

Coolfancy National School

Newsletter

25th October, 2017.



Dear Parent/Guardian,

As this is our first Newsletter of the school year we have quite a bit of information to catch up on so please do take the time to read through this carefully and take note of any additional dates which were not included in the original school calendar.

Firstly let me start by welcoming back Miss Collins to the 1st & 2nd classroom. We are delighted to have her back among us as we move forward into what is going to be an exceptionally busy year for all classrooms. Unfortunately we are still without our Principal, Mrs. O'Donnell, due to illness and we continue to send her our best wishes and look forward to her returning to us as soon as she is back to full health. We would also like to take this time to express our deepest condolences to Mrs O'Donnell and her extended family on the sudden passing of her brother, Fr. Fintan Morris in July. We were truly saddened by this dreadful news.

Parent/Teacher Meetings: This year's Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on the 15th & 16th November. A schedule listing each parent's date and time will issue during our first week back after the mid-term break.

School Christmas Concert: Wednesday, 20th December @ 1.00pm and Thursday, 21st December @ 6.30pm.

GAA Coaching: We currently have a County Board coach in every Wednesday doing some GAA coaching and drills with all classes. This is a County Board initiative and is limited to a certain number of weeks only. This is not part of the club/school links programme which we are hoping will re-start shortly when we will be welcoming Brendan Behan back. We would like to thank both Bill Troy, Robert McHugh and Hugh Kenny who have all been here over the last 6 weeks.

Music Generation: Our Music Generation programme is back up and running with the same two tutors we had last year, Leslie Dowdall, (music foundation) and Tony Norton, (Choral). The children have become so accustomed to this instruction that they have really hit the ground running and have mastered quite a few new songs and musical disciplines already. Also, the Music Generation office in Wicklow notified us that they posted a clip from the 'Sing In' in which we participated in June 2017 on Social Media. If you get a chance please do look it up as there are quite a few clips of our pupils and they sound amazing. The 'Sing In' was a huge success and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Healthy Lunches: I just want to give everyone a brief reminder about the importance of healthy lunches everyday.

Wicklow Mountains National Park:

Every four years we have the opportunity of having the Outreach Team from Wicklow Mountains National Park visit our school for a full day. Throughout the day they will take each of the four classrooms and carry out experiments and give talks on all the various habitats that exist within the National Park. We will be studying Irish Habitats, Mammals, Birds, Bats, Bugs, Wildflowers, Trees, Biodiversity. They will be here on Thursday, 16th November and we are very much looking forward to it.

Scheduled Family Masses: Attached is the schedule of family masses which Fr. Chris has asked me to circulate. As you will see they are commencing on Sat. Oct. 28th and we sincerely hope that all the children with their families can attend. 2018 will be a very important year for the pupils of both 5th & 6th as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation as are the pupils from 2nd class also receiving the Sacrament of First Communion. Preparation for both Sacraments is of course carried out in School but full participation in Mass (especially the Family Masses) helps greatly with this preparation.

Coláiste Bhríde: On Monday, 23rd October the pupils from 5th & 6th class welcomed Miss Gahan, Deputy Principal, for a 30 minute talk about the successes of Coláiste Bhríde and all it has to offer. Miss Gahan was accompanied by two of our past pupils also and it was great to see how well everyone is doing in their Post-Primary School.

Book Rental/School Fee/Music Gen: All outstanding amounts are now due and must be brought up to date by Friday, 27th October, 2017 at the very latest. To those who have paid so promptly we sincerely thank you.

Dress-Up Day: Please don't forget that Friday is our Halloween Costume Day and if each child who participates could bring in €2 then the money raised will go towards our Annual Christmas celebrations and visitor!!

Christy Gregan Cup: Mr. Nolan has started an Inter-School GAA Competition in which ourselves and three neighbouring schools are participating. There will be home and away matches giving every school 2 games and then a Cup final and a Shield Final at the end. We sincerely thank Christy Gregan for putting his name to this Cup and we hope that this Competition will take off and become an Annual event with more schools participating each year. The importance of team participation for all children can't be emphasised enough and we are so grateful to Mr. Nolan for spear heading this and I'm certain plenty of fun and enjoyment will be had by everyone. Our first match kicks off this Thursday in Carnew GAA pitch @ 1.00pm so if anyone has an hour to spare please come along and support.

Reminder: Please sign Homework Diaries at the end of every night.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Halloween and I hope you all enjoy your midterm break.

Dates For Your Diary (not previously notified on School Calendar)

- **In-Service Day, Monday, 29th January, 2018.**
- **Confirmation- 29th April, 2018 @ 2.00pm**
- **First Communion – 26th May, 2018 @ 11.00am**