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Dear Parents

Issue: 04

November 8th, 2024

Important Dates to note:

- Parent Teacher Meetings:
 - Campus A – Wed Nov 20th & Thurs Nov 21st – **school finishes at 2pm on both days**
 - Campus B – Wed Nov 27th & Thurs Nov 28th – **school finishes at 2pm on both days**
- **Friday November 29th: SCHOOL closed (both Campus A & B) to facilitate voting in the General Election**
- Friday December 20th: **school closes at 12 noon** for Christmas holidays.
- Monday January 6th: school re-opens
- Monday January 20th: **School closed for staff training on new Primary Maths Curriculum**

Staffing:

- Ms Alani is commencing her maternity leave next Monday (November 11th). We wish her the very best of luck. Megan Curran, who has been the anchor sub for this room over the past few weeks, will teach this class for the remainder of the school year. We are delighted to welcome her to our teaching staff.
- Mr Connolly's is on leave for the next few weeks. During this period of absence, Mrs Cronin is the Acting Principal and Mr Duffy is the Acting Deputy Principal

Parent / Teacher Meetings:

This year we are using the Aladdin app to help us to schedule appointment times for the upcoming Parent Teacher meetings. Thank you to all parents who have engaged with this process and have already booked their preferred meeting times. If you have not done so already please log in to the Aladdin app and select your meeting time. If you are having any technical issues, please contact the office.

Team Hope Shoe Boxes:

- Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible.
- Since 2010, Team Hope have delivered over 2.5 million Shoebox gifts to Vulnerable Children across the world
- Flyers with details have been given to most classes. You can also find information about the appeal on www.teamhope.ie
- Thanks to all the pupils who have dropped in boxes already.
- The boxes will be collected on Monday / Tuesday of next week

Catholic School:

- In November we always take the opportunity to remember the Holy Souls. Our wonderful SNA team have created a beautiful **“Remembrance Tree”** which is currently hanging in the school hall. All children have been given the opportunity to write the name of a loved one who has passed away on a piece of paper shaped like a leaf. They will colour & decorate the leaf. All the leaves will be hung on the remembrance tree. This is a small gesture for us all to remember our loved ones who have passed away.
- **Presentation Day:** Thursday November 21st – we will be having a whole school mass on this day, to celebrate the feast of Nano Nagle. (*If you do not wish your child to attend, please email the school. Arrangements will be made to accommodate your request.*)
- **First Confession:** Thursday March 13th at 11am in the school (Campus A)
- **Confirmation:** Saturday May 17th at 2.30pm in Athenry church
- **First Communion:** Saturday May 24th at 2.30pm in Athenry church

Halloween:

- Thank you to all the pupils / parents who supported our Non-Uniform day before the Halloween break. Between both campus A & campus B the school raised a total of €600 for Athenry Playground Committee.



Special Achievements:

- Congratulations to the pupils from Mrs Callanan’s 2nd class, Miss Murphy’s 2nd class, Miss Hyland’s 4th class and Mrs Greally’s 5th class who won prizes in the **Athenry Castle Halloween** drawing competition!

Attendance:

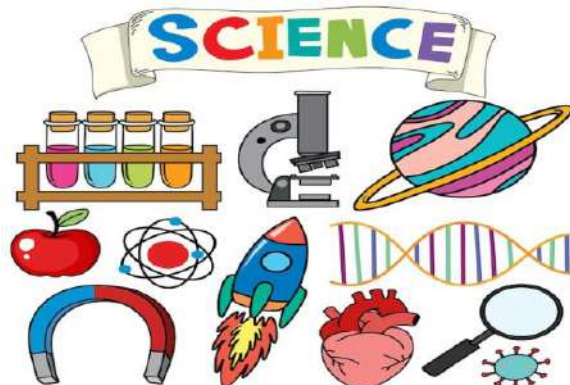
- Congratulations to Mrs Monsons’s 4th class who had the best attendance for the month of October!

Gaelic Football:

- On Thursday two teams made up of boys & girls from 3rd & 4th classes took part in a Gaelic Football blitz at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence in Began, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.
- Thank you to Mr Duffy & Mrs Feeney for organising the event.

Science Week:

- Next week is Science week and it will be celebrated in all classes in both locations in various different ways.
- A number of classes will be travelling to Brigit’s Garden in Rosscahill, Co. Galway to take part in the Primary School workshops: Miss Hyland’s 4th, Mrs Greally’s, Mr McAndrew’s & Mr Burke’s 5th class.
- Pupils are asked to contribute €5 towards the cost of the buses. This can be paid via Aladdin.



Peace Proms:

- Pupils in Mrs Greally's 5th class, Mr Duffy's 6th class and Mrs Morrissey's 6th class will be attending a Peace Proms rehearsal workshop in Leisureland on Friday November 15th.
- Pupils are asked to contribute €5 towards the cost of the bus to this event. This can be paid via Aladdin.

Athenry Christmas Lights:

- On Friday November 22nd, the Athenry Christmas lights will be switched on.
- The band will not be in a position to perform at the annual ceremony to turn on the Athenry Christmas Lights this year. The children will however be involved in the ceremony in a different way.
- We anticipate that children from 4th up to 6th classes will sing Christmas carols for the event.
- More specific details will follow next week.



Vaccines for Junior & Senior Infants:

- Information packs & consent forms for the MMR and 4 in 1 vaccines have been given to all the children in Junior Infants this week
- Please read the information leaflet and return the completed consent form to the school at your earliest convenience.
- A community medical doctor & a school public health nurse will visit the school on Wednesday November 27th to vaccinate the children in Junior Infants with a 2nd dose of the MMR vaccine and the "4 in 1" vaccine. This applies only to those children in Junior Infants whose parents have returned the completed consent form.

Birthday Invitation:



It is school policy that invitations to birthday parties are not distributed at school out of respect for the non-receiver. You can join a "Class list" on Aladdin, by changing your security settings – this allows you to see contact details for parents of other children in your child's class, provided you have given permission for your details to be shared also.

Christmas:



- Christmas is only around the corner! On this topic we'd appreciate it if the *magic of the season* is preserved for all the children in the school. Staff will certainly play their part. It is a special time in particular for primary school children. We'd like to ensure it remains that way. We thank you for playing your part

Community Links:

- *Athenry Christmas Lights committee* will host a Table Quiz in Dans on Saturday November 9th. There will be finger food and a raffle on the night. The cost is €40 for a table of 4.
- *Basketball training for U10 girls and U11 Boys*. It takes place in Newcastle Community centre and Clarin College Athenry. For more information in relation to training & registration: eastgalwayceltics@gmail.com or via Facebook: @ eastgalwayceltics.
- The *Athenry Playground Committee* will be holding a Christmas movie afternoon in the Community Hall on Sunday 8th December at 3pm. Support would be greatly appreciated to help fund a new piece of equipment and ensure the upkeep of this vital community resource. Please also visit their website www.athenryplayground.ie, social media accounts and consider signing up for their newsletter for further updates.

Cathriona Cronin

Acting Principal