



November 2019 Newsletter

School Football Teams:

Well done to our boys and girls teams who competed recently in their respective school leagues. They played great games against Bruff and Kilmallock with the boys qualifying to play Kilmallock again in the final. Our boys put in a great display in the final but came up short against very strong opposition. Our boys and girls showed great commitment and dedication this year training every Tuesday after school and taking part in lunchtime football mini games every Wednesday and Thursday. Thanks to Ms. Cussen, Ms. O'Dea, Mr. Reidy and Gerard Sexton for giving their time to train and look after our teams.

We would also like to wish Cian McDonagh and Maedhb Ryan the best of luck as they have been chosen to represent their divisional team in the Sarsfield Cup and Larkin Shield competitions.

Rugby with Neilus:

All the classes have enjoyed their rugby sessions with Neilus Keogh, our rugby coach. Neilus has concentrated on the fundamental movement skills required for all sports such as running, catching and passing and the pupils have made great progress during the sessions.

Parent/Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place this year on the **20th/21st of November**. Notes confirming times and dates have been distributed to parents this week. If you cannot attend on the allocated day please contact the class teacher for alternative arrangements.

Christmas Nativity:

Pupils from **Juniors to 2nd class** will take part in a Christmas Nativity this year in the church on the **18th December**. Preparations will begin shortly and we appreciate parents support with organising costumes for the show. It promises to be a great night's entertainment. Pupils from 3rd to 6th class will take part in their own show in the community hall before the Easter holidays.

School Closure:

The school will be closed on **11th December 2019** to accommodate teacher training in the new Primary Language Curriculum as directed by the Department of Education.

Pupil Council:

The school has recently established a pupil council for pupils from 3rd to 6th class. The council will meet with the principal on a regular basis to provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to

many aspects of school life and to discuss issues relevant to our school and encourage and promote initiatives from the pupils. We held elections in these classes before the midterm break where pupils made fantastic presentations before their peers before pupils were given their chance to vote. Luke Crotty, Mary Herlihy, Laoise Kingston, Cormac Murnane, Óisín Curley, Emily Irwin, Katie Condon and Niall O'Brien will form this year's council and they will have their first official meeting this week. We wish them well as members of the first pupils council in St. Patrick's N.S.

Policy Review:

The school has recently reviewed its Healthy Eating and Homework policies and has formulated new up to date policies. These have been distributed to the Parent Association for review and are available to view in the school office. Final drafts of both policies will be made available to parents in the coming weeks.

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed without modification by the Board of Management at a meeting on 30/09/2019. This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

The teaching staff in the school have also reviewed and updated the whole school plans for the teaching of History and Geography in recent months. Staff will begin a review of our whole school Science plan in the coming weeks.

Power Hour:

2nd class have just finished their 'Power Hour' reading initiative before the midterm break. All the pupils made fantastic progress during the small group literacy intervention and we would like to thank parents for their support. Reading with your child on a regular basis is a fantastic way to help your child and we encourage parents of all classes to do it. 1st/2nd class will now begin their 'Power Hour' block until Christmas.

Boiler Upgrade:

The school has recently upgraded its boiler system in the school following a successful emergency works application. The new system is more efficient and will help to reduce school costs in the long term.

Parking:

Local Gardaí have asked that parents refrain from parking at the side of the road across from the school when collecting their children at 3 o'clock. People parking here are causing an obstruction to oncoming traffic and are making it more difficult for cars to drive out safely from our own carpark. Please be mindful of children crossing our own carpark when parking there in the evenings. We ask that people do not park in the space provided for the bus.

Parent Association:

As you may be aware our Parents Council held their AGM recently in the school. Rosemary Deegan is our chairperson for the coming year, Sandra Moloney is the secretary and Joanne Daly is the treasurer. The PA has organised Christmas Cards designed by the pupils themselves to be sold in the run up to Christmas. Samples have been sent home today and orders can be placed through the school over the next week.. The Parent Association will also organise a raffle for Christmas Hampers on the week before the Christmas holidays. The PA would like to thank all parents and members of the local community for their support this year.

Christmas Annuals:

Pupils wishing to purchase Folens Christmas Annuals can do so for €2.50 before Wednesday 13th November. Pupils who have already ordered their educate.ie annuals will receive them in December.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal:

Thanks to everyone who supported the recent Christmas Shoebox appeal. Shoeboxes can still be delivered to the school by Monday 11th of November.

Silver Circle:

The school really appreciates everyone in the school and local community who has supported our Silver Circle Draw. It has been a fantastic success again this year. The first draw took place on Wednesday 6th November- with the following winners. €150 Liam Kinsgton, €80 Peter Cussen, €50 Billy Kelleher, €50 Cian O’Connell, €50 Áine Frawley. Well done to the winners. Over the coming weeks results of the draw will posted on our school Twitter account and in the Vale Star under the Bruree notes.

Board of Management:

I would like to thank all members of our previous Board (2015-2019) for their support and dedication over the term of the last Board and in particular outgoing members Donna Finn, Tom Harrold, Micheal Lyons, Jean Hannon and Siobhán Potter. In recent weeks a new Board has been established and we wish them well in their work over the next four years. Members of the new Board are as follows:

Board Member	Role
Síle De Cléir	Chairperson
Ger Kelleher	Secretary
Canon Shire	Patrons Nominee
Fiona Walsh	Teachers Nominee
Cathal O’Regan	Parents Nominee
Joanna Kelleher	Parents Nominee
Pauline O’Connell	Community Nominee
Mike Barron	Community Nominee

Buddy Benches:

The school recently purchased colourful ‘Buddy Benches’ for our two yards. These were purchased with a very kind donation from our local Credit Union in Kilmallock. Pupils can use these benches for a chat during lunch and to further promote a sense of kindness, togetherness and caring for others amongst our pupils.