



St. Molua's N.S.

Christmas Newsletter 2018

Welcome to the Christmas edition of St. Molua's N.S. newsletter. It has been a busy few months for pupils and staff. Here we endeavour to let you know what we have been up to. We hope you enjoy it.

Literacy Lift Off:

Under the guidance of Mrs. Ambrose and Miss Liston, the pupils of 1st and 2nd class just completed an intense six week literacy programme. The children were tested before and after the programme and recorded very significant improvements in reading and comprehension.

Green Flag:

Mr. Hayes and his Green Flag committee are continuing with the process of obtaining a Green flag for the school. Hopefully this will be completed this year. The group has done an amazing job of raising awareness about litter and recycling throughout the school.

School Self Evaluation

School Self Evaluation is a process of internal school review which enables teachers to provide better outcomes for learners. The school has chosen 'Writing Genres' as a target area for literacy improvement. In Term one, pupils from juniors to 6th class will be taught procedural writing, followed by report writing in term two and recount in term 3. A set of books has been purchased from Prim-Ed to facilitate this teaching.

Science Week:

During Science Week this year all the children in the school were actively involved in many Science Technology, Engineering and Maths lessons. Children from 1st - 4th class attended St. Anne's Primary School in Rathkeale for "Dr. How's Science Wows" show. The theme of the show was water, with emphasis on the water cycle and how water affects our daily lives and its impact on the weather.

5th and 6th class pupils went to U.L. to the Animal Magic Show which was fun and interactive with lots on hands on experience. Too hands on for some children who found themselves with snakes around their necks and rabbits on their heads. The pupils also attended a show on the science of all things that spin. This featured bizarre bicycles, golf putters and yo-yo's that always come back.

The school will be entering the Discover Primary Science Award initiative again this year. We have received the highest award, a plaque, in each of the past three years.

Bake Sale:

The school held its annual bake sale on the 26th of October this year. This was a fantastic event and was really well supported by everyone in the school community, in particular parents who baked a fantastic array of cakes, cookies and tasty treats This year €750 was raised in total. €300 was donated to the development of the Ardagh & District Astro Turf. Thanks to Tom Flavin for his super scary minion cake and to the pupils who took the time to bake and decorate some gorgeous cakes also.

Old King Cole:

On Tuesday the 11th of December West Midlands Theatre Company performed Old King Cole for the children from junior infants to fourth class. The children really enjoyed an excellent show in the local hall. Please check in with the school website for pictures.

Charity:

Team Hope held the shoebox appeal in November in the school. The school collected xxx boxes which is a fantastic achievement. A huge thank you and well done to all who organised boxes for this very worthwhile appeal.

Swimming:

Children from 1st - 6th class have completed their swimming lessons in Askeaton pool for this year. As usual the lessons were a great success. Aquatics is a central strand of the P.E. curriculum and it is important that all children attend.

Knockfierna

Third to sixth classes enjoyed a trip to Knockfierna on Monday, September 24th, under the guidance of Pat Donovan. The pupils were given the history of the area and were delighted to climb to the top and see the views.

Tree Day:

Pupils from 1st - 6th class attended Curraghchase for National Tree Day on October 4th. The children enjoyed a very informative talk on trees, in particular the different species that can be found in Curraghchase. They also learned about the lesser horseshoe bats whom have made their home in Curragh Chase House, originally home to the famous Aubrey De Vere.

Liam Mc Carthy Cup:

The school was honoured by the Liam Mc Carthy Cup on Tuesday, November 6th. There was huge excitement among pupils and staff on this unforgettable occasion.

Football/Soccer:

Well done to the 5th and 5th class girls who played the School's Football Final in Mick Neville Park on Monday, October 22nd, 2018. They did themselves and their school proud, having lost out to Adare on the day.

Cliodhna Heffernan was a successful member of the West Primary School's Larkin Shield Football team. They beat the city in the final with Cliodhna playing at half back. Well done Cliodhna!

How To Catch A Star Workshop:

The children from Juniors to 2nd class won a competition entered by Mrs. O'Callaghan and were given the opportunity to participate in a workshop run by LIT Millennium Theatre called 'How To Catch A Star'. It went down well with all the children.

Christmas Carol Service:

The children have been learning a number of tunes on the tin whistle since September. Norma xxxxxxx of Tradtime has been helping the children with their tin whistle. We are looking forward to showcasing this fantastic talent on

the Wednesday the 19th of December in the church at 7.00 p.m. As well as retelling the Christmas story the children will also sing a selection of Christmas Carols. All in the community are welcome to attend.

Supervision:

School begins each morning at 9.00 a.m. Children will be supervised from 8.45 a.m. Please do not drop children to the school before 8.45 a.m. The bus stop is now directly outside the school gate. It is currently marked by bollards but the space will be officially marked shortly. This is for the safety of children. Please do not park in front of the gate and block the bus. Thank you for your co-operation.

Absent Notes:

If your child is absent from school it is important to send a written note explaining their absence on their return. This note will be placed in your child's file. There is **no need** to ring the school on the morning of the absence. A note on the child's return will be sufficient.

Tusla:

The school is obliged to report to TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) when a pupil misses twenty days in the school year. A message is automatically sent to parents when your child misses 15 and 20 days. If you have concerns around your child's attendance please contact the school.

Enrolment:

Enrolment for next year's infants will begin in January. Please contact the office for an enrolment application form.

Healthy Eating:

The new Health Eating Policy was ratified by the Board of Management in October and is available on the school website.

First Holy and Confirmation

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday the 11th of May in St. Molua's Church, Ardagh.

Confirmation will take place on Tuesday, the 21st of May, also in St. Molua's Church, Ardagh.

Parent's Association

The Parent's association organised this year's Christmas cards featuring the artwork of all 90 children in the school. They are really special and a great memento of your child's school days. There are a still a couple of packets available to be purchased.

Twitter / Website:

The school has a twitter account we can be found on Twitter at @st_ns. We regularly tweet about the various activities and events that occur in our school. We also have a school website stmoluasns.ie that contains lots of information about the school.

First Aid Training

The staff completed First Aid Training in December. It was extremely beneficial and informative. We have devised a form which will be sent to all parents requesting you to advise us of any medical issue / condition your child might have. We would appreciate your help in completing this form.

Additional Training

In December, several staff members were trained in programmes which are highly recommended, namely 'Friends For Life' and 'Incredible Years'. The Friends For Life programme was hosted by St. Molua's and was attended by 30 teachers from the surrounding area. The aim of the programme is to help pupils develop resilience which is hugely important for personal development.

The Incredible Years Programme focusses on developing social, emotional and academic competence.

An additional staff member received training in the 'Orienteering' strand of the Gymnastics area of P.E. This will be rolled out in Springtime.

Head Lice:

Like many schools, there has been an outbreak of head lice in recent weeks in the school. Head lice can affect all children but children between 4-8 years are mainly affected. We would like to encourage parents of children in junior to second class to check their child's hair every Friday night using a fine tooth comb. If all parents of these children do this it will help greatly to reduce any outbreaks. You should only treat your child if you find moving lice during this check. We have attached a leaflet from the H.S.E. explaining how this regular

Friday night check works. We'd like to thank parents for cooperating with this measure.

Happy Christmas:

The Board of Management and staff of St. Molua's N.S. wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all back again on January the 7th at 9.00 a.m. We thank you sincerely for all your support during the year.

