

Chairperson: Mark Sheerin 0719851689
Principal: Pearse Mc Groary 0719851689

Newsletter 26/11/2019

Secretarial arrangements

Christina Patton's formal employment as a part-time secretary in the school will cease on Thursday 28th November. However, Christina has very kindly offered to continue in her role on Mondays in a voluntary capacity for the foreseeable future. This generous offer is very much appreciated and will contribute greatly to the smooth running of the school.

Until alternative arrangements are made, there will be no secretarial support on Thursdays from 5th December. The office will be unstaffed on this day. Parents/guardians needing to access the school on Thursdays should firstly ring the buzzer at the front door. If there is no response after a minute or two, parents/guardians should phone the number displayed at the front door.

Board of Management nominations

Thanks to all parents who stood for election in the recent Board of Management elections. Liam Travers and Sonya Davis have been elected as the fathers' and mothers' nominees respectively. The other positions on the Board will be filled in the coming days. The new Board of Management will commence its term from 1st December.

School inspection

The school recently underwent a curriculum inspection in Geography. Two inspectors from the Department of Education visited the school on 14th October and assessed the quality of teaching and learning in all classes. The inspectors were impressed with their findings, scoring the school highly in all categories. A draft report has been issued which will be followed up in the coming weeks with a final report. This final report will be published on the Department's website and also on our own school website and parents notified.

Christmas show

All classes are currently rehearsing for Christmas shows on Wednesday 18th December. We will hold five separate performances in the school hall during the school day. It is expected that each show will last 30-40 minutes. Parents/guardians, grandparents and other relations and friends are invited to attend. The approximate timetable of shows is as follows:

Ms Maguires class:	9.50
Ms Mc Ginn's class:	10.30
Ms Mullaney's class:	11.15
Mr Mc Groary's class:	12.00

Mr Sweeny's class: 1.30

School trips

The trip for 2nd -6th classes to see '*Twelve Days of Christmas*' in Letterkenny will take place on Tuesday 3rd December. We will leave school at 10.15 and will return before 3.00pm. The children should wear their school uniform and bring a snack, lunch and a drink.

Junior infants, senior infants and first class will attend '*Santa's Christmas Fairy Tale*' in the Abbey Arts Centre on December 16th. More details on this trip will issue closer to the date.

Morning arrangements

Parents/guardians are reminded that they are welcome to escort their child to their line at the back of the school in the morning. Children will be supervised in the yard from 9.10 each morning but parents/guardians are also welcome to supervise their child if they so wish.

Parents/guardians are again reminded that pupils should not congregate in the yard before 9.10. The Board of Management will not be responsible for children on the premises before this time.

On wet mornings the school will be open from 9.10 and the children will be supervised in the hall until 9.20. On such mornings when the front door of the school is open, all children should enter the school through the main front entrance and make their way to the hall.

Traffic concerns

Concern continues to be expressed about traffic safety in the mornings and evenings. Parents/guardians and grandparents are again reminded to please adhere to the one-way system, obey the speed limit and not to park in an obstructive manner. This is vitally important to ensure the safety of all children arriving at and departing school.

Sports activities

Congratulations to the boys' and girls' hurling teams who enjoyed a successful season in the Cumann na mBunscol hurling competition. Both teams progressed through the initial rounds of the competition before being eliminated at the county semi-final stage.

Fourth class children travelled to Letterkenny last week to participate in a Futsal blitz. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Basketball coaching will continue in the school for all classes each Monday until 11th December. Many thanks to the Parents Association for funding these coaching sessions.

Parent-teacher meetings

Many thanks to all parents who attended the recent parent teacher meetings.

School shop

Fifth and sixth class have introduced a school shop on Friday mornings as part of an enterprise project. Some concerns have been expressed about the idea of a school shop conflicting with the promotion of a healthy eating message both at home and at school. These concerns are acknowledged.

The rationale for the school shop is to develop business and enterprise skills. The children have been learning about ordering supplies, calculating profit margins and maintaining accounts.

To address concerns raised, children wishing to visit the school shop will be limited to the purchase of one item of confectionery with a maximum spend of €1. In addition to confectionery, there will also healthy options available such as fruit skewers and home-baking. Children intending to buy a treat from the shop should not also bring in a treat from home.

This initiative will continue to run for the next four weeks finishing at Christmas with any profits benefitting the children in fifth and sixth class.

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

Thanks to everyone who donated shoeboxes for this worthy cause. An impressive 95 shoeboxes were collected. Thanks also to Ms Timoney who co-ordinated this collection.

School closure

The school will be closed on Thursday 5th December to facilitate a professional development day for teaching staff on the new Primary Language Curriculum.

Parents Association

Many thanks to the Parents Association for their work supporting the school through fundraising and other initiatives. Recent or upcoming initiatives include the 5 week draw, a 'Bring and Buy' sale in the school hall on 6th December and a Christmas dress-up day on 20th December. The Parents Association also organised the upcoming trip to the Christmas Show in Letterkenny and the on-going basketball coaching in the school. The Parents Association plan to issue their own newsletter shortly, further outlining their work in supporting the school.

Maintenance work

Many thanks to Mark Gibbions who recently carried out some essential maintenance work around the school, free of charge. His generosity is very much appreciated.

Upcoming dates

Letterkenny Christmas show (2 nd -6 th):	Tuesday 3 rd December
School closure:	Thursday 5 th December
Bring and Buy sale:	Friday 6 th December
Abbey centre show (Jun Inf-1 st):	Monday 16 th December
Christmas performances:	Wednesday 18 th December
Christmas closure:	Friday 20 th December @ 12.00pm

Regards,

Pearse Mc Groary.