

January Newsletter 2018

Welcome to the new term.

Enrolment Sept 2018



Those who have applied to enrol for the school year 2018/2019 have now received a letter confirming enrolment. If you have a child who is eligible to start school this September and haven't yet enrolled or know of a child locally, please submit your application immediately to join a waiting list.

Additional Accommodation Application

Minister Phelan's office has been in touch to acknowledge receipt of letters and emails from the parents of Junior and Senior Infants. They have confirmed that our application has made it through the initial stages and will keep us informed of any progress. Many thanks to those who have taken the time to make contact. If you haven't yet made contact, we appeal to you to add your voice to the campaign as soon as possible! See our last email for details.



School Mass:

This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is *Catholic Schools: Families of Faith*. As part of our activities, a school mass will take place on Thursday, February 1st at 1pm. Parents, grandparents and parishioners are most welcome to attend. You are free to take your children home after mass if you wish, but please inform the class teacher on the day. School will remain open until 3pm as normal.

Homework Survey

As you are aware, this year we reduced the amount of written homework being assigned each night. We are now evaluating the success of this initiative. We would like to get your opinions and suggestions so we can continue to improve the quality, relevance and benefits of homework for everyone. We would appreciate if you could complete a short Homework Survey which is available on the Parentzone of the school website www.gowranns.ie under the Self Evaluation section. We would appreciate if you could complete the survey by Friday, February 2nd, as the link will then be closed.

Stay Safe Programme



All classes are currently participating in the Stay Safe Programme.

The Stay Safe Programme is a personal safety skills programme designed for use with primary school children from Junior Infants through to 6th class. The programme seeks to enhance children's self-protective skills by participation in lessons on safe and unsafe situations, bullying, inappropriate touch, secrets, telling and stranger danger.

The programme aims to give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse/victimisation and teaches them that they should always tell (an adult that can help) about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening, dangerous or abusive.

Your child will bring home worksheets associated with each lesson for you to discuss together.



Internet Safety – As part of the SPHE curriculum, the children from 1st to 6th classes will shortly be taught lessons from the Webwise Primary School Programme which is about safe and responsible use of the internet. You might take this opportunity to discuss the issue with your child as we try to help our children develop the skills to become independent, effective and safe users of the internet for life. There are excellent resources for parents on www.saferinternetday.ie and www.zeeko.ie. Further information for parents available on www.webwise.ie

December Monthly Award Winners



Congratulations to the pupils who were nominated by their teachers for special awards in December 2017.



Credit Union Quiz

Best wishes to our Junior (U 11) and Senior (U13) quiz teams who will compete in this annual event in Goresbridge on Saturday, January 27th at 4pm.



Board of Management Reminder:

Many children are dropped off at the school well before 9.20am, some as early as 8.45 am. The Board of Management or staff members do not accept responsibility for the supervision of these children before 9.20am, neither are the staff responsible for children outside the school at the end of the school day. Please remember also that it is the responsibility of the adult who brings or collects a child by car, to personally see the child safely inside the school gates in the morning and back to the car in the afternoon.



Children staying indoors:

Children must have a note requesting permission to stay indoors at playtime. If your child has an injury or is recovering from a severe illness we are happy to let them stay inside. However, supervising a large number of pupils indoors is not an option so if a child simply has a cold, we would encourage them to put on coats and hats and get some fresh air. If you consider your child unable to join his or her friends outdoors, perhaps they aren't fit for school and need to remain at home a little longer. Many thanks for your cooperation.



HEADLICE

Unfortunately, we have been informed by parents that headlice again appear to be a problem in several classes. Please check your child's hair immediately and treat if necessary. Your pharmacist will advise on appropriate products.

We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter as it is only going to be resolved when all the children infected are treated at the same time.

Please see the tips sheet in the Parentzone on our website and help eradicate the problem.



Dates for your diary:

Catholic Schools Week :

January 29th to Feb 2nd, Mass on Thurs,
Feb 1st at 1pm

Midterm Break:

Thursday and Friday, February 15th and 16th

Sacrament of First Penance :

Wednesday, March 6th

Annual Book Fair :

Thurs, March 8th and Friday, March 9th