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# NEWSLETTER 5- January 2018

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the World Meeting of Families 2018. From 21–26 August 2018, families and others from all over the world will gather to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. This event presents a special opportunity for school families to celebrate not only the fact that parents are the primary educators of their children but also the vital role that Catholic schools play in assisting parents. In partnership with World Meeting of Families 2018, the Catholic Schools Week Steering Committee has developed a one-year catechetical programme for Catholic primary and post-primary schools. The theme for this programme is Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families. The programme invites Catholic schools to reflect on and celebrate the relationship that exists between home, school and parish through participation in four sub-themed catechetical moments. The daily themes are as follows:

**Families of Hope**  
**Families of Faith**  
**Families of Love**  
**Families of Joy**

## 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 9th and do not give a reason the school must record that as an unexplained absence.

## ENROLMENT FORMS 2018/2019

Enrolment forms will soon be available at Scoil Mhuire (or Clifden playschool) for new entrants 18/19

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Christmas concert was a tremendous success. Events like these enable everyone to come together and celebrate all that is great in our school. The whole school community rallied behind the cause and we had a wonderful night. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the students, the teachers, Marie Walsh and the Parent's Association for all the hard work and creative energy that they put in to making this night possible. Well done to all!

## NEW VOLUNTEERING GUIDELINES

New child protection procedures recently enshrined in law by the government require that all volunteers must be individually vetted by the Diocese before they can volunteer in any capacity with the school (Circular 31/16). In light of these new guidelines and in order to protect both children and volunteers, Scoil Mhuire has decided to postpone the practice of volunteering at various events. New guidelines and Garda vetting forms

## Dates for the diary

### FEBRUARY

Monday 5: start of PT Meetings and Book Fair

Thursday 15 February + Friday 16: Mid-term Break

Monday 19: School reopens after mid term break

### MARCH

Saturday 3: First Confession in St. Joseph's Church at 11.00

Week of 12-17: Seachtain na gaeilge

Monday 19: Bank Holiday. School is closed

Friday 23: 12.30 Easter Break. School closes at 12.30

### APRIL

Monday 9: School reopens

ACTIVE SCHOOL WEEK

Monday 23: Standardised Testing begins

will be available from the office shortly. Scoil Mhuire thanks all volunteers for their contributions.

#### **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS (5 to 9 February)**

This is the time of year when the main Parent/Teacher meetings take place in Scoil Mhuire. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss a child's progress and to give information from parent to teacher and vice versa. It is very important for a child to know that home and school are working together in the best interests of all the children. Timetables for these meetings will be sent home shortly. This meeting is a **progress report** and will take no more than 10 minutes, however, if you have an issue that will require more time, please contact the class teacher as soon as possible. Should parents require separate meetings, please contact the office. If parents cannot make the meeting because of urgent reasons, please let the office know and we might be able to reschedule your appointment.

#### **LIFE IN SECOND CLASS**

Second Class is a very busy, fun filled, hard working class. There are 29 pupils, one teacher Mr. Lee and our wonderful assistant Kathleen.

This year 2018 will be very exciting for us as we will be preparing for our First Penance on the 3rd of March and later in May we will be making our First Holy Communion.

Many exciting things happen in Second Class. We have been working in our literacy groups for the past few months and it has really helped us all improve our reading skills.

We have studied many exciting myths in History such as Oisín in Tir na N-óg, Grainne Mhaol and more recently Fionn and the Giant. We had great fun creating clay models of these mythical giants. We will have photos on our website soon so keep an eye out.

During the past few months we have had such exciting lessons as making our own butter, festive crepes with Melanie (tasty), dance classes with Magda to help us prepare for our magical Christmas Concert. Only last week Mr. Lee began coaching us in Olympic Handball. It is such an exciting sport.

There are so many other things we could mention like Art projects, our improvement in Gaeilge, our hard work in Mathematics but unfortunately we do not have the space in this newsletter. While all these activities were great fun the most important thing to mention is that Second Class is full of eager learners and best of all a fun place to be.

#### **SOCCER SUCCESS STORY**

Three students from Scoil Mhuire have made the Galway under 12's soccer squad– Jack Weesjes, Ronan Mannion and Jake Bann. We are also delighted to learn that Jack Weesjes has been named team captain. Well done lads for this wonderful achievement!!

#### **CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**

As a Catholic school, we are always cognisant of the need to contribute to our wider school community. Students in all classes brought the Christmas spirit to the sick and infirm during the December period. We know that the commercial aspect of Christmas can sometimes place huge burdens on families. As a consequence, we engaged in a variety of charitable endeavours to help ease these burdens locally. With Ms King's fantastic help, Senior infants baked a cake that was subsequently raffled in the school and the wider community. A whopping €409 was raised for the local St. Vincent De Paul. Well done Ms. King and Senior infants. On the last day of term we had a no uniform day to raise more funds for St. Vincent De Paul. A further €288 was raised. Well done everybody.

Finally, to acknowledge the Homeless crisis in Ireland, the children of 5th and 6th class donated a food item of their choice to a hamper. The response was so great that Scoil Mhuire was able to donate 7 Christmas hampers to the St. Vincent De Paul shop in Clifden. We applaud the efforts of Ms Joyce, Ms Mullen and their respective classes. We the staff of Scoil Mhuire are very proud of all the children's charitable efforts and we would like to thank all the parents and wider school community for helping us to enable the students to appreciate the gift of giving.

<b>Award Winners</b>	<b>Student of the Week</b>	<b>Best Effort</b>	<b>Best Person</b>
<b>Junior Infants</b>	Kathleen Conroy	Ewan Prevost	Amelia Duke
<b>Senior Infants</b>	Jakub Gdynia	Aoibhin O'Malley	Shane Conneely
<b>First class Mrs Salmon</b>	Aoife Gorham	Kevin Coyne	Zuzanna Bobrowska
<b>First class Mrs Clancy</b>	Olwyn Conroy	Barry Loveland	Klara Ktobukowska
<b>Second class</b>	Sami Foyle	Ellen Conneely	Joe Boote
<b>Third class</b>	<b>WHOLE CLASS AWARD</b>		
<b>Fourth class</b>	JACK Acton	Aoibhin O'Connor	Grace Carey
<b>Fifth class</b>	Evan King	Molly Morgan	Ciaran Davitt
<b>Sixth class</b>	Nathan Davis	Kane Pocock	Amy Madden
<b>Special Awards</b>	Evan King 5th class Award		