



*Parteen National School*

*Parteen*

*Co. Clare*

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### **School Community Newsletter November 2019**

#### **Choral Event in Parteen**

Parteen has a long and distinguished history of choral singing thanks to Ms. Parkinson and, in recent years, Ms. O' Keffe. They attend many choral festivals with the children. We noticed that all the festivals are competitive. Sometimes, it is nice to just sing.

With this in mind, we came together with Barefield, Clarecastle and Thomond National Schools to create a new Choral Festival called 'Canadh le Chéile'. It will be held in Parteen National School and church tomorrow, Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

The choirs from each school will be combined and then split up into six groups. Each group will attend five workshops in the school. The workshops will be delivered by staff from each school. There will be a workshop on warm-ups, breathing exercises, rounds, actions and a double workshop where the children will be taught a song. In the afternoon they will move to the church and each school will perform a song for each other. Then all four schools will together sing the song they have been taught during the workshop. Approximately 250 children will take part tomorrow!

Thank you to all the staff in Parteen and in the other schools who are working hard to make it happen.

#### **Christmas Cards**

Thank you to the Parents Association for organising the Christmas Cards and to all the teachers who completed the activities with their class. Cards are going home today. If you wish to order the cards place the exact money sent in the envelope and return it by Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We are unable to process orders after this time.

#### **Enrolment**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, we had 326 pupils. This qualifies us for thirteen mainstream teachers for the 20/21 school year. As explained to all parents of Junior Infant children, both

Junior Infants will be merged into one class in 20/21 to accommodate the fact we will have thirteen mainstream teachers instead of fourteen.

In order to maintain thirteen mainstream teachers for the following school year, we need to take in 42 children for September 2020. 36 children have applied so far. Closing date for applications is Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Parents Association Election**

Following the P.A. A.G.M., the following committee has been elected:

Audrey Dillon and Ger Smyth (Joint Chairpersons), MJ Geary (Secretary), Ann Hopwood (Treasurer), Pauline Gaffney, Ann-Marie Bermingham, Karen Williamson, Suzanne O'Connell, Irene O'Connell, Natal Carroll, Sharon Maloney, Catriona Clancy, Liz Higgins, Jennifer Burton, Tara Quinlivan, Bríd Ryan, Sharon Deedigan, Regina Mulcahy, Audrey Considine, Louise Moriarity and Gillian Costelloe.

We thank them for their commitment. For information on the workings of the Parents Association, please read the Parents Association Constitution:

<http://parteenschool.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Parents-Association-Constitution.pdf>

### **Parenting**

A very interesting and informative talk was given by John Lonergan at the AGM of the parents association in Oct 2019. He really emphasised the importance of communicating with your child/children. He has written an interesting book on the subject of parenting. Thank you to the PA for organising this talk.

### **Colours Day**

As you are aware, we sent a request for €8 for the five Colour Days. €1786 has been raised so far. Money goes towards the Outdoor Project.

### **Spanish**

Thank you to Ms. Quilty who is running Spanish lessons after school.

### **Relax Kids Club**

Thank you to Ms. Barry and Laura Corcoran who are running a 'Relax Kids Club' after school.

### **Chess**

Thank you to Ms. Needham who is running chess lessons after school.

### **Choir**

Thank you to Ms. Parkinson and Ms. O'Keefe who are running the school choir after school.

### **Rugby**

Kenneth McNamara will coach 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class in rugby skills in December. Each class will be notified of the dates and times. He will return in May to coach 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Football**

Girls football training took place in Sept and Oct. There were an average of 25 girls at each training session. The girls gave great commitment to their training and enjoyed the skill development. Thanks to coaches Ms. Needham, Ms Quilty and Ms Guckian.

The boys football has also concluded for this year. Boys from 3rd to 6th trained well in Parteen GAA up to mid-term. The senior team had two outings and were unlucky to just miss out on qualifying for semi-finals. Thanks to Parteen GAA for use of facilities again this year and well done to all boys who attended in large numbers. Thank you to Mr Hickey, Ms Neylon & Mr Collins for coaching.

### **Hockey**

Thank you to Ms. O' Donovan and Ms. Cuddy who are running hockey after school on Thursdays and for organising a Hockey Blitz on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Catholic Institute with An Mhodscoil and Scoil íde. They will depart at 10.30am and return at 1.30pm. Supporters are welcome. Please send in a note if you do not want your child attending. Bus payment request will be sent via ePayments.

### **Cycling**

6<sup>th</sup> are currently receiving RSE Approved cycle training.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Class Trip**

The Sixth class children will attend the St Munchins and St. Marys Transition Year musical on November 29th in the Lime Tree Theatre. They will depart at 9.30am and return at 1pm. Please send in a note if you do not want your child attending. Bus payment request will be sent via ePayment.

### **Magic**

Thank you to Ms. Andrews, and her father, Terry, who performed a magic show for all the children before the mid-term.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Class trips**

Thank you to Ms. Barry and Mr. Collins who organised for their classes to visit Seedsavers and to Ms. Carey and Ms. Parkinson for accompanying the children.

### **Ranger Visit.**

Thank you to David Lyons who will visit both 3<sup>rd</sup> classes on Friday for a nature workshop.

### **Charity Appeal**

As per our Charity Policy, we will collect for St. Vincent de Paul and the Fr. Gerry Daly Christmas Appeal. Each organisation would appreciate food (nonperishable), new toys and hygiene products for boys and girls. There will be labelled baskets left in beside the Christmas tree in the main building from December 8<sup>th</sup> on. Children can drop any donations into whichever basket they wish. Participation is optional. Please send in items by Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Classroom Assistants**

Ms. Carey has organised for five University of Limerick students to work as Classroom Assistants in our school from January to June. We look forward to welcoming them. This will

have a hugely positive impact on the school. Thank you to Ms. Carey for organising this and to Ms. O' Keeffe who sat on the selection interview board.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Reminder: School finishes for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> at 2.25pm on Monday and Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to facilitate meetings. Appointment times are going home next week.

### **Christmas Bake Sale**

There will be a bake sale on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please support by sending in some baked goods. The hall will be open from 8am. All classes will be timetabled to visit the bake sale. Money raised will go towards the Outdoor Project.

### **Christmas Shows**

This year JI-2<sup>nd</sup> will perform shows in the school hall on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please see times below:

Ms. Neville and Ms. Ryan	9.15am
Ms. O' Keeffe	10.00am
Ms. Needham	10.30am
Ms. Coughlan	11.00am
Ms. Sheahan	11.30am
Ms. Neylon	12noon

### **Attendance**

October: Boys: 95.7% Girls 95.3%

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Ms. O' Dwyer and her husband who had a baby boy recently!

### **School Self Evaluation**

Our literacy and numeracy plans have been published in the School Policies Section. They cover 2018-2020 and have a 2019 review.

### **School Closing**

Reminder: School will be closed on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, for staff training in the Primary Language Curriculum.

### **Early Closing**

School will close for the Christmas Holidays on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 12noon for JI-2<sup>nd</sup> and 12.15pm for 3rd-6<sup>th</sup>.

Kind regards,

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Gerard Ruane

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Mairéad Guckian