



*Parteen National School*

*Parteen*

*Co. Clare*

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*Principal: Gerard Ruane*

*Deputy Principal: Mairéad Guckian*

**17/01/2018**

### **School Community Newsletter**

#### **Defibrillator**

A defibrillator has been installed on the front of the new school building. Please make neighbours aware of this. All staff, Board of Management members and Parents Association members have the code to open it. Browne's Bar, all houses in Greenpark and all houses in Fielbrook have been sent a letter with the code. Thank you to Mike Holland who installed it and to Andy McNamara who trained the staff and community members. Both Andy and Mike provided their services for free. The Board and Management and Parteen Parish shared the cost of the device and storage unit (€2000).

#### **Parking**

Please be extra cautious when dropping off and collecting children. We have heard reports of cars speeding through the church car park. We have asked the Gardaí to monitor the situation. Please note that if you observe anybody driving dangerously, it is essential that you take the number and call the Gardaí straight away. Call 061456980.

#### **App**

If you have not already done so, please download the Textparent App from the iTunes or the Play Store. It costs us around €26 to send one text but if everyone downloads the App it will cost €13.

#### **Illness**

We remind families that if children display flu like symptoms, they should be kept at home. The HSE have made public statements about this due to the recent flu epidemic.

#### **Mornings**

We remind families that the school does not open until 8.50am. Children should not be dropped to school before this time. See 'Reminders for Parents' in the Newsletter Section of this website.

### **Christmas**

Sincere thank you to all the staff who prepared the children in JI-2<sup>nd</sup> for their Christmas Performances. Thank you to all staff and Fr. Tom for the beautiful Christmas Mass on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all children who performed with the choir in Athlunkard Nursing home.

### **Healthy Eating**

The Revised Healthy Eating Policy is off to a tremendous start. Well done to you all.

### **G.A.A.**

Clare G.A.A will be with us for 12 weeks starting tomorrow, Thursday. Ms. Guckian has set up a rota ensuring all classes get a number of sessions with hurling training. Class teachers will inform the children when it is their turn.

### **Science Fair**

Both 4<sup>th</sup> classes are visiting Mary Immaculate College tomorrow, Thursday, for a Science Fair. A letter has been sent home already. Thank you to Ms. Curtin for organising this.

### **School Closing**

The school will close at 12.00noon for JI-2<sup>nd</sup> and 12.15pm for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. This is for Child Protection Training approved by the Department of Education and Skills. Please note the earlier time for JI-2<sup>nd</sup> so as to ease congestion and make sure it is safer for children to be collected.

### **Enrolment**

Closing date for receipt of Enrolment applications is February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Enrolment Policy is in the Policy Section of the website. Enrolment Application forms are available from Catherine in the office.

### **Catholic Schools Week**

This runs from Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> until Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pope Francis has placed an emphasis on 'Family' for 2018. With this in mind, we are inviting families to come to the school on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. We have booked a pet farm and you will be able to join your child's class when they visit the farm at the following times:

Ms. Barry: 9.00am-9.20am

Ms. Sheahan: 9.20am-9.40am

Ms. O' Keefe: 9.40am-10.00am

Ms. Quinn: 10.00am-10.20am

Ms. Coughlan: 10.40am-11.00am

Mr. Hickey: 11.00am-11.20am

Ms. Neylon: 11.20am-11.50am

Mr. Crowe: 11.50-12.10am

Ms. Collins: 12.10pm-12.30pm

Ms. Curtin: 12.40pm-1.00pm.

Ms. Parkinson: 1.00pm-1.20pm

Mr. Collins: 1.20pm-1.40pm

Ms. O' Donovan: 1.40pm-2.00pm

Ms. Ryan: 2.00pm-2.30pm

### **Spelling**

Brendan Culligan, a renowned expert on helping children spell, will give a talk for parents on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the school hall. This should not be missed. Thank you to Ms. Guckian for organising this.

### **Swimming**

Mr. Collins' and Ms. O' Donovans' 5<sup>th</sup> classes will attend swimming lessons in U.L. on February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. They will depart the school at 10.15am and return at 12.45pm. The lesson is between 11am and 11.50am. The total cost is €40. Please send cash or cheque in before February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Curtin's and Ms. Parkinson's classes will attend swimming lessons in U.L. on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. They will depart the school at 10.15am and return at 12.45pm. The lesson is between 11am and 11.50am. The total cost is €40. Please send cash or cheque in before March 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Catherine for organising this.

