##

# St. Colman’s N.S., Mucklagh, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

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Dear Parent / Guardian – Welcome Back and a Happy New Year to all. It has been a busy year for staff, pupils and parents of St. Colmans. We would like to bring you up to date on the activities in our School since September:-

14th September - 4th Class **Coffee Morning** aid of Offaly Hospice. They raised €774.00

15th September - Beginning of Year School **Mass**.

 2nd October - **Zeeko** attended the school for a full day training with all classes and teachers.

 5th October- 6th Class pupils attended a **Taster Day** in Killina Secondary School.

18th October - Boys Football Team won the **Cumann na mBunscol** Final in O’Connor Park.

22nd October - **1st Holy Communion** pupils had their Enrolment Cermony.

24th/25th October - 3rd and 4th Class boys attended a **Football Blitz** in the Faithful Fields.

25th October - 5th Class pupils were brought on a nature walk to **Knockbarren Forest,** Kinnitty, under the guidance of John Scully, an experienced leader. On the same day our 3rd class pupils had a visit from the **Fire Safety Officers** from Tullamore Fire Brigade Station.

Our students dressed up for Halloween raising over €213 for **Self Help Gorta**.

5th & 6th Class Boys and girls have been given the opportunity to play **hurling** for one hour every Friday since the 6th of November with Jackie Hennessy.

10th November visit from the **R.S.P.C.A** who talked to the children about the animals in their care and our students contributed food towards the upkeep of these animals

The children from 6th Class attended **Tullamore College during Science Week.** They were given the opportunity to see an array of experiments demonstrated by the TY students.

Our **Christmas Card** design was a great success co-ordinated by Ciara Molloy. Funds will go towards the development of IT in our School.

Our **annual Carol singing** in the Bridge Centre raised much needed funds for the Vincent de Paul Society. Children also donated food for those in need. This **Vincent de Paul Food Collection** took place before Christmas. A cheque was presented to Mr. Bryan at our end of term Christmas Mass.

On the 12th of December the children of St. Colmans held a very successful **Gala Concert** in the Church. This was a fantastic night with entertainment by the school choir, Dave Lawlor, Simon Casey, Les Beaux Chanteurs under the guidance of Majella Killeen our music teacher, Clodagh Meehan, Claire Connors. Many thanks to the Parents Association who helped in the organisation of this event.

The children from 1st and 2nd class sang **Christmas Carols** for the residents of St. Carthages Nursing Home on the 13th December.

Since Christmas children from Junior – 3rd Class enjoyed five weeks of **Gymnastics** under the tuition of Emer Feehan while 4th-6th Class enjoyed **Zumba** classes led by Dorinda Cahill. Thanks to the Parents Association who subsidised these two extra activities for the students.

**Ongoing Events**

As you are aware we are working towards our **Active Flag** with all sorts of exercise and activities organised by Claire McIntyre. The children have brought home their water bottles and we appreciate parents helping their children to get involved. At present 3rd and 4th Class are taking part in FAI soccer coaching with Gary Feery and Brendan Galvin. The other classes are taking part in Athletics with our coach Conor McNamee for the next five weeks. As part of the Active Flag and **ACE** programme the children will be given the opportunity to try out different foods which aims to promote health for our children in all its aspects, physically, mentally, diet, emotionally. With the support of parents we have revised our Healthy Eating Plan. Olivia Holton, a nutritionist/dietician has provided information for every family and spoken to all the children in the school about the importance of a healthy diet. We will have a dental nurse come and demonstrate dental hygiene.

**Up-Coming Events & Activities:-**

Green Schools are very busy working towards another flag under the guidance and co-ordination of Ms. McKane and Ms. Bourke.

Our 5th Class pupils led by Ms. Clare Connors are taking part in the **Challenge to Change Competition**. This will take place later in the school year.

**Friendship Week** will take place from the 5th March 2018. During this week the children will engage in a host of fun-filled activities which focus on positive relationships, being kind and caring and ensuring everyone is included.

**Active Week** will take place during the week commencing 16th to 20th of April 2018.

**Green Day** will take place on Thursday 15th March 2018.

**Easter Dress Up Day** – Children are encouraged to create & dress up their own Easter Bonnet! – 22nd March 2018

**World Book Day** will take place on 1st March 2018. Children can dress up in their favourite character from their favourite book.

**Enrolment** – 14th of February was our closing date for Enrolments for Junior Infants for school year September 2018-2019.

**Ploughing Championship** – The school will be closed for the week of the Ploughing Championship – 18th, 19th, 20th. September 2018

**End of Year Mass** will take place on Tuesday, 26th of June 2018. School will close at 12 noon for the summer holidays.

Michelle Brady one of the staff members has recently left our school to take up a new position in another school. We wish Mrs. Brady the very best of luck.

**Reminders**

**School hours** are from 9:20am to 3:00pm, with Junior and Senior Infants finishing at 2:00pm. Punctuality is very important. ***We strongly recommend that children are not dropped off excessively early, as the Board of Management cannot accept responsibility for children’s care & supervision outside school hours.*** Children should be in their lines when the bell goes at 9:20am.

**Standardised Tests –** Please note that **Drumcondra tests** will be administered from 14th May to the 18th of May (*inclusive)* **only and SIGMA T** will take place from 5th of June to the 13th of June 2018 (inclusive**)** Therefore it is very important that your **child is present** for these tests, as they cannot be administered on an individual basis.

**Parking –** In the interest of your child’s safety please do not park in the set down area, or the bus set down area and please **do not** move the bollards.

**Headlice** – Please check your child’s hair regularly and inform the school, in confidence, if there is an occurrence.

### We spent €2,600 on additional sets of English Reading Books since September, the cost of which has been funded by the €15 book fee on your child’s Book List. This enables your child to access a wide variety of texts during the year (as you are aware no English Reading books were included for purchase by parents on the Book List).

In the interest of Health & Safety for your children access to the School is only through the Front Door at all times.

Regards,

The Staff