



Nuachtlitir Oíche Shamhna



Deireadh Fómhair, 2016

Dear Parents,

By now the first term of the school year is well under way and thankfully we all seem to have settled back into the routine very smoothly. I would like to welcome all our new pupils in second class and all newcomers to other classes in the school. I hope you will enjoy success and happiness during your time in St. Conleth & Mary's. I would also like to welcome back all the staff and to thank you for your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work in both curricular and extra curricular activities. We have made a good start to 2016/2017 Our attendance rate for the month of September was 95%. The vast majority of our pupils are working hard, are keen to do their best, are wearing the correct uniform / tracksuit and are abiding by the rules. We greatly appreciate the co-operation and support from parents in relation to homework, schoolwork and uniform.

The school benefits greatly from the wonderful support of our very active Parents Association and I would like to thank them and wish them all the best for the coming year.

Thank you also for your patience and co-operation with regard to the front entrance to the school. We are very hopeful that the porch will be completed when we return after the mid-term break.

I hope you all have a good break.

Sheila O'Neill.

Guess the Score

Míle buíochas to all who supported our annual 'Guess the Score' competition, which was a great success again this year. We had two winners, Cian Barrett and Hazel Mitchell. All funds raised will, as usual, be put to good use in providing the best possible educational experiences for our pupils.

Sacramental Preparation

Second and sixth classes have begun preparation for First Communion and Confirmation and are attending Friday Mass every fortnight. We wish them well as they get ready for these important occasions.

Choir

Choir has begun for children from 2nd to 6th class. They have already led the singing at our Beginning of the School Year Mass. At the moment they are preparing for Peace Proms and are really enjoying all the songs.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

A reminder for those participating that boxes need to be handed in to the school by Monday, November 7th.

School Library

Despite the inconvenience of the library door being the temporary entrance to the school while the porch works are in progress, the library is up and running and the children enjoy their weekly reading time immensely. A new display unit has been bought for the non-fiction books and sets of novels, suitable for the different age groups, are on order. We are always trying to promote reading and have found that group reading is very successful. With our new class sets of books we will be able to share in the enjoyment of the chosen title and support each other in our reading.

Guitar Heroes!

Rooms 13, 14, and 17 are really enjoying learning how to play the guitar with Don. They are looking forward to putting on a great show for the rest of the school before Christmas.

Sporting News

- Senior Girls' football training is finished until after Christmas. The U-11s played three great matches this term. Well done to all involved.
- U-11 boys are taking part in a GAA Blitz in Scoil Mhuire on Thursday. Thanks to all boys for their hard work at training over the past few months.
- 2nd class girls are training with Ms. Bolton and Mr. O'Brien at the moment.
- 3rd classes really enjoyed 'Football Friday' over the past few weeks with Pádraic from Moorefield.

Swimming and Gymnastics

These strands of the P.E. curriculum are underway for various classes at present. Over the course of the year, all classes will enjoy a 5-6 week course in both activities.

Visitors to the School.

We were very excited to welcome some sporting heroes to the school recently. First to visit were some members of the victorious Kildare Ladies Team, who brought the Mary Quinn Memorial Cup to show us after their All-Ireland win. More recently, following their success in the County Final, Sarsfields came to see us. The children were especially delighted to meet the former pupils of our school, who played such a big part in both wins. The nights off homework, to mark the visits, also went down very well with all the boys and girls.

Maths Week

A 'Symmetry All Around' us competition was held as one of the activities to mark this annual event, with prizes awarded to winning competitors. Lots of other maths related activities happened in the various classes, while Rm. 7 were invited to play Maths Board Games with 1st classes in the Infant School.

Pollardstown Fen

Rms. 1, 6 & 7 thoroughly enjoyed their recent environmental trip to this unique habitat. Their favourite part was fishing in the fen waters and examining their catch. Thanks to Michael Jacob, our brilliant guide.

The Green Team

This year we will be renewing the 6 Green Flags we already have and applying for our 7th flag, the theme of which is Energy Awareness. Our Green Team is already in action, ensuring we maintain all the environmentally friendly practices we already have in place, and encouraging us to avoid wasting energy.

Debating

Teams from 5th classes are participating for the first time in the Kildare Primary Debating Festival. Our first debate will be held shortly after mid-term. We will be proposing the motion that 'Children should be allowed to have TVs in their bedrooms'. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh sa chomórtas!

Reading Week

Pupils' reading homework this week has been to read aloud to their parents/guardians each night and to get their reading log signed. We hope you have enjoyed hearing the passages they have chosen to read to you.

During the week, Rm. 6 got to meet author, Brian Gallagher, in Newbridge Library. Copies of his book, Friend or Foe, which revolved around the events of 1916, had been lent to us by the library and were much enjoyed by all.

Halloween Art

Congratulations to 2nd classes, who did such a scarily good job of decorating the foyer for Halloween. The Fancy Dress Party they are planning for Friday is well-earned. Keep an eye on the school website as examples of this, and all the other fabulous Halloween Art from around the school, will be posted shortly.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable mid-term.

'Tugaigí aire Oíche Shamhna'.