



What's happening at our school?



ACTIVITIES BEFORE MID-TERM BREAK

ACTIVITIES AFTER MID-TERM BREAK

Parent/Teacher Meetings January 20th to 24th

JEP registration of 5th class completed

M&M Productions Present "Dick Whittington" 24/1/20

100 Day Challenge - 20 minutes walking every day!

GAA - Coaching for 5th & 6th classes.

GAA - U12s All County Boys' Blitz

SWIMMING - 3rd & 4th classes.

SOCCER - Lunchtime League 5th & 6th commenced.

Green Schools Day of Action - February 7th

GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Green Schools' Litter Patrols

Enrolment Week - Junior Infants for September 2020

HOMEWORK CLUB - after school 3 days a week.

6TH CLASS CHALLENGE COMMENCES

SWIMMING - 3rd & 4th classes.

MUSIC GENERATION - Recorder Tuition class.

TIN WHISTLE TUITION with Ms Maguire.

CONFIRMATION preparation in class.

First Holy Communion preparation in class.

Catholic Schools Week 2020

Grandparents Day - Wednesday January 29th

Saint Brigid's Day - February 1st

Ardee SCP Play Therapy Sessions

Credit Union Quiz - Monday February 3rd

Staff Meeting

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

When local politicians call to your door looking for your vote remember to **make class size an issue**. It's time to protect and champion our local primary schools. Today, more than 559,000 children are taught in large classes in underfunded primary schools where there is minimal support for school leaders. The next government can change this status quo. One in five children is taught in a class of 30 or more pupils.

The EU average class size is 20. Why can't we have the same? As we know in Monastery NS smaller class sizes have a positive effect on children's learning. Primary teachers support a broad range of pupil needs from special needs to language challenges and homelessness. Our children are our future and they need a fair break.

Ask election candidates to pledge to reduce class sizes by one pupil per year for the next five years. We can make classes of 20 a reality by 2025. In the upcoming election please vote number 1 for Primary Education!

CHOIR at the Peace Proms in Belfast March 1st .

Book Fair Monday March 2nd to Friday March 6th

World Book Day Thursday March 5th

100 Day Challenge - 20 minutes walking every day!

GAA - Coaching for 5th & 6th classes.

Seachtain na Gaeilge March 9th to 13th

Ardee mini Credit Union at MNS every Friday morning

SOCCER- U13 Teams in FAI 5s Competition March 6.

HSE Screening of Junior Infants & Pupil transfers

GREEN SCHOOLS - Green Flag School Inspection

Green Schools' Litter Patrols

New Enrolments Junior Infants 2020 Confirmed

HOMEWORK CLUB - after school 3 days a week.

6TH CLASS CHALLENGE CONTINUES

SWIMMING continues for 3rd & 4th classes.

MUSIC GENERATION - Recorder Tuition class.

TIN WHISTLE TUITION with Ms Maguire.

CONFIRMATION - Sunday May 24th @ 2pm

Ceremony of Light & Commitment tbd.

First Confession - Monday March 2nd @ 7pm

First Holy Communion - Saturday May 2nd @ 11am

Family Masses @ 12pm on Sundays January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26, May 17 & June 7 for pupils and parents / guardians of all sacramental

EASTER ASSEMBLY - Thursday April 2nd

School Closes for Easter Holidays Friday April 3rd

Election 2020 - Vote number 1 for Primary Education!



Monastery NS Cinnlínte 164-Spring 2020

Catholic Schools' Week 2020



Catholic Schools Week takes place in our school from January 26th until February 2nd. It is an all Ireland annual event which invites Catholic Schools to give expression in a special way to the ethos of Catholic Education. It marks the beginning of a special annual celebration in Monastery National School Ardee from the end of January to the beginning of February.

The theme for the week is "Catholic Schools; Living in Harmony with God's Creation" and each day of this special week Monastery NS pupils celebrate;

Monday - "Living in Harmony with God"

Tuesday - "Living in Harmony with our Neighbours"

Wednesday - "Living in Harmony with all Generations" (Grandparents Day)

Thursday - "Living in Harmony with the Earth"

Friday - "Living in Harmony in our Catholic School".

As Irish society changes, it is important that we reflect on the unique contribution of Catholic schools to our collective goal of education. Catholic schools offer a view of the world as the gift of God's creation. We are called to be co-creators of love and joy in the world, thus sharing God's love. We are called to be stewards of the environment, with a responsibility to protect the environment around us for future generations. While each Catholic school shares the profound commitment to this vision, every



School Choir - Peace Proms 2020 in Belfast

Monastery NS choir under the direction and teaching of Mrs. Valerie Browne, Annamarie Brennan and Paul O'Brien will perform at the Peace Proms at the SSE Arena Belfast on Sunday, March 1st. Our boys will sing with many other schools from Ireland and will be accompanied by the wonderful Cross



Mid-Term Break

School will be closed on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st of February.

Enrolment

Enrol your son now for September 2020 and later years.

Forms are on the school website or

Special points of interest:

- ☉ Enrolment Week February 3rd to 7th
- ☉ MNS 100 Day Challenge
- ☉ Grandparents Day Wednesday January 29th
- ☉ Green Schools Day of Action Day February 7th
- ☉ Mid Term Break February 20th & 21st
- ☉ Celtic Book Fair visits March 2nd to 6th
- ☉ World Book Day March 5th
- ☉ Check out our website for lots of new photographs

Inside this issue:

Junior Entrepreneur	2
Enrolment	2
100 Day Challenge	2
Green Day of Action	2
iPads in Action	3
Tin Whistle/	3
Sport & More	3
Celtic Book Fair	3
What's happening?	4
Election 2020	4

5th Class & The Junior Entrepreneur Programme

The JEP is an entrepreneurial education programme where pupils use their creativity to come up with business ideas, choose one idea and then work to turn it into reality over a 10-12 week period. They've got to do the hard work - researching what customers really want, working out their costs and how much to charge for it. They figure out what they're good at and try to use those skills to play their part in a team. Along the way, they've got the support of their classmates, teachers and family. Through the programme, pupils get a clear

Enrolment

If you are enrolling your son in Junior Infants in the next few years contact us for an enrolment application form or download it from our website. Please ignore this if your son is already enrolled.

