

## MONASTERY NATIONAL SCHOOL

Principal: Jim Mc Gee

Deputy Principal: Dermot McCreanor

Roll Number: 17124M

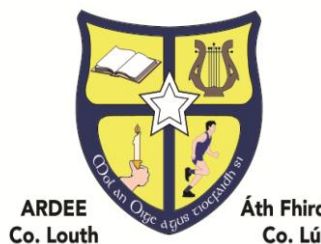
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### CINNLIÁNTA BEAGA 161 – October 2019

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

We have a lot of exciting developments taking place in our school at the moment and I would like to keep you informed of all that is happening.

- ❖ **Digital Learning Plan** - Our classroom technology is 10 years old and as part of our *Digital Learning Plan* over the coming years we have begun a huge upgrade of our school Information Technology. **The focus of this new Digital Plan is to increase pupil use of IT in their day to day learning experiences in our classrooms.** The Department of Education & Skills has given us digital grants towards IT purchases but there is still a considerable shortfall for what we plan to provide for our boys in the coming years. **Last January we purchased 10 new classroom PCs to replace our 10 year old ones at a cost of €7100. Last week we installed 5 new Promethean Activpanels (replacing the 10 year old Interactive White Boards) in 5 of our 10 classrooms at a cost of approximately €25,000.** Our Board of Management purchased 2, our Parents' Association also purchased 2 and a generous sponsor purchased one. **We now need to replace the remaining old IWBs in 5 other classrooms with 5 new Activpanels at a cost of €25,000.** We have also recycled five of the old IWBs and installed them in SET rooms. However these old IWBs will also need new projectors in the near future. **In the next month we are purchasing 16 iPads, 16 tough iPad cases and a mobile charging case at a cost of €8000.** In the future we also hope to purchase Chromebooks (type of laptop that works in the Cloud) for pupil use with the Activpanels.

**For these reasons we are asking Parents to support our *Sponsored Walk* and our *Parents' Association* fundraising efforts. In the past some sponsors and parents have been very generous and greatly helped our boys' education. On this occasion if any parent feels that they can partially sponsor or fully sponsor or indeed get corporate sponsorship for a classroom Activpanel we would be most grateful.** Contact the Principal Mr McGee if you would like to discuss in greater detail.

- ❖ **Please return your Sponsored Walk Cards this week and please don't forget to sign the permission slip on the back of the card giving your son consent to walk with his class.** Full cards are entered into a draw for two bicycles. Full cards and all other partially completed cards are entered into a draw for over 30 Spot Prizes!
- ❖ **Our Parents' Association AGM** was held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and the following officers were elected. Chairperson – *Mariea Gilbert*; Secretary – *Catherine McCague*; Treasurer – *Joan McCarthy*. A new committee was formed and they have plans to support our school into the future. Our PA welcomes any parents who can offer support and volunteer some of their time. If interested please forward your name and contact number to the school office.
- ❖ **Board of Management 2019-2022** – We will be holding a meeting on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October to seek *Parents' Nominees, a mothers' nominee and a fathers' nominee* to the new Board of Management which commences its four year tenure on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. The Board of Management meets five times a year minimum and manages our school on behalf of our Patron Archbishop Eamon Martin. A letter will issue to all parents with more information in the coming fortnight.

- ❖ Our **Halloween Assembly** takes place on Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>. This is also a **Halloween Dress Up Day** (nothing too scary please) for infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class and a **Non-Uniform Day** for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes. There is a €2 charge per pupil and all funds go towards our Digital Plan.
- ❖ Our Infant classes go to see **Jack and the Beanstalk** in the Táin Theatre Dundalk on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost is €8.50 per pupil to cover the cost of the bus and entry to the show. Payment should be sent in an envelope with your child's name on the front to the class teacher as soon as possible.
- ❖ The *Department of Education and Skills* has directed our teaching staff to attend in-service training on the *New Primary Languages Curriculum* on **Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2019**. This will necessitate a school closure on the day. For more information about our Primary Curriculum visit [www.curriculumonline.ie/Primary](http://www.curriculumonline.ie/Primary)
- ❖ **Managing Contagious Infections in School** – It's that time of year again when our pupils can be absent due to the spread of the flu virus, winter vomiting bug etc. In order to control and manage these infectious outbreaks we request that parents help us in the following ways;
  - *If your son is experiencing a viral infection or other contagious illness please ensure that he is fully recovered before returning him to school.*
  - *At this time of year please ensure that your son practises good hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette (coughing / sneezing) throughout the day.*
  - *Consider giving him a packet of pocket tissues for use in school.*
  - *Check out <http://undertheweather.ie/> and/or consult with your Doctor if necessary.*
- ❖ **Swimming for 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Classes** starts on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and runs for 6 sessions. A letter will issue to parents today. These classes are subsidised by our Parents' Association (*€10 per pupil subsidy*).
- ❖ **The School Choir** are rehearsing to perform at the Peace Proms in Belfast on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.
- ❖ **Ardee Library** will be hosting a fun event for Ms McCabe's 1st class with author & illustrator Tatyana Feeney on Tuesday October 8th. Tatyana will read from one of her books and will follow this with a 'monster doodle' session based on images from the book. See <http://tatyanafeeney.com/>
- ❖ **If you are considering enrolling your son in Junior Infants in September 2020 or future years** please contact our office for an *Enrolment Form* or download it from [www.monasterynsardee.ie/enrolment.html](http://www.monasterynsardee.ie/enrolment.html) We can also provide you and your son with a tour of our school.
- ❖ **Altar Servers** help the community of Ardee by serving mass and assisting our Priests in our local Parish Church. If your son is in 3rd to 6th class please allow him to become an Altar Server. It will give your son a great sense of responsibility and help in his social, personal and spiritual development. Monastery NS Altar Servers operate a rota and don't have to serve mass every weekend. If your son is unavailable on a given day he can call on other team members to fill in for him. Contact the school office if interested.
- ❖ **GAA Autumn League** – Ms McCreanor and Ms McCabe are running an Autumn GAA League after school for boys in 3rd & 4th classes. Medals will be awarded to all participants.
- ❖ Ms Cusack and Ms Maguire are running a school **Badminton Championship** for boys in 3rd to 6th classes in our school Gym. Medals will be awarded for 1st to 4th places.
- ❖ The **Lunchtime Soccer** League starts this week for boys in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes. A team of 8 boys will also be selected to play on our **Futsal team** in an FAI competition in Dundalk on October 23rd.
- ❖ **Our Annual Christmas Concert takes place on December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.**
- ❖ **Sacraments** - *First Confession* Monday March 2nd and *First Communion* Saturday May 2nd 2020. *Confirmation* Sunday May 24th 2020. Please prepare your son for the *Sacraments* by attending our Family Masses as listed on the schedule sent to you recently.

*Is mise le meas,*

*Jim McGee, Príomh Oide.*