

## MONASTERY NATIONAL SCHOOL

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## eNewsletter – eCinnlínte 175 – Spring 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well. I have some brief news for you below.

### [Open Afternoons for Parents of Infants September 2022](#)

The Staff of **Monastery NS** wish to invite Parents who intend to enrol their daughter or son in Primary Education in September 2022 to an **Infant Open Afternoon** in our school next week. You will have the opportunity to see our wonderful facilities and speak to our current staff members.

Our **Infant Open Afternoons** are for parents of children who intend to enrol their child in primary education in September 2022. Please note that our Infant Open Evening is not only limited to children already enrolled in our school. **Everyone starting school in September 2022 is welcome to come and pay us a visit!**

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic and to ensure social distancing, visits will take place on an individual basis, one family at a time, across three evenings, from 3.10pm to 4.40pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

Please contact our school secretary, Anne Woods, on **041-6853641** to book your visit time slot. These slots will be allocated on a “first come, first serve basis” and each family visit will take about 15 to 20 minutes.

### [Sacraments 2022](#)

**Confirmation** is provisionally scheduled for Saturday **April 2nd at 2pm** in Ardee Church. **First Holy Communion** is also provisionally scheduled for Saturday **May 7th at 11am** in Ardee Church.

[Catholic Schools Week 2022](#) takes place in our school from Sunday January 23rd to Sunday 30th. *The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full.* As we adapt to the many challenges and changes that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, we are given the opportunity to reflect on the things that give our lives meaning. For some, it is family, friends, community sports or hobbies. For Catholics, it is God's love and wish for us to know and love him that gives life ultimate meaning. Jesus Christ is the revelation

of this love, realised through his life, death and resurrection. In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities where we live life to the full. Our school fosters the holistic development of its students, promotes their wellbeing and encourages them to learn and nurture their talent and skills. Each child has the potential to change the world for the better, making it a kinder, more inclusive and more welcoming place. This week, we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in following Jesus' teaching. This year, we celebrate how we are called to be communities of faith and resilience, through our thoughts, words and actions. In doing so, we follow the words of Jesus in John's Gospel: 'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.'

Each day of Catholic Schools Week our pupils will explore a daily theme as follows;

**Monday** - Living Life to the full with God. **Tuesday** - Living Life to the full Together. **Wednesday** - Celebrating Being Together Again. **Thursday** - Living Life in Wonder and Awe. **Friday** - Living Life and Facing the Future.

### [New HPSC Covid Isolation Guidelines](#)

At the time of writing this email our Government is considering easing Covid restrictions in our society. However, early indications are that there will be no change to the Covid control measures being used in our school to protect our school community. We will keep you updated accordingly and ask that you continue to be Covid vigilant and prevent outbreaks in our school. The HPSC has recently issued new *Covid Isolation Guidelines for Parents of children under 13* (see attached). **Please read them before contacting our school for advice.** You can also access them on our website or by clicking [here](#)

### [Your Contact Details and Contact with our School](#)

**It is vitally important that we have up to date contact details for you and also for your nominated contacts.** If you have changed your mobile number, email address or postal address please let us know by contacting the school office. Please note that our school VLEs, MNS Seesaw and MNS Google Classroom should not be used to communicate personal messages with your son's teacher. They are only used for teaching and learning. **For all contact email [officeardeemns@gmail.com](mailto:officeardeemns@gmail.com) or call the school office on 041-6853641** (leave a voicemail on our routinely monitored answering service). **When contacting us please state your full name, your child's name and his class teacher's name.**

### [MNS Parents' Association](#)

A word of thanks to our Parents' Association Committee who organised a wonderful Christmas Raffle for our school and also stood outside our local Church last weekend for our school collection. They funded our pupils' Class Christmas Parties and are assisting greatly with works in our infant yard.

**Internet Safety in the home** - Please talk to your child about the need to balance online activities with other ways of learning and with exercise and creative play. Online activity needs to be monitored and now is a good time to have that chat with your child.

- *Agree some simple rules around devices, where and how long your child can be on devices, device-free mealtimes, games they can play etc.*
- *Talk about the fun stuff as well as the potential bad stuff they may encounter online. Talk about the fact that people may not always be who they say they are online. Talk about being kind online.*
- *Keep informed about the apps and games your children use and how to set privacy settings and parental controls.*  
*Check out <https://www.webwise.ie/> , [cybersafeireland.org](https://cybersafeireland.org) and [commonsensemedia.org](https://commonsensemedia.org) to learn more.*
- *Visit <https://sites.google.com/cybersafeireland.org/csi-stuck-at-home/home> which has a hub of recommended educational apps, games and resources.*
- *The most important thing is to let your children know they can come to you about online content that makes them uncomfortable or that they're not sure about. If they think this may result in them losing their device this will lessen the chances of them coming to you....it's best to talk over the problem calmly and to help your child learn how to prevent it happening again.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Mr Jim McGee, Principal.*

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