**November Circular 2019**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back everyone, we hope you all had a lovely mid-term break.

**Parents Association Fundraisers**

**Halloween Disco:** Thank you to all who supported the recent Halloween Monster Mash Disco. It was a great success. A very special word of thanks to our Parents Association who organised this event, we sincerely appreciate this support.

**Christmas Cards:** The PA are organising our very own Christmas Cards both as one of the key fundraising activities of the year and to allow the children share their individual artwork when families are sending Christmas greetings to their nearest and dearest. Further details to follow.

**First Holy Communion** All 2nd class parents/guardians are invited to attend an information evening in the Castlecourt Hotel on Wednesday 20th November at 7pm in the Ashleigh Suite.

**Shoebox Collection** A huge thank you to our whole school community as over 120 shoeboxes were donated to Team Hope Ireland shoebox appeal this year. This is a very worthy cause and an opportunity to help children who are living in less fortunate circumstances. A very special thank you to Ms Helen O’Toole who coordinated this appeal.

**Christmas event for School Choir** Festive Harmony is back in the Town Hall Theatre Westport on Friday 13th December at 8pm. Mezzo Soprano Anne Marie Gibbons will be joined on the night by our school choir for a varied programme of song and dance.

**Storyteller** Niall de Búrca, one of Ireland’s finest traditional storytellers will visit our school on Wednesday 20th November.

**Maths Week** In celebration of Maths Week 2019, we had a fun-filled, busy, interactive week. From Junior Infants right through to 6th class, using our Maths Eyes in our everyday life, was the theme of our week. We had lots of opportunity all week to work and learn collaboratively and practise our group work skills. A huge thank you to all the teachers and pupils for getting involved with Maths trails, puzzles and games. A very special thank you to Ms Lally for organising and coordinating a wonderful week of exploration and fun.

**Literacy Lift-Off** We are delighted to announce that we have set up “Literacy Lift-Off” in our school this year. Literacy Lift-Off is an intervention that gives children lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually lift the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing.

This programme has proved to be very successful and is a huge undertaking with regards to resources, school personnel and organisation.

**Sport** Rugby and Hurling/Camogie coaching has started this term for 1st, 2nd and 3rd & 4th class students respectively.

**Enrolment 2020-2021** Places in our Junior Infant classes for September 2020 will be offered next February.

**Mindful of Safety** Please ensure that your child wears their Hi Vis Vests (labelled with their name) when walking and cycling to and from school every day. We urge all students to ensure that they have a proper light on the back and front of their bike.

**Jacket/Coats** On cold/wet days we ask you to ensure that your child wears a coat to school. We have two break times during the school day when the children go to the yard (weather permitting). Please ensure your child’s name is on their coat.

**Importance of Reading** The most important homework that children receive each evening is their reading. This is also the homework that pupils most often ‘forget’ to do. Reading is an essential tool for all pupils. Please try to make time to listen to your child read and encourage them to practise their reading daily. Please read to your children regularly, whether it is a book you enjoyed yourself as a child, a story the children are reading at school or a book they have from the library. Remember, a child is never too old to be read to!

**Sport** Well done to our senior boys and girls football mini 7’s team who both reached the final of the West Mayo competition. Our senior girl’s team are through to the next round and will play St Peter’s National School Snugboro in the quarter final on Thursday 21st November.

**Readathon** This Autumn the children from first to sixth class were invited to take part in the MS Readathon 2019. Launched initially by Roald Dahl this is the 30th year of the initiative. By participating in this project we are encouraging the children to foster and develop a life-long love of reading while at the same time raising awareness and much needed funds for a very worthy charity …. MS Ireland. As a reward for doing so we are invited to keep 10% of the money raised to spend on the exploration of reading and storytelling in our own school.

The children rose to this challenge with great enthusiasm. Hundreds of books were read across the school raising over €3000 for the charity. A huge thank you to all the participants and those whose sponsored them. As the project draws to a close we encourage the children to follow the advice of the great Roald Dahl and to continue “ To read and read and then to read some more ……. “

Le gach dea ghuí,

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Kevin Munnelly, Principal