### **STEM Education**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class teachers are currently implementing a STEM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) in conjunction with Clare Education Centre. Thank you to Ms. Parkinson, Ms. Curtin, Ms. Collins and Mr. Crowe.

### **Attendance**

December

Boys: 94.6% Girls: 94.1%

### **Literacy Lift-Off and Guided Reading**

Literacy Lift has been completed in Ms. Neylon's, Ms. Coughlan's and is currently taking place in Mr. Hickey's. Guided Reading has been completed in Ms. Ryan's, Ms. O' Donovan's, Mr. Crowe's and Ms. Parkinson's and is currently running in Mr. Collin's. These are team teaching literacy initiatives which, among other things, involve the use of graded readers. Mata sa Rang has been completed in Ms. Coughlan's and Mr. Hickey's and is currently in Ms. Neylon's Class. This is a team teaching maths based initiative.

### **Art and Craft**

Ms. O' Keeffe is running Art and Craft classes. She has sent a letter to all families about this.

### **Book Fair**

€5068 was spent in the Book Fair meaning we received books valued at €3040. An art competition also took place during the event. Thank you to all families for supporting it, all teachers for their work during it and to Ms. Carey for organising and coordinating it.

### **French**

Thank you to Ms. O' Rourke for the ongoing French lessons.

### **Rugby**

Rugby training has re-commenced. For the coming weeks the boys and girls will practice their skills and play mini-matches on the grass pitches behind St. Munchin's College. The school are very appreciative of St. Munchin's continued support and especially wish to thank Mr. Quilter (School Principal) and Mr. Nelligan (Games Master).

The children are currently learning to play a hybrid form of tag-rugby (incorporating 'going to ground', rucking, scrums and line-outs). Full-contact tackling is slowly being introduced and it is anticipated that coaching officers from Munster Rugby will attend a training session in the coming weeks to further progress this.

Thank you Ms. Neylon, Ms. Curtin, Mr. Hickey and Mr. Crowe for coaching our school's rugby team.

### **Remembrance Event**

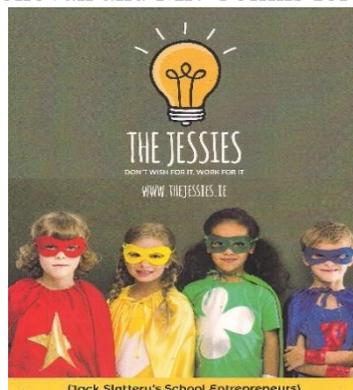
On December 21st last the children from Ms. Ryan's 6th class and both 3rd classes (Ms. Collins and Mr. Crowe) held a World War 1 remembrance event at our remembrance tree (oak tree which was generously donated by Conal Moloney last year and was planted adjacent to the walkway to church car park last year).

In the 2016/17 academic year children in both 6th classes extensively researched the lives of WW1 soldiers. December 21st was a particularly poignant day as it is the anniversary of the deaths of Edward Lynch and Frank O'Sullivan. Three of our school's past pupils who fought and died in WW1 were also remembered.

At the remembrance event Mr. Crowe explained the local connections to WW1, Ms. Guckian led all assembled in solemn prayer and Ms. Ryan's class recited verses from the famous 'In Flanders Fields' poem.

### **The JESSIES Project (Jack Slattery's School Entrepreneurs)**

Children from both 5<sup>th</sup> classes are embarking on an entrepreneurship project that has been developed, funded and completed in County Clare ([www.thejessies.ie](http://www.thejessies.ie)). Emmet Moloney (editor, Clare People newspaper) visited the school on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January to explain the project and inspire our budding entrepreneurs. Over the coming weeks the best ideas in each class will be researched and investigated until ultimately the children "Face the Dragons!!" and a project is chosen. Children will use a range of talents (finance, design, marketing, sales etc.) to turn the chosen business into a real life success story. The completed projects will be showcased at a Clare venue attended by Ennis native and acclaimed entrepreneur Domhnal Slattery. Thank you to Ms. O' Donovan and Mr. Collins for this.



Kind regards,

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Gerard Ruane

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Mairéad Guckian