 weeks. Class will be conducted by Helen Burns.

Christmas Shows: On Thursday December 21st we will have 2 performances for parents and extended families. The main thing is that all children participate in a non-pressurised environment and enjoy the experience.

Infants perform "The Sleepy Shepherd"

1st & 2nd perform "Lights, Camel, Action"

3rd – 6th perform "Yo, Ho, Ho – A Pirate Christmas"

Juniors Infants – 2nd Class @ 10am

3rd – 6th Class @ 12noon

Infants – 2nd may go home after the morning performances

3rd – 6th may go home after the noon performance.

Buy-a-Brick Fundraiser: We are thrilled with our new outdoor facilities and remind you that you can still buy a brick online at <http://www.killeennationalschool.com/donations/> or from the school office.

Reminder: Full uniforms must be worn on all days except P.E. days. Children should not bring mobile phones or games consoles to school. The only jewellery allowed are small stud earrings. Make-up is not allowed. Please ensure children stick to these rules.

Parents Contribution: Some parents' contributions are still outstanding and we would greatly appreciate payment. Remember this covers dance, gymnastics, pilates, tennis, swimming, art & craft, photocopying etc. Contribution is €70 per child for Junior & senior infants and €80 per child for 1st – 6th class. Half can be paid now and the remainder in January.

Stay Safe Programme (Part of S.P.H.E.): This will take place in all classes in Term 2. This is a mandatory programme and we are obliged to teach it. You will be informed in January '18 when it will be taking place as we try to do it at the same time in all classes.

In-service for Teachers: Department of Education have instructed all teaching staff to attend an in-service day on Monday March 05th 2018. This is in relation to changes that are coming in the Primary Language Curriculum. Therefore the school will be closed for all pupils on that date.

Staff Meeting: Staff meeting on Friday January 12th 2018, will take place at 1.40pm. All children go home at 1.40pm

School will close on Friday December 22nd at 12noon and re-opens on Monday January 08th at 9.00am for all pupils.

A very Happy Christmas to all and thank you for your co-operation throughout the year.

Best Wishes,

Bríd Connolly
Principal