

Coolfancy National School

Newsletter

22nd October, 2018.



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 Mr Peter Wadding and Miss Eithne Ginty who are both here in substitute teaching roles for Mrs O'Donnell and Miss Kinsella. Ms Kinsella is back on staff as our new 3rd/4th class teacher but has started her maternity leave as she awaits the arrival of her new baby. 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 are also without Mrs O'Toole who is now well into her retirement and enjoying every second of it and Ms Hynes has taken up a permanent teaching post in another school and we wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

Voting Day: School will be closed on Friday, 26th October, 2018 for Voting Day and for all of the following week for mid-term break. School re-opens on Monday 5th November.

Parent/Teacher Meetings: This year's Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on the 14th & 15th 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, 19th December @ 1.00pm and Thursday, 20th December @ 6.30pm.

Board Of Management: On behalf of both the Board and the Parent Body we say a huge thank you to the newly formed Parent's Association for running a very successful fundraiser in June before the school closed for holidays. We very much look forward to a very productive working relationship for the coming school year and it's wonderful to see the Parent's Association re-formed and active once again. We sincerely hope that a good strong turnout for the AGM on the 6th November will provide a platform on which both the School and the Parent's Association can build on.

Music Generation: Our Music Generation programme is back up and running with the same tutor we had last year. Leslie Dowdall, our Tutor, is now covering both Music Foundation and Choral instruction. 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.

Healthy Lunches: I just want to give everyone a brief reminder about the importance of healthy lunches every day. The discipline of a healthy diet and lifestyle is something that we try to instil into each and every child and your co-operation with our healthy lunch initiative is something that we really appreciate.

Wicklow Mountains National Park:

Every two years we have the opportunity of visiting the National Park for National Tree Day but unfortunately this year's visit was cancelled in September due to a Red Weather Warning. The visits will be re-scheduled for the Spring and we look forward to receiving our invitation early in the New Year.

Team Hope – Christmas Shoebox Appeal

We will be participating once again in the Annual Shoe box appeal and leaflets are attached. If anyone wants extra leaflets we have plenty of spares in the School Office. All filled shoeboxes must be back here with us by Friday, 9th November at the very latest so that they can all be collected together.

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. 27th and we sincerely hope that all the children with their families can attend. Preparation for the Sacraments is of course carried out in School with input from the class teacher, parent/guardians and Fr. Chris but full participation in Mass (especially the Family Masses) helps greatly with this preparation.

Coláiste Bhríde: On Tuesday, 9th 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 Thursday, 25th October, 2018 at the very latest. To those who have paid so promptly we sincerely thank you.

Annual Infant Room Prayer Service: The infant room will hold their Annual Prayer Service on **Thursday, 25th October, at 1.15pm** to celebrate pupils starting school for the first time and the end of Autumn. The parents of the infant pupils are invited to attend and there will be a cup of tea in the classroom afterwards.

Dress-Up Day: Please don't forget that this **Thursday** is our Halloween Costume Day and we sincerely thank our Parent's Association for looking after this fundraiser. Don't forget – every child who participates should bring in €2 on the day.

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)

- **Friday, 25th October, 2018. Voting Day.**
- **In-Service Day for new Primary Language Curriculum - Date not yet confirmed but we expect it to be early in 2019. We will confirm this with you all as soon as we know ourselves.**
- **First Holy Communion - Sat. 18th May @ 11.00am**