



NEWSLETTER 3 - November 2018

A.R.

Accelerated Reader is set to begin this week in all classes from 3rd to 6th class.

Reading is a skill and, as with every skill, it requires not just instruction but practice. Reading practice serves a number of purposes. It enables pupils to apply the skills and strategies that you teach. It gives you opportunities to check pupil learning and identify weaknesses. And **it draws pupils into the world of "real" reading** - a world in which people learn from and enjoy books. Practice does not automatically lead to growth, however, to be effective, practice must have certain attributes: It must be at the right level of difficulty, cover a sufficient amount of time, be guided by the instructor, and be enjoyable enough to sustain.

The purpose of Accelerated Reader is to enable powerful practice. It does this by:

- **Providing data that helps us to monitor and personalise reading practice.**
- **Encouraging substantial amounts of practice, according to guidelines based on research findings.**
- **Making practice fun for pupils by facilitating successful encounters with text**

The importance of daily personalised reading practice cannot be overstated. Recent studies indicate that when students spend 25 minutes a day reading suitably challenging books which they successfully comprehend (demonstrated by achieving 90% or more on the reading practice quiz), then they will achieve optimal reading age growth. This is the power of personalised practice. Scoil Mhuire has invested considerable time and resources in adapting Accelerated Reader for our school and we hope that it proves to be as successful here as it has proven to be in other countries.

Spellings

These are some tips to help you to support your child when they are learning their spellings:

- Parent and child to discuss the known parts and **the "tricky" parts of words to be learned.**
- Parent calls out words and child **writes** them.
- Parent looks at written attempts. Parent does not inform child how many are correct. Parent praises the effort and then asks the child to check them.
- Child reports back to parent stating how many are correct.

- If child makes an error, the parent asks about the letters that are correctly written and then draws attention to the incorrect parts.

Literacy Lift off

Literacy Lift off has started in Second class. Our focus is on comprehension and writing and therefore children may be reading at a level below their decoding level. The children will be encouraged to bring home highly familiar books and read them to you. This is to encourage a sense of mastery and confidence and is known to be a highly effective methodology to promote good reading practice.

Science Week

Science week took place last week and this week and classes conducted a variety of scientific investigations. Our resident scientific expert, Ms Ann Keogh provided classes and teachers with support in this vital curricular area.

Debating

Last Monday, Ms Margret Martins came to our school and gave us a workshop on debating. We learned that when you are debating, there is a motion to discuss a particular topic. For every motion, there are two teams, with 3 member on each team. Each team has a captain. One team proposes a motion and the other team opposes it.

We learnt how to refute other members' statements.

Everyone love it!

We are entering a debating competition in Galway.

We will go up against 16 schools.

I really enjoyed debating, it was so interesting.

Dubheasa, 5th class

Enrolment ceremony

Children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion will take part in an enrolment ceremony on Saturday 24th November during 7pm Mass in St. Joseph's church, Clifden.

Chess Club

Lunchtime chess started again this week and there is huge interest amongst the student body. If anyone would like to donate any chess sets we would greatly appreciate it.

Aladdin Connect

Many thanks to all the parents who downloaded the app and are using it! However, most families have only registered one parent so we still need to use normal texts for half of the school families! We remind you that both partners (when applicable) need to register and connect on the app. Contact the office if you need more info on the subject, or if you need us to send the code again.

Christmas Shoe Boxes 2018

This year, a whopping 155 boxes were brought to the school by generous families. We thank you all on behalf of the children who will receive a box this Christmas.

We needed all hands on deck to transfer the boxes to the van delivering them to Galway! Check out our website for photos of the event!

Lighting of Christmas Tree 2018

Santa will be turning on the Christmas lights on November the 30th at 6.30pm and 4th, 5th and 6th classes will be singing some carols to entertain him. There will be hot chocolate and sweets afterwards for the children afterwards.

Carols singing in the Community.

Calls are coming in already to "book" the children for Carol Singing in December. More dates will be confirmed by the time the next newsletter is issued.

Parking

We remind parents that the roundabout is to be used as a drop off **ONLY** and not as a parking space. We thank you for your cooperation.

OVERVIEW 2018/2019

NOVEMBER	24th November: Enrolment for First Penance and First Communion
DECEMBER	24th December to 7th January: Christmas Break
JANUARY	Swimming starts for 3rd & 4th class
FEBRUARY	Week of 11th February: PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 18th to 22nd February: Mid Term Break
MARCH	9th March: First Penance 18th March: Bank Holiday 26th March: Confirmation Swimming start for 1st & 2nd class
APRIL	STANDARDISED TESTING 15th to 26th April: Easter Break
MAY	6th May: Bank Holiday 11th May: First Holy Communion
JUNE	3rd June: Bank Holiday SCHOOL TOURS 26th June at 12.30: Summer Break

AWARDS	STUDENT OF THE WEEK	BEST EFFORT	SPECIAL PERSON
JUNIOR INFANTS	Lainey Ashe	Emilia Sullivan	Oisin Sun
SENIOR INFANTS	Matthew Allen	Dylan Prauer	Samuel Damski
FIRST CLASS	James Dooley	Carla Carroll	Oisín O'Sullivan
SECOND CLASS	Aoife Gorham	Oisín Gavin	Clodagh lee
THIRD CLASS	Emmet O'Toole	James Lacey	Tom Mansfield
FOURTH CLASS	Leah Shaughnessy	Sean Coyne	Sharon Thornton
FIFTH CLASS	Ethan Dooley	Stephen Dickinson	Jude Mc Evaddy
SIXTH CLASS	Ciaran Davitt	Mikey Conroy	Luke Acton Angela Thornton
SPECIAL AWARDS	Best Attendance: Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 8th class Ellen Conneely		