



Office Monastery NS <officeardeemns@gmail.com>

School Newsletter - eCinnlínte 166

Office Monastery NS <officeardeemns@gmail.com>
Draft

Fri, May 1, 2020 at 3:17 PM

Newsletter - eCinnlínte 166 - May 2020

A Message from Master McGee

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our second newsletter via email. It's hard to believe that our school building has been closed for seven weeks now as a result of the national emergency. However our school at home has been open thanks to your brilliant work at home and the hard work of my staff. And of course we are missing our boys and have taken great joy from their photographs and videos. Please don't worry if you can't get to do everything and if you can't do it all. We know you are doing your best and I can assure you that we are planning ahead to make sure that we will get your son up to speed when he gets back. I feel fortunate to lead the school of such a great school community and such great children. They are a credit to you all. My staff and I miss seeing them as they make our school such a happy place!

Before I came to Monastery NS I was an ICT Advisor for 9 years working with all the secondary and primary schools in the north-east. I also delivered an inservice course each summer to teachers based upon Cloud computing. I joked with last year's participants that Google Classroom and Seesaw were that good that nobody would have to go into school at all! Little did I know that this would indeed be the case and that I would be rapidly setting up school at home and virtual classrooms in the Cloud!

School has continued in the Cloud with regular staff planning meetings taking place by video conference and collaborative documents and resources being worked on. Staff login every morning and check the staff whiteboard to see what's happening in our school today. We are in constant communication throughout the day and this continues well after school has closed for the day. If you or your son need help please contact your teacher by email (see website if you have forgotten) and/or if you need to talk to Master McGee email officeardeemns@gmail.com Our support teachers (SETs) are working closely with their pupils and parents. Our SNAs have also made contact with their pupils. **We are here to help you with school at home so please contact us if you need us.**

Sacraments

First Holy Communion. I hope that you and your families are keeping well and safe. Today we are thinking of our boys in Ms McCreanor's 2nd class and all the other boys and girls in our parish who would have been making their First Holy Communion tomorrow May 2nd 2020. They celebrated their First Confession on the 2nd of March. I know that many of you had outfits bought and arranged a family get together for his big day! Your son worked so hard in class learning his prayers and taking part in our Parish *Do this in Memory* programme. The good news is he will have his big day and plans will be made at a future date. Click on this link for an important message from Father Slater

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YQ7FwAJIKt1Wz0JYQ7FcDzu1DbzqCvHH>

As a special tribute to our 2nd class Ms McCreanor and her dog Alfie have also done a special video on our YouTube channel to cheer up our boys. You can view it here by clicking on this link <https://youtu.be/EcVcmRWPeBg> Also check out photographs of all our boys who have made their First Holy Communion in past years at www.monasterynsardee.ie/communion.html

Confirmation. We are also thinking of our 6th class boys who will make their Confirmation but unfortunately it will not be on May 24th. I know you are disappointed boys but a future big day for you to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will be arranged. Master McAdam will also continue their preparation and a series of activities will be posted in his Google Classroom over the coming weeks. Make sure you are part of it!

May a Special Month of devotion to Our Lady

The month of May each year is a special month of devotion to Our Lady. May altars are created in classes and our boys' prayers to Our Lady often ask Her to keep our families safe and healthy. Perhaps now is a good time to keep up this old custom at home. As part of bedtime prayers with your child ask Our Lady to look over your family and to look after others who have lost loved ones.

School at Home Survey

Sixty per cent of our parents responded to our survey. Thank you so much to all of you who gave up your precious time to complete our school at home survey. It provided us with a picture of your own circumstances and your school at home needs going forward. Also thank you so much for your overwhelming support of our efforts. It is greatly appreciated by our staff. Here are some of the key results of the survey from those who responded;

- *Remote Support by email? - 96.2% of our parents are satisfied or very satisfied.*
- *Internet Access - 18.5% have very fast fibre / 36.9% have fast and reliable / 37.7% Ok and reliable most of the time / 6.2% slow and unreliable / 0.8% no access.*
- *Satisfied with son's knowledge of online safety? 68.5% Yes / 21.5% unsure / 10% No*
- *Son has his own IT device? - 57.7% Yes / 14.6% sometimes / 27.7% No*
- *Is the device shared? - 36.9% Yes / 14.6% Sometimes / 48.5% No*
- *Kind of device? - Computer 1.5% / Laptop 13.1% / Tablet/iPad 54.6% / Smartphone 12.3% / Other 18.5%*
- *Printer at home? - 54.6% Yes / 45.4% No*
- *Dedicated school at home space? - 82.3% Yes / 8.5% Sometimes / 9.2% No.*
- *Going forward would you support learning via Seesaw and Google Classroom? - 73.1% Yes / 23.8% Unsure / 3.1% No.*
- *Have you set up son's email and receive support? - 94.6% Yes / 5.4% No*
- *Have you set up parent contact email with us? - 79.2% Yes / 20.8% No*
- *Visit school website / Youtube Channel? 32.3% Regularly / 60% Occasionally / 7.7% Never*
- *How would you rate our website / Youtube Channel? 33.1% Excellent / 40.8% Very Good / 24.6% Good / 1.5% Poor.*
- *Downloaded TextaParent App? 75.4% Yes / 24.6% No.*
- *Preferred social media? 46.9% Facebook / 24.4% Instagram / 13.1% Snapchat / 3.8% Twitter / 86.2% WhatsApp / 16.2% Youtube / 1.5% Email*
- *Do you need to collect books? 43.1% Yes / 56.9% No.*
- *Additional comments summary; Lots of comments thanking and supporting school / Some parents unable to do much work as in full time work or frontline services / some parents children find it hard to be motivated and engage / lots of boys miss school a lot / some parents don't have the equipment or internet access or means to purchase to engage / large amount of compliments for the teachers' support*

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - MNS Seesaw & MNS Google Classroom

We have been supporting your son's school at home with email so far. However he is working remotely and he doesn't have live direct contact with his teacher. With our new VLEs MNS Seesaw (Infants to 3rd) and MNS Google Classroom (4th to 6th) your son is brought closer into a virtual classroom with live contact with his teacher and friends. He can post work, photographs, videos and projects to his teacher. This is totally private and is not seen by other pupils. His teacher can share an excellent piece of work with other pupils but also monitors and controls all online pupil traffic.

