



26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope that you are keeping safe and well as we near the Halloween Break.

**New Starting/Finishing Times:** Our new starting time of 8.50 a.m. (with doors open for pupils at 8.40 a.m.) and finishing time of 1.30 p.m. (Infants) and 2.30 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes) is working well for all concerned. Please ensure that pupils do not come into the school yard before 8.40 a.m. as school insurance does not apply before this time.

**Induction Meeting:** The Induction Meeting for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Junior Infants pupils took place on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Parent-Teacher Meetings:** Formal Parent/Teacher Meetings have been scheduled for Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October after school hours for this school year. Please ensure that you avail of the time provided by your child's teacher to attend a Parent/Teacher Meeting. If during the course of the school year you have a concern or a matter to discuss regarding your child's progress, you should contact the school and make an appointment.

#### **Literacy and Numeracy during First Term:**

- We have reviewed and updated our School Improvement Plans for Literacy and Numeracy.
- The Lift Off to Literacy project is taking place in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class for six weeks.
- Literacy Intervention Project – one to one reading with a Support Teacher for each of the Senior Infant classes on a 10 week rotational basis. Currently the teacher is working with Ms. Parr's class.
- Reading Recovery Project – this year we are participating in this project.
- We have made a significant investment in the New PM Guided Reading Packs 2022. This investment in PM Readers will mean that we have 1,080 books (Levels 1-30) as well as a PM Benchmark kit.
- Electronic PM Readers will become available from November onwards in Senior Infants – 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes/ After the Halloween Break, your child's teacher will provide an access code for you.
- Reading Buddies Project will run in selected classes from November to June.
- Maths Week was held from 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October and classes participated in a selection of online events such as Maths Quizzes, the Data Scientist, Maths Trails around the School and School Grounds.
- Junior and Senior Infant pupils attended an event In Loughrea Library with Jane Landy (author of Gringer the Whinger). Jane showed the pupils the process of writing, illustrating and publishing a book. The pupils got to design their own book cover for "Gringer the Whinger". Jane read this story to the pupils and signed a book for the class.
- AISTEAR Programme for Infant Classes. This programme is available on a timetabled basis to Junior and Senior Infant classes in the old Volleyball Hall.

**Physical Education Curriculum:** During this term our Physical Education Curriculum was made more varied by the following activities.

- **Cross Country Running:** During September pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part in Cross Country Running practices. Following trials a Junior Team (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Classes) and a Senior Team (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes) was selected to represent the school at the Co. Galway Primary Cross Country Event. Our Junior Team came second in the County and finished seventh in Connacht Cross Country. This was a wonderful achievement – well done girls!

A special thank you to the parents who coached the Junior Team after school and who brought them to the Connacht Finals which were held in Co. Longford last Saturday. A big thank you to Colm Walsh Physio who kindly sponsored the new running vests for the occasion.

- **Camogie:** Camogie coaching took place on Friday mornings for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. The school team took part in the I.N.T.O Mini 7's Camogie Tournament in September. The team put in a great performance winning all of their games and were unlucky to lose out in the final.
- **Swimming Classes:** Third and Fourth class pupils participated in a series of eight swimming lessons every Wednesday during September and October in Ballinasloe Swimming Pool.

**Road Safety Authority Workshops:** Pupils in 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> classes took part in interactive Road Safety Workshops which were held in October. Pupils learned about road safety, awareness of dangers and taking care of themselves.

**Pottery Workshops – Loughrea Library:** Donna Gilligan (Heritage in Schools) facilitated a workshop that included History and Archaeology as well as pottery making for the 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils in Ms. Ruane and Ms. Buckley's classes.

**School Policies:** The recently updated School Policy on Assessment is attached to this letter. The Policy provides information on assessment in our school.

### **Art & Craft Activities:**

- Naomh Breandáin Credit Union Art Competition
- Design A-Card Christmas Template
- Halloween themed Art and Craft activities are taking part in all classes this week
- Folens Halloween Colouring Competition.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October:** will be a **FUN HALLOWEEN PARTY** at school in St Ita's. All pupils are encouraged to dress up in their favourite Halloween costume. There will be a cake sale on the day. Parents are invited to bake and send in cakes/buns. There will be a chance to come and buy and have a coffee between 9:30 and 11:00. Children will need money to play games, enter competitions and buy bun/cakes. (Please see email sent out on 20<sup>th</sup> October).

**Halloween Break:** We close on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> for our Halloween Break and re-open on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November. Wishing you all a safe and peaceful Halloween.

Yours sincerely,

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Mr. P. Coyle, Principal.