



Office Monastery NS <officeardeemns@gmail.com>

eCinnlínite 169 - School Newsletter

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Draft

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Here is some brief news for your information.

- **Monastery NS closes today for mid-term break today.** School from home reopens on **Monday February 22nd**. We all need to follow Government advice to get our school building open soon. We urge our school community to be *Covid cautious* over mid-term break and to abide by NPHET guidelines. **Hold firm, stay at home, don't mix with other families and wash your hands regularly.**
- A provisional date has been set for **Confirmation on Tuesday June 1st**. The format will be the same as last year namely 12 noon and Rite of Confirmation outside of Mass in Ardee Church. We have no information regarding First Holy Communion to date but will let you know as soon as we do. Please pray for the Priests of our Parish, Canon Peter Murphy and Father Seán McCartan who are working over and beyond the call of duty for our Parishioners at this difficult time.
- **6th class news.** Our **6th Class Challenge Programme** has commenced and an information letter has been emailed and posted to parents today. Mrs Coleman is going on leave today and Master Garland is taking over as class teacher after mid-term. I would like to thank our Parents Association who have been most supportive during this crisis and continue to substantially subsidise our 6th Class Challenge Programme.
- **Ireland Reads Campaign - Louth Library Service.** The national reading campaign Ireland Reads is underway and invites people of all ages and reading interests to get reading during February. As part of the Governments 'Keep Well' campaign it highlights the importance of taking some time for yourself to relax and do the things you enjoy (like reading). Louth Libraries has teamed up with libraries nationwide to help celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment. There is a dedicated website which offers recommendations and guidance for the perfect read and a section where you can register a **pledge to 'squeeze in a read'** on February 25th, Ireland's first ever National Reading Day. www.irelandreads.ie

"No Queue" Titles

Every month there are a small number of new titles available on our BorrowBox online eBook/eAudiobook service which everyone can download for that month.

February's No Queue juvenile titles are:

- **The Boy Who Lived with Dragons by Andy Shepherd**
- **The 13-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths**

https://fe.bolindadigital.com/wldcs_bol_fo/b2i/mainPage.html?b2bSite=4827

This allows an infinite number of borrowers to download these titles for the month of February. These two eBooks are also available to everyone in eAudiobook format throughout February.

Competition:

Louth Library Service are also running a Competition next week - Pick one of these February "no queue" titles, either write a short book review or draw a book cover for a possible sequel to the book. The competition details will be posted on our social media next week.

- **New Databiz NS Admin App** - 10 years ago we were one of the first primary schools in Ireland to start using pupil management software Databiz NS Admin. They have asked us to roll out their new App on a trial basis as soon as we return to school. This will allow online payments, absences, messages etc all on your smartphone or other device. It is a beta version and there may be small problems initially but we look forward to providing this service to our parents.
- **Enrolments - New Junior Infant Admissions September 2021.** Many of our parents have already enrolled their son for Junior Infants next year. All enrolments will be confirmed in writing in the next 3 weeks and a virtual information evening will be organised. It's officially Admissions Week next week and we are inviting any remaining enrolments to download our new Admissions Form from our website (or email the office) and return it to us as soon as possible. We want to continue to offer small infant classes and in order to do so we need to keep our enrollments up. So please encourage any parent who is undecided regarding enrolment to contact us as soon as possible.
- **New School Technology** - we have just purchased **four new Promethean Activ Panels** to replace our four old interactive whiteboards in Junior Infants (Ms McCabe), Senior Infants, 2nd and 4th (Mrs Browne) classes. This ICT upgrade cost approximately €16,000 and we are now providing this new technology in nine of our ten classrooms. To see one of these Class Interactive Panels in action visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLWKsMGMO20> We have plans to make additional device purchases to allow our pupils to fully interact with their class Activ Panel.
- **School Field Works** - Last year Irish Water was granted permission by our Board of Management to carry out essential repairs to their water mains in our school field. Some of our trees had to be felled to facilitate this

work. In return Irish Water has now repaired and carried out substantial landscaping works including the planting of whitethorn hedging, 7 mature oak and beech trees and the construction of a 100 metre stretch of our round the field walkway. The Sisters of Mercy had previously constructed an entrance to their graveyard (now part of our grounds) which entailed the construction of another 100 metre stretch of our round the field walkway. We now have only 60 metres left to complete an incredible resource for the community. We will now look for funding to complete the School Field Walkway.

Stay safe and enjoy your mid-term break with your family,

Regards,

Jim McGee, Principal.

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