If you think that your infant son may have special needs and require support in September 2020, it is vitally important that you make early contact with our school. A considerable amount of work is required to apply for and put in place the necessary supports for your son and we will also assist you.

When is a child ready for school? Parents often feel that keeping a child back a year before entering school is the right thing to do. However age alone should not determine if a child is ready for school. **If a child displays signs of "school readiness" whether they are 4 or 5 years old, then they are ready to go to school and**

The Monastery NS 100 Day Challenge

The Monastery 100 Day Challenge asks that everyone walks for at least 20 minutes a day for 100 days. Many of the boys in our senior classes are taking part by walking every weekday at school or at home at the weekend. The following school activities are taking place each day;

- ⇒ Pupils walk around the school senior yard 10 times in the morning / lunchtime. Come on Mums and Dads and walk with your son in our yard in the morning!
- ⇒ Walk with Master McGee at lunchtime around Ardee (one class selected per day weather permitting)



Green Flag Day of Action - Global Citizenship: Marine theme

Monastery National School Ardee will hold their Green Schools Day of Action for their new Green Schools Flag on Friday February 7th 2020. The School is hoping to earn its 8th Green Flag for *Global Citizenship: Marine Environment* this year. Visitors and members of the entire school community will be welcome to attend in the School's P.E. hall to witness the fantastic array of work on display from classes across the school.

The following projects will be presented by our senior classes;

- 1st Class** will look at invasive species in the oceans. The oceans' least wanted: 4 species you need to know about.
- 2nd Class** will examine the properties of Marine litter. What is marine litter and how long does it take to degrade?
- 3rd Class (Mrs Kerr)** are looking at what impact marine litter has on people in lesser developed countries who rely heavily on the Ocean for their livelihood.
- 3rd Class (Mrs Browne)** are doing a class project on overfishing and its impact on the marine environment.
- 4th Class** Seakeepers Project will increase students' knowledge and appreciation of our native marine biodiversity.
- 5th Class** will investigate the effects of contaminants on the global marine environment. They will also investigate marine "dead zones". The Baltic is home to the world's largest dead zone. The Gulf of Mexico is home to world's second largest area of oxygen-depleted water (i.e. dead zone) - why is this happening? They will investigate shrimp (Gulf of Mexico) and African penguins in relation to the above issues. They will also investigate contaminants such as pesticides, insecticides, fertiliser, chemicals, cleaning products and their impact on the oceans of the World.

Technology in School - New iPads in action!

Our **16 new iPads** have arrived with their new Charging Case. Junior and Senior Infants have started to use our new technology to enhance their learning experiences in numeracy and literacy. Other classes will also start using them in the near future. Teachers are also availing of 2 iPad training sessions from an Apple



Tin Whistle & Recorder Tuition

Ms Maguire is now taking our tin whistle group for the remainder of the school year and they are very busy practising every Thursday afternoon for their annual performance at Confirmation. Our Recorder tuition also

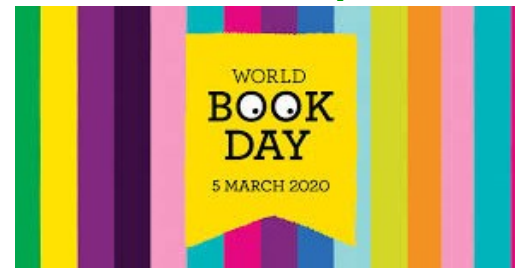
Sport & More

Soccer - Our 5th & 6th classes are now taking part in Premiership and Championship lunchtime leagues. Medals will be awarded from these leagues for eventual winners and runners up. From these leagues Mr McGee and Ms Cusack will also be selecting two teams of 8 to participate in the Louth U13 FAI 5s qualifiers at DKIT Sports Centre on Friday March 6th. We are the current title holders and are going for two in a row!

Badminton - Ms Cusack and Ms Maguire are running their lunchtime badminton league for senior classes in the Gym. The eventual winner will be the first Badminton Champion of Monastery NS!

GAA - Our GAA U12s will take part in an all County Boys' Blitz competition. Our U13s will also be preparing for the County Louth Championship and will be playing for a unique 4 times in a row double league and championship

World Book Day 2020, Celtic Book Fair & New Library Books



We will celebrate **World Book Day** in our school on **Thursday March 5th 2020**. Over the last 23 years, World Book Day has become firmly established as Ireland's biggest annual event promoting the enjoyment of books and reading. The main aim is to encourage children to explore the pleasure of books and reading by providing them with an opportunity to have a book of their own.

As part of this celebration Monastery NS will host a number of activities including; *drop everything and read; read for a buddy (older pupils reading for younger pupils); dress up as your favourite book character; etc.* For more information visit www.worldbookday.com/world-book-day-ireland/

Celtic Book Fair visits our school from March 2nd to 6th. A Book Fair is a pop-up book shop that brings the very best in children's books to your child's school. It lasts about a week and is a great opportunity for you to browse books with your child and for you to find stories to read, love and share together.

Every book you buy helps to earn Rewards that our school can spend on free books and resources for the