



# Scoil na Mainistreach - Cinnlínte 159 - An Cháisc 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians,

**Our school closes at 12.30pm for Easter Break this Friday April 12th and reopens on Monday April 29th.** The staff of Monastery NS hope that you have an enjoyable Easter Break with your family. We had a very busy term here in our school and we have an even busier one ahead after Easter.

## [Textaparent App](#)

The Textaparent App is a valuable way of showing school texts and also shows upcoming school events on an events calendar. Many parents have downloaded it already from Google Play Store or Apple Store. Don't miss out.

## [School Calendar 2019/2020 & School Closures](#)

The school calendar for next year, 2019/2020, is now available on our website. Most of the bigger holiday periods are now standardised and agreed in advance by the major partners in Education at national level. We are also being used as a polling station for the EU elections on Friday May 24th. See Textaparent App for more events.

## [New Infant Enrolments & School Readiness](#)

We are still enrolling new infants for September 2019. If you haven't enrolled your son yet contact the school office or download and return an enrolment form from our website. *When is a child ready for school and should I keep him back until he is older?* A child must be 4 years old on September 1st of a given year to attend primary school. However age should not be the deciding factor when sending your son to school. If you are unsure if your son is ready for school contact the school office for a "school readiness" appointment. It is very important that children attend school with their peers and don't end up being a year or more older than the rest of their class. It is only in exceptional cases that a child needs to be "held back" in pre-school. A **New Infant Information Evening** and **New Infant Open Day** are being held on May 15th & 16th respectively. More information will follow.

## [Events this term](#)

All of the following school events took place this term and are featured on our school website at [www.monasterynsardee.ie](http://www.monasterynsardee.ie) It has over 60,000 hits from over 30 different countries from all over the world.

**January** – Catholic Schools Week and Grandparents Day / 6th Class Challenge starts / 3rd & 4th Swimming lessons

**February** – Enrolment Week / Parent Teacher Meetings / M & M Productions presented Aladdin / Peace Proms 2019 in Belfast / DKIT Physical Literacy 8 Week Programme with 1st Class / Junior Entrepreneur Programme 5th Class – Dragons' Den / Recorder & Tin Whistle Lessons.

**March** – First Confession / 6th Class Retreat / Celtic Book Fair / Diocesan Advisors Visit / 6th attend talk at Ardee Library given by famous mountaineer, traveller and broadcaster Dermot Somers / World Book Day / FAI Spar 5s U13 Louth Qualifiers in DKIT / Seachtain na Gaeilge / HSE Junior Infant Screening / Confirmation / GAA Football Blitz / St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day / New Classroom PCs installed / JEP Expo for parents / Rugby Blitz

**April** – Green Schools – Classes all plant in Polytunnel / FAI Spar 5s U13 Louth Finals in DKIT / GAA Football Blitz 2nd Round / Confessions for 3rd to 6th / Easter Assembly & Awards.

## [Events next term](#)

**April / May** – 6th Class Challenge Continues / FAI Spar 5s U13 North Leinster Finals at MDL Navan / First Communion / New Infants Information Evening & Open Day / School Standardised Testing / Educational Research Unit National Field Trials Testing of 2nd & 6th Classes / Ardee SCP 6th Class Transfer Programme / Green Schools – Louth County Council GROW Awards & Green Flag Inspection / GAA U13 Championship / Athlete of the Year Competition / Active Schools.

**June** – School Tours / Sports Day / Final Assembly / School Reports / etc.

## Sport

**Soccer Champions of Louth** – For the first time in our history both of our under 13 five a-side soccer teams came through the qualifiers to play in the FAI Spar Louth Finals on April 3rd at DKIT Sports in Dundalk. They met each other in the first game in a thrilling match that was narrowly won by the A team on a score line of 5 – 4.

Congratulations to our **A team** who went unbeaten in all matches to become **County Louth Spar FAI 5s Champions** (*Boys C Section for large schools*). The B team performed heroically and came 3rd overall in the finals which is an incredible achievement. This is the second time in a row that Monastery NS has won the large schools section. We now progress to the North Leinster Finals at the MDL Grounds in Navan on Thursday, May 2nd.

**Rugby Blitz** – Our 6<sup>th</sup> class boys took part in a very enjoyable rugby blitz at Ardee Rugby Club in March.

**GAA** – our boys also took part in the Cumann na mBunscol 7s Blitz competition.

**Lunchtime Soccer League** – Since the beginning of the year all of our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class boys have taken part in a lunchtime league soccer competition. After Easter 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> will participate in a new league competition.

## Music

**Peace Proms** – our school choir, under the direction of Mrs Valerie Browne and Annamarie Brennan took part in the Peace Proms in the SSE Arena in Belfast on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Well done boys! See photographs on our website.

