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**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

January 2017 was a very exciting and productive month for our school. You may have noticed some activity ongoing around the site of our new school garden that we have been actively fundraising for since September. The ground has been levelled and prepared and the polytunnel has been erected so now the fun begins!

We are looking for parents and guardians to volunteer to become members of our new SCHOOL GARDEN COMMITTEE. If you have green fingers or an interest in gardening and can spare a couple of hours a month please contact Antonia and a meeting will be arranged in the next couple of weeks to start planning some gardening projects.

Thanks to Hire2K Dunshaughlin for lending us a digger free of charge to carry out the ground work. As spring approaches, many of you may be planning clear outs and we would ask you to hold onto any of the following items that you may no longer have a need for as we will be asking for donations very soon – items such, watering cans, rakes, shovels, , bamboo sticks, cable ties, twine, etc, will come in very handy.

**WORLD BOOK DAY and BOOK FAIR**

**World Book Day** will take place on Thursday 2nd March 2017. Once again this year we encourage all children to dress up as their favourite character from a book. For some ideas, check out: <http://www.bookaid.org/support-us/world-book-day/world-book-day-dress-up/>

**Book Fair:** Scholastic Book Fair will take place from Monday 6th March to Friday the 10th March. The school receives 60% back in books from all sales at the Book Fair. Last year we received €1500 worth of books for our school.

**Book Fair opening times:**

Monday 6th March: 1.30pm-3pm

Tues 7th-Friday 10th March: Morning 8:30am-9am Evening 1.30pm-3pm

C**ompetition:**

This year we are running a very exciting competition to coincide with World Book Day and our Book Fair.

**Junior Infants–1st Class:** Children to draw or colour a picture of their favourite book/book character.

**2nd Class – 4th Class:** Children can write a book review of their favourite book or design a new book cover for their favourite book.

**5th Class – 6th Class:** Children can write a short story of their choice or create a piece of art based on their favourite book.

**Rules:** All competition entries should be completed at home. Please ensure that your child’s name and class are on the entry. Entries to be left in Brian’s room before the **28th February 2017.**

**Prizes:**

There will be prizes for each age category, including a David Walliams Book Pack (7 books), Tom Gate Book Pack (9 books), Farmyard Tales Pack (20 books), Guinness Book of Records 2017, 5 x €8 vouchers to spend at the Book Fair and many more prizes.

Best of Luck!

**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS**

We are delighted to welcome back Joe Andrews from Picture Perfect Photography to take our school photographs again this year. The dates have been scheduled as follows:

**Junior Infants to 1st Class Monday 27th March**

**2nd to 6th Class Tuesday 28th March**

**Coisceim Wednesday 29th March**

Again we will need parent volunteers to assist with making the days run smoothly so please let Antonia or a member of the PTA know if you are available to help.

**SKYDIVE – LEIM FOR COISCEIM**

A number of our staff members and relatives of children in our Special Needs Unit will be doing a parachute jump to raise money for an outdoor play area for the 30 children who attend Coisceim on Sunday 19th March 2017. Check out our Facebook page for a link to the Go Fund Me page where you can make a donation and share on your own social media.

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**Reading Volunteers**

Pauline would like to thank all the parents that volunteered to listen to reading in Term 1. Everyone had an enjoyable experience. We are now looking for volunteers to help with Reading and Maths in Term 2. There will be a meeting for anyone interested in the upstairs kitchen on Friday 10th of February at 9.00. Contact Pauline for further information.

**Credit Union Quiz**

Well done to the 2 teams that participated in the Drogheda Credit Union Quiz on Friday 27th January. They did really well!

**Coastguard Visit**

Joe and Seamus from Drogheda Coastguard paid a visit to the school last week and all children all children from Junior Infants up to 6th classes gained an insight into their work and the importance of safety in and near our waterways. Have a look at the photographs on our website and Facebook page.

**Swimming Lessons**

4th and 5th classes will be commencing swimming lessons in Aura Leisure Centre next week which covers the Aquatic strand of the PE Curriculum.

After school activities in Basketball, Tennis and Gymnastics also continue for all age groups.

**Green Schools Water Forum**

Members of the Green Schools Committee were invited to a Water Forum in the Conyngham Arms Hotel, Slane in January and would like to share some water savings tips:

* Spend less time in the shower (time it for 4 minutes )
* Don’t leave the tap running when brushing your teeth
* Try to brush your teeth in two minutes
* Keep a jug of water in the fridge
* Make sure when cooking at home you are choosing the correct pan for cooking

**Reminder** – School is closed for **February mid term break** from Monday 20th to Friday 24th February inclusive. School is also closed on **Friday 3rd March** to facilitate a training day for all teachers in the new primary language curriculum.



**Thursday 16th February 2017**

 Junior Infants to 1st Class - 5.30pm-6.30pm

2nd to 6th Class - 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Tickets €3 (pay at the door)

 Children are encouraged to dress in red or pink if they wish!



**Parent volunteers are needed to supervise so if you can spare some time on Thursday evening then please give your name and number to Antonia in the office and somebody from the PTA will be in touch with you. Children will not be permitted to leave the school without an adult so please ensure that your child is collected promptly by a parent or guardian.**