



**Scoil Mhuire**  
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# NEWSLETTER 5 - JANUARY 2016

## ENROLMENT FORMS 2016/2017

Enrolment forms are now available at Scoil Mhuire (or Clifden playschool) for new entrants 2016/2017.

## SENIOR INFANTS CHRISTMAS CAKE FOR SVP

A whooping €180 was raised. Well done Senior Infants and all the helpers involved!

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR – NEW ENROLMENTS

We will welcome a new class of Junior Infants at the start of the next school year (2016- 2017). We are now preparing everything for their arrival. Completed enrolment forms must be returned to the school as soon as possible. Decisions in relation to enrolment are made by the Board of Management in accordance with school policy. As a general principle children will be enrolled on application provided there are places available. In the event that applications for enrolment exceed or is expected to exceed the number of places available the following decision making process will apply. The Board will exercise its discretion in the application of the following criteria:

- Whether there are siblings of the proposed new entrant already in the school
- Ages of the children: the school policy recommends that the child be four years of age before April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of application for enrolment
- Parish boundaries/ Diocesan policies

*Copies of the Enrolment Policy are available in the office and parents are welcome to request one.*

## NOTES FOR ABSENCES

When a child is absent from school, parents must send a note to the teacher to explain the reason for the child's absence. Parents may like to fill in the notes at the back of the journal or write their own note if they prefer. It is really important that the reason for the absence is given for example illness etc... Schools must collect this information and if a child is absent for twenty days or more in any school year the school must report this information to TUSLA (The Child and Family Agency) and must give details of the reason for the absences. If parents send in a note that the child was absent on eg January 9<sup>th</sup> and do not give a reason the school must record that as an unexplained absence.

## VOLUNTEERS

We are very lucky to have so many parents who are always willing to help out at short notice. This week we have two teams of volunteers – the parents helping with swimming supervision and also our emergency weather team. The swimming could not go ahead without the volunteers and we say a very special thank you to those who volunteer. We also realise and understand fully that some parents cannot help out because of their commitments.

The second team of volunteers this week is our emergency weather team. They do a wonderful job in helping to keep the entrances and main parts of the yards frost free. Thankfully we haven't had to avail of their services yet this winter.

## FIRST PENANCE

The children in second class are preparing for their First Penance and also for First Communion. As part of the preparations there are a number of children's Masses- the next one is January 31<sup>st</sup>. The First Penance will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## CREDIT UNION QUIZ

Children in senior classes, together with their teachers are preparing for the Annual Credit Union quiz. The quiz is part of the national competition for primary schools which is organised by the League of Credit Unions. It will be held in the Town Hall on Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup>. The children learn so much general knowledge from being involved in the class preparation quizzes. We wish the pupils every success and remember that the most important aspect is in the taking part.

## STANDARDISED TESTS

We have set the dates for the Drumcondra and Sigma tests. These will take place over two weeks starting May 9<sup>th</sup> and ending May 20<sup>th</sup>. We would ask parents to try and make sure that their children will be at school for these tests and we hope that by letting you know the date at this stage you will be able to keep these dates in mind. If your child has any appointments etc coming up, please try and avoid these dates. Thank you.

### **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

The school band will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day parade. We will be practicing very hard over the coming months to ensure that we continue to uphold the high standards of previous years.

### **WRITE A BOOK**

Fifth and Sixth class- Write a book 2016 will be submitted to the Galway Education Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. Well done to all those taking part.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Each year the last week in January is the week when Catholic Schools Week is celebrated. We know that Jesus is the face of God's mercy. It is he who allows us to see how merciful the Father is. When we see how Jesus is with people whom others condemn and reject, we begin to glimpse the mercy of God. When we see the way that Jesus heals, the way he forgives, the way he loves, we see the mercy of God. We are called to be like Jesus so we, too, must try to be the face of God's mercy to those whom we meet. During this Catholic Schools Week, we will explore with the children how they can be the face of God's mercy in our classrooms, the playground, our school, our families and our community.

Each day has a specific theme that, we hope, will help the children to come to understand how they can proclaim God's mercy every day. The themes are as follows:

- **Monday:** I am the face of God's mercy when I am kind and compassionate.
- **Tuesday:** I am the face of God's mercy when I forgive and reconcile.
- **Wednesday:** Grandparents are the face of God's mercy.
- **Thursday:** I am the face of God's mercy when I am fair and just.
- **Friday:** I am the face of God's mercy when I live like Jesus.

### **CAR PARK**

Scoil Mhuire would like to thank everyone regarding their co-operation during the building process. We are still waiting for the car park to be lined and in the meantime could everyone please remember that the car park is only for staff, Junior Infant parents (who don't have siblings in older classes) and other allocated parents. The drop off area is not for parking on. Thank you for your patience.