

**'PREPARING  
TODAY'S CHILDREN  
TO BE TOMORROW'S  
ANSWER'**

- Parents Association Meeting—13th November at 7.30pm all welcome.
- 'Do This in Memory of Me Mass' - Sunday 28th of October—Holy Rosary Church, Draperstown—12noon.
- Parents Meetings Tue 20th & Wed 21st of November. School closed at 12 noon on each day.
- Dress up day for Halloween—Friday the 26th of October. **NO FACE MASKS.**
- School closed for the Halloween break—29th October—Friday 2nd November
- Children start back to school on Monday the 6th of November

**MEET OUR SAFE-  
GUARDING and  
CHILD PROTECTION  
TEAM**

Mrs Mairead Cunningham: Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection

Mrs Marie Molloy: Deputy Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Mrs Aimee Quinn: Designated Governor for Safe Guarding and Child Protection

Mr. Brian Mc Guigan: Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Mr Paschal Diamond: Principal

# St. Eoghan's Monthly

OCTOBER 2018

## 'Bee Safe' at Halloween

### Halloween Safety

While Halloween is a great time for fun, dressing up and firework displays it is also a time when accidents are most likely to occur. Accordingly, we would encourage all parents/guardians to remind their children of the golden rules at Halloween:

- *fireworks should only be used by adults*
- *children should not be near fireworks displays unless accompanied by an adult*
- *children should always be in the company of a responsible adult if they are outside at night time.*

We wish all our pupils and their families a relaxing and enjoyable Halloween.

**Dress up day—Friday the 26th of October—remember no masks.**

### New Children Beginning School

Parents of children due to begin school in September 2019 should now be watching out for the release of the application forms which will occur in the near future. The forms will be available from the school and it is important that these are returned promptly to avoid disappointment of not gaining a place.

Any parent who wishes specific information in respect to the application process should contact the school. Tel: 02879628008 and we would be delighted to assist.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

We recently held a coffee morning in our school in aid of Macmillan cancer. This took place on Friday 5th of October. We raised £1400. This is a tremendous achievement for all involved—especially our school canteen and for all of our families that donated money, attended the event etc. A big thank you to you all.

### NSPCC

On Friday the 19th of October, we had an NSPCC assembly. Miss Christine McElroy from the NSPCC to the children about the key messages that she had mentioned to the children on her first visit a few weeks earlier. She presented Mrs Cunningham's



class (P.5/6) with a certificate as they raised the most money of all the classes. She then congratulated the children on their marvellous effort in raising £1037.22 for this charity. Thankyou to all our parents and children for your support at this time.



# ROAD SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Some children walk to and from school each day and in my view this is a good thing. It gives the children responsibility, exercise, plenty of fresh air and not to mention the social aspect—talking with friends etc. Last week as I was passing the children on their way down from school, I noticed some children walking on the edge of the pavement, some children were pushing each

other and some children were walking safely. I have spoken to the children about road safety and I would like you to reinforce to them the importance of road safety. If a child was hit by a car a long this stretch of road, the consequences would be FATAL! I would also like to remind all parents that when the lights are flashing the speed limit on the road becomes 30 mph.

We have also noticed that when some children are walking home from school, some parents are driving up the road towards the school, stopping and encouraging the children to cross the road—even on the hill! This should be discouraged at all times. Children should be picked up on the side of the road that they are walking on so that they can be protected from any danger at all times.

- Open Night—Thursday 29th of November—7.30pm—children and parents welcome.
- We are also holding a, 'Big Breakfast' on Sunday the 9th of December—9.00am—1.00pm.
- School Photographer—Thursday 25th of October 2018—9.30am
- Onesie Night—a chance to do your Christmas shopping—Thursday 13th December - 5.30—9.30pm

## Shared Education

St. Eoghan's P.S. will continue to work again this year with Damhead Primary School and Macosquin P.S. Coleraine in its Shared Education Partnership. The three schools this year are planning lessons within the PATHS programme-

World around Us area of learning. The joint sessions will take place throughout the school year.

It is envisaged that each lesson will last between 1 and 2 hours. The lessons may be in the St. Eoghan's, Dam-

head, Macosquin P.S. or on a shared class visit. Pupils will travel by bus. It is assumed that all pupils will participate unless I receive a letter from you indicating otherwise. Teachers from the three schools have planned joint lessons together to incorporate many aspects of the curriculum in a fun way.

## Christmas Activity Time

It is that time of year again when all our pupils are involved in nativity rehearsals, preparing for the big day. The Christmas Carol Concert will take place on Tuesday 11th of December in St. Eugene's Church Moneyneena at 7.30pm.

