



12/02/2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please find some important February updates below.

School Closure Dates

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th of February (Full day closures for mid-term break)

****Friday 2nd March (Half day closure at 12pm for staff child protection training)****

Child Protection Training

New legislation on child protection has been enacted with new responsibilities for all groups (including schools) who work with children. We have been instructed by the Department of Education and Skills to take a half day on Friday the 2nd of March to go through the new information and plan for the new safeguarding measures that have to be put in place. I want to give as much notice as possible to parents in advance of this day. **The school will be closing at 12pm.**

Enrolment Week

If you, or someone you know has a child that will be starting in St. Patrick's N.S. in September 2018, then please collect an enrolment form at the school office.

Maths Lesson Study

This month, we have had substitute teachers in six of our classes on three separate days. Some of the pupils said it was a "teacher swap!" The real reason is that our school was invited to take part in a Maths project in our school. The teachers (Mr. Flanagan, Ms. Gerrard, Mr. Ó Braonáin, Ms. Murphy, Mrs. Connor and Mrs. Johnson) were working with a Department of education facilitator. The teachers came together over two full days to ask a question relating to the teaching and learning of Maths. Then one teacher (brave Mrs. Johnson) taught the lesson in 2nd class and was observed by the others. Finally, the teachers came together to see if their question was answered in the lesson.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Due to a large number of our musicians moving to secondary school, we do not have enough pupils to form a school band for this year's St. Patrick's Day parade. We hope to be back in 2019

School Sport

Swimming has begun for the four remaining classes in school for the spring term. Pupils in 5th and 6th classes rated their swim lessons very highly in a survey before Christmas as an activity they look forward to each year. Many thanks to all parents for your ongoing support in preparing pupils, to Aura, Navan for providing the facility and to staff and volunteer parents for all their work with the pupils.

Rugby coaching is taking place for four weeks for third and fifth classes with Robbie from Navan Rugby Club. They are practising skills and also taking part in tag rugby games

Gaelic Football coaching is taking place for first and second classes with Eoin from Slane GFC. He is also coaching boys and girls in 3rd class at lunchtimes. Boys and girls in fourth, fifth and sixth classes are also receiving coaching at lunchtimes from Ms. Gerrard, Mr. Ó Braonáin and Mr. O'Donnell in advance of the Meath Cumann na mBunscol football leagues.

ICT Coding

Mr. Flanagan has been busy creating lesson plans for classes to use with Bee Bots, which are electronic devices which receive pre programmed commands in order to move. We were fortunate to be able to borrow the Bee Bots





from Navan Education Centre for a two week trial period. Pupils in Ms. Murphy's third class have been trying them out. If all goes well, we hope to purchase a set of them for the school in the future.

Parent Association Funded Resources

Many thanks to our Parent Association for funding the purchase of achmhainní Ghaeilge (Irish resources), junior yard equipment, Green School books and three full sets of Harry Potter books. Many thanks also to all families for supporting the Parent Association fundraisers which funded these resources.

Credit Union Quiz

Congratulations to our six Credit Union Quiz teams who took part in the recent local competition in Rathkenny Hall. The Credit Union in Slane run a great afternoon's entertainment and the pupils had a great time. The first placed teams in both sections teams will now go forward to the county finals in a month's time. Many thanks also to all the class teachers for their work and to Ms. Delaney for all her quiz organizing.

Junior Competition

1st Slane N.S. – Jason Reynolds, Kathryn Yore, Aaron Griffin Wall and Thomas Russell

2nd Slane N.S. – Senan Duffy, Senan Kerrigan, Noah Murray and Liam Downey

3rd Slane N.S. - Patrick Callaghan, Ella Traynor, Shane O'Sullivan and Grace Murphy

Senior Competition

1st Slane N.S. – Aoife Lynch, Ethan Harding, Allanah Carroll and Rachel Downey

2nd Yellow Furze N.S.

3rd Slane N.S. Niamh Marron, Stephen Woulfe, Cillian Brady and Isabelle Yore

4th Slane N.S. Fiona O' Malley, Jonathan Farrell, Saoirse Quinlan and Nathan Kenny

Grandparents Day

A sincere thank you to all our grandparents who came to St. Patrick's N.S. from far and wide on Friday the 2nd of February as part of Catholic Schools Week. The hall was buzzing, helped by the coffee, tea and refreshments provided by the Parent Association.

After being formally welcomed to the school, the sixth class escorts brought the grandparents to visit all the classrooms that their grandchildren were in. They got a chance to see the classes their grandchildren are in and tell the pupils about their own days in primary school. It was a great morning in the school and pupils were so proud to see their grandparents on the day.

Updates

All news and pictures are available on our school website www.slanens.ie, on Twitter @Slanens and on the Parent Association Facebook page. Many thanks to parents Angie Coen and Sarah Jane Lynch for all the digital updates and to parent Bobby Tallon for his recent kind donation of two printers for our school.

Le gach deá ghúí,

Paul O'Donnell
Principal