We rolled out MNS Seesaw this week and the participation is phenomenal. Teachers are able to post work for the children to do. They can respond by drawing, video, recording their voice. This is particularly useful for the younger children. Remember if the children attend Support Teachers (SETs) they need a profile in Seesaw for both teachers. MNS Google Classroom is rolled out to 6th and will be rolled out to 5th on Tuesday and 4th on Wednesday. This is a superior form of support delivered from G Suite for Education. When set up and teachers and pupils are familiar with it teachers will be able to deliver live PowerPoint presentations to pupils and video conference with pupils via Google Hangouts Meet.

Please note that email support of your son will cease on Monday May 11th and all pupils will only work in their nominated VLE. Teachers will now post work each morning and not every week. Your son will need to get into a routine of logging in each morning, if possible for parents. If you haven't set your son up yet on the class VLE email his teacher as soon as possible. Teacher will then require written email consent from you to include your son on the VLE. He/she will then email you MNS Seesaw or MNS Google Classroom setup details.

Online Safety

Tusla Louth Meath in collaboration with Louth Children and Young Peoples' Services Committee have developed an online safety resource that parents can use to help them talk with and keep their children and young people safe online during COVID 19. Please click on the link below for more information on the updated version; <https://www.cypsc.ie/fileupload/Key%20Messages%20for%20Parents%20-%20Internet%20Safety.pdf>

Book Rental Scheme

Please remind boys of the importance of keeping their books in a good condition during this prolonged period away from school. We normally begin collecting our Book Rental Scheme titles in early June to ensure they are checked and in the best possible condition for handout and use the following September. We are continuing to monitor Department of Health guidelines and will inform you at a later date around procedures for the collection of Book Rental Titles. In the meantime, please monitor your son's use of these books and remind him that they will be used by his younger school mates again next September and therefore need to be in the best condition possible.

6th Class Challenge

This programme is unique to Monastery NS and our 6th class boys have already completed their first challenge. I know they are greatly disappointed that they are not getting the chance to do the other challenges. Master McAdam and Master McGee are thinking a lot about this at the moment and will come back to you with our plans at a future date. We really would like to do a Final Assembly and possibly some of our challenges. When restrictions lift or ease we will try to work out how we can do the challenges and still keep Covid-19 precautions in place.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

GAA. Our GAA team are missing out on a unique record breaking feat by being the only team in the history of MNS or Louth to win 4 leagues and 4 championships in a row! They are one title short of that feat but it is unlikely that the Championship 2020 will be played. However they are already record holders and we will take it that we would have won it anyway! Check out our last league title win in October 2019 at www.monasterynsardee.ie/2019-2020-1.html Also check out our incredible GAA record.

The Roll of Honour of Monastery NS GAA U13 Teams

Roll of Honour County Louth U13 League Titles Corn Mhic Ardail 1971-74, 1978- 1980, 1983-84, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1995-96, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Roll of Honour County Louth U13 Championship Corn Bhliain Mhuire - 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018 and 2019. 2020?

Soccer. Our U13 soccer team qualified for the County Louth FAI 5s 2020 Finals which has now been cancelled. Never mind boys you will have many victories in the years to come.

Roll of Honour

2013 - Louth / North Leinster / Leinster and All Ireland Champions. See <http://www.monasterynsardee.ie/2013-1.html>

2014 - Louth / North Leinster / Leinster and All Ireland Finalists. See <http://www.monasterynsardee.ie/2014.html>

Numerous County titles up to 2019.

Athlete of the Year

Did your Dad, Uncle or other family member win this prestigious award? Check out our winners since 1981! Click here http://www.monasterynsardee.ie/athlete_of_the_year.html

Billy Hennessy Award

Liam (Billy) Hennessey was principal of Monastery National School during the years 1975-1994. The Hennessey family donated a perpetual trophy in Billy Hennessey's memory. The Billy Hennessey memorial trophy is awarded to the boy in sixth class who in the opinion of the staff best embodies the ethos of the school. It is an eagerly contested and much valued trophy. Click here to see the winners of this trophy to date; http://www.monasterynsardee.ie/b_hennessy.html

Please note that all awards will still be made for 6th class in 2020. This Cinnlínte Newsletter is also available for download on our website at <http://www.monasterynsardee.ie/newsletters.html>

Enjoy the Bank Holiday Weekend, look after your families and keep social distancing.

Ní neart go cur le chéile - **There is no strength without unity** - Nie ma siły bez jedności - Нет силы без единства - Não há força sem unidade - 没有团结就没有力量 - Ohne Einheit gibt es keine Kraft - ഐക്യമില്ലാതെ ശക്തിയില്ല - Не існує сили без єдності

Yours sincerely,

Jim McGee, Principal, Monastery NS Ardee.