

Dear Parents

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter. It is hard to believe the first term has gone by so quickly and it is Christmas again. It has been an eventful and exciting first term with lots happening in every room.

We are delighted to now be a four teacher school and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both Ms. Lowther, who is teaching 3rd & 4th class and Ms. Nallen who is covering Ms. Bourke's Maternity leave. We are at the planning stage for our new classroom and hope that this will be complete sometime in the 2020/21 school year.

We are also delighted to announce that the Bonniconlon MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) is finally open. This facility is available to the public outside of school times and all year round. There will be an official opening in Spring of next year.

Our website has now gone live and you can find us on www.bonniconlonns.ie. Here you will find information, school updates, pictures and useful links. It is a work in progress still and will be updated regularly.

Our focus academically this year is on Oral Language and problem solving skills in maths. In an age of devices it is important that we communicate effectively and develop healthy relationships with those around us. We are also looking at the way we teach and learn Irish. We are working on developing a more positive attitude towards Geailge. Everyone has a role to play and I would like to thank all parents who filled out and returned the questionnaire.

We are going for our first 'Active School Flag', second 'Green School Flag' and third 'Discover Science and Maths Award'. These are all fantastic initiatives with a huge amount of learning involved. It takes a massive effort from all members of the school to achieve these goals and we are very proud of our school and what we have achieved so far.

The parents association has been very active this year and I would like to thank the committee for all the work they put in. There has been some constructive meetings and a interesting seminar on Internet Safety. Thank you to all who attended. The fundraising carried out by the PA is invaluable to the school, it has contributed to chrome Books, BeeBots, Ceili Ukulele and the development of our website. However, the PA is more than a fundraising body and contributes to the overall education of our pupils. Every parent is a member of the PA. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month in the school at 8pm.

We are incredibly grateful to the ICA who have decided to hold their annual Christmas Caroling event as a fundraiser for the school this year. Anyone who is available on Saturday the 22nd between 1pm and 3pm is welcome and encouraged to help out. If you are a little hoarse from Christmas parties, holding a bucket will suffice. The money raised will go towards resources for pupils with special educational needs.

A special thanks goes to Mary Gilroy who prepared and organised the pupils for what was a fantastic Christmas Carol Service. Mary puts in a huge effort each year and it is greatly appreciated.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh

Principal

St. Joseph's NS Bonniconlon

Junior Room Newsletter.

-On the 2nd of September 2019 we welcomed eighteen new Junior Infants to our school. Everyone has settled in really well and have made lots of new friends.

-Barry Murphy GAA coach had a number of sessions with our class. We learned new skills and are using them now on the MUGA.

-In October we all excitedly travelled by bus to Ballina Arts Centre to see Alice in Wonderland. We really enjoyed the show .We sang along to the songs and some of the children were also called onto the stage to help Alice.

-We had a dress up day for Halloween. The entire school went for a spooky walk through the Village .

-During the Halloween break all the children were busy preparing their shoeboxes for Team Hope. The school is very proud of them

-Aistear is taking place in our classroom again this year. The children participate in a variety of themed activity stations each week. All the children are enjoying taking part.

- Ready Set Go Maths is being piloted in Infants this year. We have group lessons of practical maths and games each week.

-The Christmas Carol Service took place on the 15th of December. The Infant Room children sang Away in a Manger beautifully .The children also brought gifts for the local food appeal.

-We are very busy in the Junior Room getting ready for Christmas. The excitement is building. We are practising our songs and poems, listening to Christmas Stories and enjoying Arts and Crafts. We are delighted that all the children in Junior and Senior Infants are on the nice list.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

1st & 2nd Class

In September, seven first class pupils and seventeen second class pupils entered their classroom. Second class were reunited and all settled in very well. It was a busy first term.

Literacy Lift Off

We began the term with Literacy Lift Off and all pupils benefitted hugely from the "power hour" intensive programme of reading, phonics and writing. It gave pupils lots of opportunities to read a variety of books at their own competency, focused on word attack skills and writing.

Maths Week

Maths Week Ireland took place 12th - 20th October and 1st & 2nd class participated in a variety of maths activities. We utilised the beebots and chrome book to assist learning. We also completed an indoor and outdoor maths trail.

Maths Eyes Competition

This year 1st & 2nd class participated in the Maths Eyes Competition. During Maths Week we completed a local maths trail of Bonniclonlon and identified maths on the main street. We took photographs of the various maths (from shape, symmetry, number, pattern to capacity) and came up with a caption for our photograph.

