



NEWSLETTER 3 - November 2019

Spellings

Brendan Culligan visited the school on the 5th of November and completed two hours of professional development with teachers and SNAs. Brendan is an expert in the area of spelling development and as a result of his theories and input, we have changed practices within the school. The main changes can be summarised as follows:

- Differentiated approach to teaching spelling.
- Looking at words and fostering a love of and interest in word work.
- Use of whole sentence dictation to support spelling development.
- Spelling assessment is ongoing– No big test on Friday.

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 main focus is on promoting a love of reading. Other areas that we have targeted include punctuation, comprehension and writing. 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

The Whalen Foundation is kindly continuing to support scientific endeavours in Scoil Mhuire. The theme of this year's workshops is Energy, Environment and Climate Change and each of the tutors will be covering different aspects of this. This is a hands on program so there should be lots of exciting experiments!

There are 12 workshops in total with three different tutors each with their own area of speciality. It is envisaged that the science fair will take place on the 27th of May.

Debating

On Thursday 7th of November, Ms Joyce attended an in-service on debating practice. As a follow up, Margaret Martin will come to our school and give a workshop on debating. After a few weeks of preparation, our school team will be picked and we travel to Oranmore on the 10th of December to take part in the Sr. Mary de Lourdes Fahy Galway Primary Schools Debating Competition.

Enrolment ceremony

Children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion took part in an enrolment ceremony on Saturday 16th November during 7pm Mass in St. Joseph's church, Clifden. Well done to everyone!

Chess Club

Our resident grandmaster, Ms. Mullen, has started the lunch-time chess again and there is huge interest amongst the student body. If anyone would like to donate any chess sets we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you so much to Ms. Mullen for giving up her time for this wonderful activity!!

Christmas Shoe Boxes 2019

This year, a whooping 144 boxes were brought to the school by generous families. Ms. King would like to 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 2019

Santa will be turning on the Christmas lights on November the 29th 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 would like to thank parents for their co-operation over the last few weeks. At home-time, please do not park on the main road as you will be blocking traffic.

Headlice

You cannot prevent head lice. Anyone with hair can get head lice. They aren't fussy about clean or dirty hair. Children tend to get them more than adults. See our website for further information.

Gaelic Football

Football training takes place every Monday for 6th class at 12.15. Please ensure that your child has their gear with them. We have noticed that many of the children that opted out of swimming also appear to

have opted out of Gaelic football. Please be aware of the fact that these are all part of the Physical Education curriculum and it is vital for children's personal development that they take part. Other classes will get the opportunity to participate after the Christmas break.

Rugby Blitz

Third and Fourth class students participated in a rugby blitz organised by Connemara RFC on the 12th of November. It was a wonderful event and everyone got the chance to participate. We particularly enjoyed the hot chocolate and treats afterwards!! A big thank you to Connemara RFC and Jason in particular.

Christmas Events

Junior & Senior Infants Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday 19th December. 5th Class will be presenting “The 5th Factor” on Tuesday 17th December. Times to be confirmed.

OVERVIEW 2019/20

DECEMBER Friday 20th December & re-opens Monday 6th January: Christmas Break

JANUARY Swimming starts for 3rd & 4th class

AWARDS	STUDENT OF THE WEEK	BEST EFFORT	SPECIAL PERSON
JUNIOR INFANTS	Louis Hayes Emily Snow	Ally Naughton, David Janus	Dillan Coyne, Ethan O'Malley
SENIOR INFANTS	Rebecca O'Grady Coyle, Milly King	Alanna McGowan Saoirse Mitchell	Frederic Boulger-Neu Simon O'Connor
FIRST CLASS	Amelia Duke Emetas Bielskis, Kathleen Conroy	Thomas Conneely Megan O'Rourke	Amelie Mahon Thomas Conneely
SECOND CLASS	Ryan Morrissey Matthew O'Flaherty	Luke Walsh Bridget Eilla Conroy	Rebecca Ward Oisin O'Sullivan
THIRD CLASS	Nelly Harris, Siobhan McGonagle, Zuzanna Bobrowska	Devna Das, Klara Ktobukowska, Teresa Conroy	Darragh Keenan Kevin Coyne
FOURTH CLASS	Joe Boote Tristan Sun	Naoise Barry Kate Gavin	Edel Nee
FIFTH CLASS	Rian King Daragh Conroy	Amy Heffernan Filip Stanczyk	Ella Prauer Arfin Samiul Chowdory
SIXTH CLASS	Ethan Dooley Caoimhe McLoughlin	Heather King Chloe Joyce	Adam Gavin Tracey Annabelle Conroy
SPECIAL AWARDS	Best Attendance: 5th Class		