

## January Newsletter 2019

Welcome to the new term.

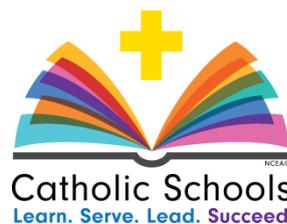
### Enrolment Sept 2019



Those who have applied to enrol for the school year 2019/2020 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 as soon as possible.

### Summer Works Scheme

We are delighted to announce that an application made to the Department of Education and Skills, under the Summer Works Scheme in 2015, for the replacement of all windows in the school building has finally been successful. This application was made on the grounds of health and safety, along with energy loss. Many thanks to Gittens/Murray Architects who prepared the report at that time. We look forward to this work taking place during the summer holidays.



This year's theme for **Catholic Schools Week** is *Celebrating the Work of our Local Catholic Schools*. As part of our activities, a **school mass will take place on Thursday, January 31st 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.



### CHILD PROTECTION

As you are aware, under the Children First Act 2015 and effective since March 11<sup>th</sup> 2018, each Board of Management has a statutory obligation to prepare a **Child Safeguarding Statement** which includes a written assessment of risk of potential harm and the procedures in place to manage that risk. These documents are available on the school website and on display near the office and must be reviewed annually by the Board of Management.

Under the Act, all teachers registered with the Teaching Council are now **Mandated Persons** and have two **legal obligations**:

- To report any reasonable concerns of harm above a threshold to Tusla
- To assist Tusla if/when requested

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.saferinternetday.ie) and [www.zeekeo.ie](http://www.zeekeo.ie). Further information for parents available on [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)



## 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.

## November Monthly Award Winners



Congratulations to the pupils who were nominated by their teachers for special awards in November 2018.



### 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, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm.



### Credit Union Art Competition

There was a record number of entries for this year's competition and the standard was extremely high, according to the organisers. The pupils from Gowran NS swept the boards in the younger age groups. Well done to Heidi Ryan and Kate Drennan who were joint first, Anna Graham who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and Alina Maciorowska who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Under 7 category. In the 8-10 years group, Evan Ryan came first, Ella Kenny 2<sup>nd</sup>, Orlaith Carroll 3<sup>rd</sup> and Niamh Brennan, Merit. The lucky winners received their cheques in time to cash them for Christmas.



Having won their second round against Ballinkillen N.S., our 6<sup>th</sup> class team are now preparing for the quarter final against Moyne N.S. on February 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be opposing the motion that, *"To be serious about climate change is to give up eating meat"*. We have been taking part in this competition since its inception six years ago and the children's debating skills are going from strength to strength. We wish the pupils and their teacher the best of luck going forward!



### 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 28<sup>th</sup> to Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, Mass on Thurs, Jan 31<sup>st</sup> at 1pm

#### **Midterm Break:**

Thursday and Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Sacrament of First Penance :** Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

#### **Annual Book Fair :**

Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

- for 5 days from the onset of symptoms.
- Give your child simple anti-fever medication such as paracetamol or ibuprofen (NB: aspirin should NOT be given to children under 16 years. If you think your child needs to see the GP because they have severe symptoms, remember to ring your GP first and ensure that they drink plenty of fluids.



The H.S.E. provides useful comprehensive advice on how to recognise flu, and how to care for yourself or someone else, on [www.undertheweather.ie](http://www.undertheweather.ie) website

### Seasonal Influenza Advice from The HSE

- Children who are sick should always stay home from the school. If they have influenza they should stay away from the educational institution