13/03/2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Parent Association Easter Raffle**

Our Parent Association is holding an Easter raffle to fundraise for a new flooring surface in our school hall. They have amassed a huge amount of prizes, both for ticket buyers and pupil sellers. The draw will take place in the school hall on Friday the 23rd of March. We would appreciate your support and tickets can be returned to the school on or before next Tuesday the 20th of March.

**Credit Union Quiz**

Congratulations to our junior (Thomas Russell, Kathryn Yore, Aaron Griffin Wall and Jason Reynolds) and senior (Aoife Lynch, Rachel Downey, Ethan Harding and Allanah Carroll) teams who represented the local area at the Credit Union county quiz last weekend in Athboy. Both teams did themselves proud with our senior team qualifying for the All Ireland finals in the RDS in April, which is a fantastic achievement. We wish them well.

 **Snow Closures**

As you are aware, the school was closed for three days recently, due to the red weather alert as a result of storm Emma and The Beast from the East. I would like all thank all relevant staff and parents who assisted with logistics and parents who called to the school on Sunday to ensure that school could reopen the following Monday. A special word of thanks goes to Paddy Shields Construction and digger driver Leslie Mc Cordick, who cleared the school car park.

After consulting with Circular 0009/2017 (Standardisation of the school year section on contingency arrangements in the event of unforeseen school closures), the Board of Management has decided on the following measures to make up missed teaching and learning time due to the snow closures.

* The school will only be only taking one of two planned half days for staff child protection training in this school year. **That half day will be on Friday the 20th of April and school will close at 12pm.**
* The school will not have a green day this year but will instead continue to incorporate energy monitoring, BOWOW, school gardening, composting and green schools project work into teaching and learning time.
* The school will not be having an active school week next term, but will continue with GAA lunch time coaching, yard activities, 5K lunch time training, 5 a side soccer competitions, GAA inter schools competitions and our annual sports day.
* Teachers will be prioritising discretionary time in the weekly timetable for curricular teaching and learning in order to complete the curriculum at every class level.

**Child Protection**

New procedures have come into effect for all primary schools as a result of the Children First Act 2015. Our school will complete a risk assessment for all activities relating to child protection during the school day and create a child safeguarding statement. Staff will also receive updated child protection training. The new child safeguarding statement and risk assessment will be published on our school website in the coming weeks.

**School Uniform**

There is one amendment to our school uniform as a result of a recent policy review. Plain navy cotton shorts are now part of the school uniform and will be available in Bestwear, Drogheda and Little Folks, Navan by the time the summer arrives. Old tracksuit bottoms can also be cut up short and a hem line sewed on them. Shorts in other colours, navy shorts made from other materials and navy cotton shorts with logos or writing on them are not permitted. School t-shirts and tracksuit tops may be worn on any day that shorts are worn.

Ties are also now available in the school office for pupils whose ties have become lost during the year.

**Defibrillator**

Parent June Mc Donnell is coordinating the installation of three defibrillators in Slane village in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service. It is proposed that one of the defibrillators will be located on the grounds of our school. As part of the service, an information night will take place in Slane N.S. for anyone interested in being trained to become a first responder. We will let you know when that date has been confirmed.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Tá Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ón 12ú Márta go dtí an 16ú Márta. Irish week is on from Monday the 12th to Thursday the 16th of March. Beidh lá gaeilge agus lá glas ar siúl ar an Aoine, an 16ú lá de mhí Márta. Green day and Irish day will be on Friday the 16th March). Déan iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt ar an lá sin agus cur ort ort d’eadaí glas. Do your best to speak Irish on that day and dress up in green clothes.

**Hall Upgrade**

An upgrade to our school hall, including a new floor surface, new kitchenette facilities and repainting will take place in the coming months. The works are being jointly funded by the Board of Management and the Parent Association, to whom we are very grateful for their ongoing support.

**BOWOW**

We have our final bus, bike or walk on Wednesday this week. Numbers have been very steady this year.

We would love to see as many as possible using bus, bike or walking to school this week. A sincere thank you again to all the parents who have helped, by bringing walking groups to the school each Wednesday.

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| Upcoming Diary Dates |
| Wednesday 14th March | Final BOWOW morning |
| An Aoine an 16ú la de mhí Márta | Lá Gaeilge & lá glas sa scoil |
| Monday 19th March | Public holiday. School closed |
| Tuesday 20th March | Last day for Easter raffle tickets |
| Friday 23rd March | Easter raffle and close at 12pm |
| Wednesday 11th of April at 7pm | First Confession |
| Sunday 15th April at 11am | Do This In Memory Mass |
| Friday 20th of April | Close 12pm child protection training |
| Sunday 22nd of April at 11am | Confirmation Ceremony of Light |
| Thursday 26th of April at 3pm | Confirmation Ceremony |

Regards,

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Paul O’Donnell

Principal On behalf of the Board of Management