



Newsletter – Cinnlínte 176 – February 2022

School Covid-19 Response Plan Update

The Government has announced that some of the Covid control measures in schools will cease from Monday February 28th. Mask wearing for senior pupils in 3rd to 6th classes will be optional and will no longer be compulsory. However, we currently await further guidance from the Department of Education regarding other Covid control measures in our school. The pandemic is not over yet and County Louth continues to have a very high rate of covid infection. Some 100,000 children of school-going age have tested positive for Covid-19 since Christmas, with an average of 75 children under the age of 14 hospitalised every week. Sadly, some young children were admitted to paediatric intensive care or high-dependency units last week. For these reasons I ask parents to continue to be Covid cautious and to continue to abide by all the public health advice regarding Covid. For the latest Covid advice visit www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/newupdatedguidance/

School Uniform 2022-2023

As a result of the pandemic our school uniform dress code was relaxed. However, from September 2022 Monastery NS School Uniform Dress Code will return and the temporary relaxation of the uniform dress code will cease. All pupils will be required to wear full school uniform on all school days except the class nominated PE day. Following consultation with all of our school stakeholders a new school uniform for our Junior Infants next year has been agreed (*see new office mural above*). There will only be small changes to our current school uniform for existing pupils who will be in senior infants to 6th next year. Full details of our school uniform for September 2022 are available in the parents' section of our website.

School Calendars 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

The Department of Education announced that schools may close for a public holiday on March 18th 2022 and that the school calendar year should be reduced accordingly. As this day was already a closure day on our school calendar it will now be taken on Friday June 3rd 2022. The amended School Calendar for 2021-22 and our new school calendar for 2022-23 are now on our website.

Enrolment of Junior Infants 2022-2023

Thank you to all our Junior Infant applicants for September 2022 who have returned their Enrolment Acceptance Forms to date. **If you haven't returned your form yet please return it in the stamped addressed envelope before Friday March 4th, 2022.**

Parents' Association Cow Splat Bingo!

Our Parents' Association have already greatly assisted in upgrading our Infant Yard. They now plan a major fundraiser to carry out improvements to our Senior Yard. They have come up with the unique idea of **Cow Splat Bingo!** In short, squares are marked out and numbered in our school field and tickets are sold for each square. A friendly cow is then walked through the squares and a prize winner is declared in whichever square the cow poos in! **More information will follow before Easter and Cow Splat Bingo Day will take place on Friday May 27th.**



Sacraments 2022

Confirmation will be celebrated in our local Church at 2pm on Saturday April 2nd and *First Holy Communion* will also be celebrated in our local Church at 11am on Saturday May 7th. A planning meeting to finalise sacramental preparations takes place on Monday February 28th and more information will be then be issued to parents and guardians.

Shamrocks and Lá Glas (Green Day) for Saint Patrick's Day

All parents' orders for "*The Living Shamrock*" have now been received and processed. The living shamrocks will arrive in our school the week beginning March 14th and will then be sent home with your son. Our school will also be hosting a **Lá Glas** (dress up in or wear something **Green Day**) for all pupils on Wednesday March 16th.

Sport

GAA - Cumann na mBunscol school competitions begin in March with a 7 a-side competition. We will be organising school training sessions and trial matches after mid-term break. In 2019 before the pandemic began we were County Louth U13 League and Championship double champions for four years in a row (2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019). We will try our best in 2022 to make it 5 double titles in a row!

Soccer – We have entered into an FAI organised school based Futsal competition for 4th to 6th classes. Lunchtime leagues with medals for winners and runners up will be organised.

Basketball – Master McCoy is currently running a lunchtime basketball league for 4th class.

New School Office Mural

Check out our new school office mural on the front page of our website. We would like thank our former parent and noted artist Sharon Callis for this wonderful work of art that celebrates our change of status to Coeducation in September 2022.

Conversational English Classes

The **Cultúr Migrant Centre** is offering conversational English classes for adults on Tuesdays in Ardee Library (6pm to 8pm) and on Thursdays in the Dee Hub (6pm to 8pm). For more information contact info@cultur.ie or angel@cultur.ie or telephone 087-3315169 or 089-2487364.

World Book Day 2022

Monastery NS is delighted to be celebrating *World Book Day* on **Thursday 3rd March 2022**. Over the last 25 years, World Book Day has become firmly established as Ireland's biggest annual event promoting the enjoyment of books and reading for children and young people. The main aim is to encourage children to explore the pleasure of books and reading. This may sound like a very simple idea, but unfortunately, many children do not have access to books in their homes. World Book Day provides children with an opportunity to have a book of their own. Along with all the World Book Day €1.50 books, they have two exclusive Irish published titles, one in English and one in Irish. Check out this offer at <https://www.worldbookday.com/about-us/ireland/> Monastery NS will also be organising its own World Book Day events and more information will follow.

6th Class Challenge News

Our 6th class pupils successfully completed the first challenge of the 6th Class Challenge in November/December and received their first reward. They are now completing the 2nd challenge for January/February which involves reading 5 books, submitting a written or video review for each book and finally posting it on our MNS Google Classroom. We will also publish these book reviews on our school website. The deadline for completion of this task is Monday February 28th.