January 2018 Newsletter.

St. Conleth’s National School, Derrinturn.

 

**Safety Concerns**

A serious safety issue has been highlighted for the Board of Management of St. Conleth’s National School. Parents are using Trinity Crescent to park their cars when dropping off and collecting their children. Most school days find the entrances to Trinity Crescent blocked by cars mounted on the footpaths on both sides of the roadway. Driveways are regularly blocked and elderly residents find it difficult to manoeuvre around the many vehicles. Many of the cars are left unattended and drivers cannot be called upon to move if necessary or indeed, in the case of an emergency. The residents of the area are concerned.

We have often mentioned the parking on pavements and particularly the hazard it presents when visibility of the crossing is impeded. It is so easy for a small child to wander out unseen from between cars. We therefore ask you to be considerate of others when parking near the school. Carpooling is an option. Park and Stride is encouraged by our Green Schools Committee, as is cycling and scooting with the correct safety gear and hi-vis clothing. We have created more spaces outside the school by introducing the staff car park, but we encourage parents to be mindful of safety issues. We need to consider the safety, not only of our children, but of the wider community.

We have also mentioned the staff car park. However, we still see parents and children using this as a pedestrian entrance. This is really dangerous! There have been a couple of incidents involving cars and children and we are lucky that there has not been a serious accident yet. We take this opportunity to remind you that there are two pedestrian entrances to and exits from the school. These are the small blue gate in front of the henhouse and the middle gate. The wide blue gates are for staff cars and buses only. We have a wonderful school and we know that nobody wants to see these hazardous conditions continue.

We hope that on reading this, you may be able to make your small contribution towards resolving these issues and we appreciate any help that your thoughtful, considerate actions might give. As you arrive at school, please be mindful of others and respect the safety of all. We hope, that if we all try together, this situation might improve. Please help us to improve the situation. Thank you.

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**H.S.E. Advice**

Just before we came back to school after Christmas, media reported much advice on flu outbreaks. The HSE and three paediatric hospitals advised parents to keep children at home if they had flu-like symptoms.The Department of Education endorsed this advice.

The staff of St. Conleth’s National School have been very aware of this year’s flu epidemic and for this reason we are publishing the HSE advice.



Flu usually presents with rapid onset of fever (temperature of 38ºC/100ºF or over) and cough or sore throat. Other symptoms can include runny or stuffy nose, limb or joint pain, headache, vomiting or diarrhoea. Prevent spread of flu by doing the following at all times: 1. Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Hand drying facilities at school are single-use disposable sheets. 2. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of (get rid of) tissues immediately as household rubbish (a regular dustbin is fine) in the normal way. If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands. 3. Do not share wind instruments. Avoid sharing pencils, crayons, pens, toys/objects where possible and, if sharing them, clean them before passing them between students. 4. If you have symptoms of flu, you should not attend school when you have symptoms. 5. If you have suspected flu or flu, you should remain at home until you are well enough to return usually for 5 to 7 days from when symptoms began. Do not return to school if you have a fever i.e. temperature of 38ºC/100ºF or over

Rest assured that the school will make contact with you if your chid is sick. **Please make sure that the contact numbers you have submitted are correct and up to date.**

**TG4 Stardom?**

Ireland’s Irish Language T.V. channel are searching for people to take part in a brand new TV show. If you and your brother or sister, father, mother, granny has a talent, now is your chance to make your family a household name. Irish families have made their mark across the world, whether it’s the pop music of the Corrs or the sean-nós dancing of the Cunninghams. Now it’s time to find the next family that will entertain the nation. This brand new talent show for TG4 will search the country high and low for a new famous performing family. All entries must be made from immediate family members, ie, grandparents / parents / children. The act must consist of at least 2 two people. There are no restrictions on what their act could be. They could be singers, dancers, musicians, or storytellers. Performers of all ages can apply and Irish is beneficial, but not essential.

If you and your family would like to audition please get in touch.

Contact: Lucinda@adareproductions.ie or rob@adareproductions.ie or phone 01 2843877

**Catholic Schools Week 2018**

Every year we celebrate Catholic Schools Week at the end of January and the beginning of February. This year the special week starts on Sunday January 28th and runs until February 4th. Catholic Schools Week 2018 will run in the same format as previous years and it will incorporate St. Brigid’s Day and St. Blaise’s Day. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2018 is ‘Families of Faith.’ Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the World Meeting of Families 2018. In August, families and others from all over the world will gather in Dublin to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. This event presents a special opportunity for school families to celebrate the fact that parents are the primary educators of their children and the vital role that Catholic schools play in assisting parents. In partnership with the World Meeting of Families 2018 the Catholic Schools Week Steering Committee has developed a catechetical programme for schools. The theme of the programme is ‘Catholic Schools – Called to be a Family of Families.’ Catholic schools are invited to reflect on and to celebrate the relationship that exists between home and school and parish through four catechetical moments. These moments feature during Catholic Schools Week at school. Moment 1: Families of Hope Moment 2: Families of Faith Moment 3: Families of Love Moment 4: Families of Joy Bishop Denis Nulty launched Catholic Schools Week in Carlow last week. He invited all schools to prepare a petition box. In Carlow, Bishop Nulty welcomed representatives from almost all of the schools in the diocese. Mrs. Kirk and Ms. Dempsey attended on behalf of St. Conleth’s National School. Bishop Nulty blessed our petition box and asked us to return it to school. On January 26th the Petition Box was presented to the children at assembly. The box will remain on the Sacred Space table inside the front door. Envelopes will be provided and people are welcome to submit their petitions which will be presented at the World Meeting of Families next August. Bishop Nulty also presented large copies of the icon for the Meeting of Families to the school. This beautiful reproduction will also be on display in our Sacred Space and a second copy will reside in the Oratory. The children were delighted with the Petition Box and the Icon and they look forward to learning the official song for the World Meeting of Families. During assembly they listened to the prayer and a copy of this is printed for you all to say with your families. **OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018** God, our Father, We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, One family, in the Spirit of your love.
Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, Especially those for whom we now pray: *[We pause and remember family members and others by name].* Increase our faith, Strengthen our hope, Keep us safe in your love, Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord, **Amen** Mary, mother and guide, pray for us. Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us. Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us. Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.





28th January – 4th February: Catholic Schools Week

Sunday 4th February: Peace Proms

Sunday 11th February: Ceremony of Light

15th & 16th February Mid-term Break

Thursday 22nd February: Confessions for Confirmation class

Thursday 28th February: 6th Class Retreat

Thursday 15th March: First Confession

**The School Website**

The school website is now online. The website is still in its infancy, but important information is available. We will be able to keep our new website more current and we can upload information very quickly. Please visit [**www.stconlethsns.weebly.com**](http://www.stconlethsns.weebly.com)**.** Please type this into the url box. This will bring you to the site quicker than using a search engine. We hope to keep you up to date with our new website. If you have any suggestions for the site, please let us know.

  

CONTACT DETAILS

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