## Easter Assembly

We had a wonderful **Easter Assembly** in our Gym this week. We had lots of awards including monthly nominations for Student of the Year, Green Schools, Seachtain na Gaeilge and Altar Boys' awards. Our Parents Association then held a monster Easter Raffle. Many thanks to everyone for supporting our PA's fund raising on behalf of the school. Check out our website over the holidays for assembly photographs etc.

## Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)

Our **Digital Learning Team** has been busy planning our new **Digital Framework** for our school. This plan will inform our use of ICTs in teaching and learning going forward. As part of this process we will consult all parents and pupils by survey after Easter. The focus of our plan will be to get pupils using ICTs more in the classroom. We have already used recent Department of Education & Skills grants to replace 10 of our ageing classroom computers. We also plan to purchase 16 iPads and a travel charging case for use in all classrooms. And we will also begin to replace our ageing Interactive Whiteboards with new high definition Promethean Interactive Panels (see Interactive Panel demonstration on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXZpyzVX2YM&t=7s>).

## 6th class challenge

Sixth class have almost fully completed two of the first five challenges. This included fund raising for the homeless by selling the *living shamrock*. Our boys excelled and fund raised over €700 for Trócaire's Lenten Campaign. The 6<sup>th</sup> Class Challenge continues after Easter with a Green Schools Challenge to take place on Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP)

5th class took part once again in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The aim of the programme is to develop various skills such as problem solving, teamwork, independence, business skills, creativity and confidence. Five proposals were put to our Dragons for consideration who were local businessman Peter Callaghan, Master McCreanor and Mrs. Coleman. After much deliberation the dragons decided that **'Picture Perfect Frames'** would be this year's business idea. The pupils of 5th class worked extremely hard to make the business a success. They sold over 150 frames to pupils, teachers and parents and as a result made a healthy profit for the business. On the 20th of March 5th class held a Showcase Day for 5<sup>th</sup> class parents and the pupils of 4th class. This gave parents and pupils an insight to the JEP process and also got them a few final orders! The pupils of 5th class would like to

thank the pupils, teachers and parents who supported their business and they hope everyone loved their *Picture Perfect Frame*.

### *Green schools' News*

Our Monastery National School Environmental Committee are currently busy preparing for the imminent arrival of the Louth County Council G.R.O.W. Awards judging panel. We hope to maintain our successful streak as a **five star school**. Please assist us by keeping our School grounds litter-free. This spring pupils have also been preparing our Polytunnel and vegetable garden and engaging in a wide variety of planting activities. We look forward to sharing a bountiful harvest in the coming months! Green Schools is being co-ordinated in our school by Ms McKeown, Ms McCabe and the Green Schools Committee.



### *Eason Spelling Bee Competition*

The County Louth Eason Spelling Bee competition was hosted in Monastery NS on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Evan Keenan represented Monastery NS and came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 25 competitors. Well done Evan!

### *Sacraments*

**Confirmation & Communion** – We congratulate our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils who were confirmed on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks also to Ms Corr and her tin whistle group who continued Master Woods' long standing tradition of playing at Confirmation. We also look forward to 2<sup>nd</sup> class making their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### *Some Housekeeping Reminders*

- ✚ **School Opening Time** – Our school opens at 9.20am each morning. There is no supervision before this time.
- ✚ **Absences and Timekeeping**
  - If your son is returning from an absence from school please ensure you send in a note (infants) or complete an absence note in your son's diary (seniors). **Schools are required to report absences of more than 20 school days in any school year to the Education Welfare Officer (Túsla) in accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2002.** Parents seeking to take their son(s) on holiday during the school year must complete the relevant **holiday form** which is available from the office.
  - Pupils arriving late in the morning cause serious disruption to the teaching and learning of all the pupils in the class. Please try to be on time.
  - There is quite a bit of illness among our pupils at the moment. If your son has contracted a contagious infection please inform the class teacher as soon as possible. Also ensure your son is fully recovered from illness before returning to school.
- ✚ **Healthy Eating** – Our school is a *Nut Free Zone*. One small treat can be given on a Friday.
- ✚ **Assessment Tests** – Our annual assessment tests take place on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday May 21st to 23rd respectively**. At home please practise reading, mental maths, tables and spellings. Also check out the *links and tips* in the parents section of our website.
- ✚ **National Field Trials** – The *Department of Education & Skills* and the *Educational Research Unit* has selected our school to take part in field trials of new standardised assessment tests for primary schools. As part of these trials the school principal, class teachers, parents and students have been asked to complete questionnaires. The trials will take place in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes on Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Our annual **Book Rental Fee** and **School Tour Money** will be requested in **May**. Class **Book Lists** for the next school year will issue in **June**. If you have outstanding school charges we request that they are paid off ASAP.



*Yours respectfully, Jim McGee, Príomh Oide.*

FAI SPAR 5s LOUTH FINALS – MNS A & B TEAMS



ALADDIN @ MNS



WORLD BOOK DAY 2019



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2019



1ST CLASS MAKING EASTER BUNS



JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME (JEP)