### Improving School Communication

As a self-evaluating school, we are always trying to improve the

service we provide to our pupils and their families. Accordingly, we have a school twitter account in order to share information about the school, very quickly. The twitter handle is [@steoghans](https://twitter.com/steoghans). You can also follow us via our website—[steoghans.com](http://steoghans.com)

Please follow us to keep up to date and hear

about our pupils' successes and messages

**The next, 'Do This in Memory' Mass will be on Sunday the 28th of October at 12noon in the Holy Rosary Church, Draperstown.** We hope that you and your child are able to attend this mass. Please remember to bring your child's candle and it will be lit before Mass starts.

# Mid Ulster Council Cross Country Championships

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October our school was invited for the second time to participate in the Mid Ulster Council's Cross Country championships and we entered 2 teams consisting of children from P5, P6 and P7.

There was also a "Fun Run" held on the day and the children from P7 who had completed the Cross Country trials but missed out on a place in the final team competed in this.

We had a fabulous day with some very strong individual performances and for the first time ever our boys team came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, narrowly missing out on a place in the finals day. We were very proud of all our pupils who represented our school magnificently once again.



## Come and join our Parents Association

Over the past number of years since the formation of this group, the children in this school have had varied and exciting extra curricular opportunities that they may not otherwise have been able to avail of.

This Association have been responsible for many fund raising activities within our school. The money has gone towards the purchase of new equipment, new items of furniture for classrooms, cover of transport for school trips, The main constitution and

function of the Association is as follows

- To raise the profile of the school.
- To fund raise for the school.
- To provide assistance for the teaching staff at functions e.g. school plays, sports days, Confirmation/ First Holy Communion Teas and refreshments.

Meetings are kept to a minimum of three per year

(possibly a little more frequent if fundraiser is being organised). Information will be shared with the wider school audience via our school newsletter. The group is made from a wide spread of children from P1 – 7. No one is committed to being a life long member as annually members may step down and we need to recruit new members. The principal is also a member of the group acting in an advisory capacity e.g. needs of the school, ideas for projects etc. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 7th November at 7.30pm**

### Start of Year Mass

Our start of year Mass was held recently on Wednesday the 10th of October. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr Downey and it was offered for all the children, teachers and family members connected with our school. During this Mass, Fr Downey consecrated all the new children to Our Lady of Fatima along with their family members. The new P1 children were also presented to the whole school community along with any new children that started our school.

### Eucharistic Adoration

After Halloween holidays we will begin our Eucharistic Adoration on a monthly basis. This is a great honour for our school in which we hope to receive many graces and blessings.



### Waterbus

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, the Northern Ireland Waterbus visited our school. This is a very popular travelling classroom and we were lucky to secure a visit! Our Key Stage 2 pupils really benefited from what was a very exciting and educational experience. They learned lots of interesting facts, including how valuable a resource water is, how it is cleaned, all about the watercycle and how healthy water is for our bodies. A very popular part of the day was when children discovered what can and can't be flushed down the toilet! Our pupils enjoyed this activity tremendously and were great ambassadors for our school.

# School budgets are extremely tight!

The budget for schools in N. Ireland has reduced by about 10% in real terms over the past 5 years that is according to a report on the financial health of schools published by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO). The comptroller and auditor general Kieran Donnelly said that the education system was , “close to a tipping point” as a result. The NIAO has called for a fundamental review of how schools are funded.

The money a school receives each year is based on a number of factors including the number of pupils it has, the number of pupils with additional needs and the size of the school buildings.

About 80-90% of a school's funding is normally used to pay staffing costs, including teachers and classroom assistants.

The NIAO said that to save money some schools had reduced hours for teachers or employed teaching assistants instead of full-time teachers.

A school's spending should stay within their yearly budget, but they are allowed to overspend or underspend by 5% of that budget or £75,000— whichever figure is lower. Schools financial position have deteriorated since 2012/13. Many schools are in deficit.

The NIAO stated that the aggregated schools budget—the money which goes directly to schools—had decreased by 10.4% in real terms since 2012/13.

IT is very clear that the financial positions of all schools is bleak. With continued austerity this situation is not set to improve at any time soon

## Ulster Council Coaching Programme

Children from P.1-4 avail of this programme. This programme is set to end shortly and in fact our Ulster Coach who incidentally left his post in June has not been replaced and will not be replaced. This is an excellent programme. All our children have lost out!!

## Term 1 After-School Activities

Current after-school activities are Pottery and Girls' and Boys' football. The Pottery club is facilitated by Mr Stephen McGuigan of Glasgowbury Music Group, and the after-school football is facilitated by Mrs Michaela Moran. These clubs are a wonderful way for us to strengthen our skills in each area.