S.T.E.M

1st & 2nd carried out a number of experiments for Science Week. This year the whole school are hoping to achieve "The Badge of Excellence Plaque" in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (S.T.E.M).

Down memory lane

1st & 2nd class presented oral reports based on their local area. They worked in pairs and examined the history on the following topics: Gala, Lux Hairdressers, St.Joseph's N.S., School Jersey, Bonniclonlon Show, Church, Cemetery, Football Pitch, Clubhouse, Garda Station, Tidy Towns and The Grove. We thoroughly it and learned lots of new facts.

Happy Christmas Everyone.

3rd & 4th Class Newsletter

- In September 3rd and 4th class entered their new classroom in the hall. Everyone has settled in very well and we had a busy September decorating our new classroom.
- Some of the boys and girls from 3rd and 4th class trained and participated in the Cross County running competition in September in Beleek. They all ran really well and enjoyed the experience
- 4th class have been learning how to play the Ukulele with Mr. O'Connor's class and they have grasped this very well and are really enjoying learning how to play a new instrument.
- 3rd and 4th class participated in Maths week in October. We completed various activities and the pupils completed a maths trail around the school grounds.
- Some of the boys and girls participated in the mini-7s competition in October in Ardnaree. They played against Attymass NS and Breaffy NS. They all played brilliantly and we lost a game and won a game.
- In November 3rd to 6th class went on a trip to the local windfarm where they were given a tour of the windfarm. They got the opportunity to see wind turbines that are in the process of being built as well as wind turbines that are complete. The pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions about the various parts of the turbines before going inside one of the completed turbines. It was a fantastic experience and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed it!
- 3rd and 4th class worked in pairs and utilised their I.T skills on the chrome books to research, type and present projects on Ancient Egypt using Book Creator. They all did a brilliant job and learned lots of new facts from each other!
- 3rd and 4th class are just after finishing 6 weeks of Literacy Lift off where they focused on reading, developing comprehension skills as well as writing. The pupils really benefitted from this and it gave them the opportunity to read a variety of texts in smaller groups.
- The boys and girls also participated in the annual Carol Service in the church on December 15th. They all performed and sang brilliantly.

Happy Christmas Everyone!

5th & 6th Class Newsletter

Welcome to the Senior Room Newsletter. It has been an exciting and eventful first term. It has flown by and we are ready for Christmas.

Ukulele

We are very lucky to have been chosen by Music Generation to get involved in a new programme called Ceili Ukulele. We each got a brand new Ukulele, which is like a small guitar with 4 strings. Our instructors name is Kief and he comes every Tuesday to teach us new chords and songs. We know about 5-6 songs now and a few Christmas ones. We are improving every week. It's Great fun.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

This year we are taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP). You will see signs and posters up throughout the school. For this programme the class comes up with a small business and product to sell on a showcase day. It is very interesting to learn what is involved in being an entrepreneur and the importance of working as a team. Our Dragons Den event is coming up soon and we will also have a visit by a local business person.

Windfarm

In November we took a trip to the local Bonniconlon Wind farm. It was a very interesting trip and great to see the turbines up close. There will be 13 turbines in all on the Bonniconlon Wind Farm. We inspected the different part of the turbine on the ground and also went inside an erected turbine. We are learning lots about renewable energy and will be taking a trip to Dublin to 'Cool Planet' in February.

This is just some of the exciting things happening in the Senior Room this year. We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Green-Schools and Water Theme



We are in year two of our work towards achieving our second Green-Schools flag for the water theme.

Water is an important resource and a sufficient supply of clean water is essential to the health of both people and the environment. 99% of the world's water cannot be used because it is either saline or is locked up in glaciers and ice sheets. Our demand for water has grown to the point that the natural water supply can no longer keep up.

The children have learned about The Water Cycle and we are all working hard on ways to conserve water and reduce our water usage per person per day in the school. Making small changes can make a big difference. Here are some simple things we can all do as part of our daily routine to help conserve water:

- ❖ Take a shorter shower and save up to 10 litres of water per minute
- ❖ Fix dripping taps or leaking toilets in your home. A tap dripping once a second wastes 45,000 litres of water a year.
- ❖ When brushing your teeth turn off the tap and save up to 6 litres of water per minute.
- ❖ Run your washing machine and dishwasher with full loads.
- ❖ Use a plug and basin in your sink.
- ❖ Keep a jug of cold water in the fridge instead of running the cold tap, which can waste 10 litres per day of water.