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Dear Parents

Issue: 05

December 5th, 2024

Important Dates to note:

- Tuesday December 17th – Christmas Concert in Athenry church at 11:15
- 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**

Attendance:

- Congratulations to Mrs Morrissey's 6th class who had the best attendance for the month of November!

Athenry Christmas Lights:



- Heartfelt congratulations to all the pupils from 4th, 5th & 6th classes who performed in the choir for the ceremony to turn on the Athenry Town Christmas lights!
- We were so proud of them all – they performed & behaved so well!
- Sincere thanks also to all the staff who helped to co-ordinate the logistics of getting approx. 200 pupils to and from the market square safely on the night.

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.
- The staff and pupils of the school invite you to our very first *Christmas Concert* on Tuesday December 17th in Athenry Church
 - The event will start at 11.15am and should be finished by 12:00
 - The nativity will be acted out with music throughout

- Pupils from Junior Infants to 3rd are wearing costumes; class teachers will communicate with their own parents with regards to what is needed here.
- Pupils from 4th to 6th are being asked to wear Christmas Jumpers
- If anyone has Christmas costumes they no longer need and would be prepared to donate to the school, we would be very happy to receive them
- All pupils and staff will be visiting the church over the next two weeks for rehearsals. Pupils who will not be taking part in the Nativity will be supervised in school during this time. Please alert your child's class teacher if your child is not participating in our Christmas Concert.
- As all staff will be involved with this production on the 17th, we will not be in a position to supervise pupils who do not have consent to take part. Parents are asked to kindly collect pupils early on the day of the concert or alternatively parents can chose to keep their children at home on that day, as preparation for the concert will commence first thing in the morning.
- We look forward to seeing you there.



- **Santa** usually visits the school in the days before we get our school holidays. This year, he hopes to make an appearance on Wednesday December 18th
- Children from Junior Infants up to 2nd class will receive a **Christmas annual** courtesy of the Parents Council this year. These are fun & educational Christmas-themed activity books which will be given to the children in December. *(Thanks to the parents council for funding the cost of the annuals).*
- The school will hold a **Christmas Jumper** fundraiser on Thursday December 19th in aid of the Athenry Christmas lights committee. This will be a non-uniform day. The children may come to school wearing a Christmas jumper, hat etc., if they wish. We ask for a donation of €2 for this privilege, which will be given to the Athenry Christmas Lights committee, to assist them in making our town look so festive every Christmas.
- The school will close at 12 noon on Friday December 20th for the **Christmas holidays** and will re-open on Monday January 6th at 8.45am (with class starting @ 8.50am sharp)

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We are delighted to announce ***Parents' Council*** are organising a ***Christmas Raffle***. Money raised will go towards buying chromebooks for the senior classes on campus A. The raffle will take place on Thursday, December 19th. The **Parents' Council would very much appreciate if parents would like to donate items or vouchers for the raffle, which can be forwarded to the office.** We would very much appreciate your support in making this a successful event. Please see details below:

- Each family will receive one numbered card
- Each line on the card is €2 each and each full card is worth €20
- Cards must be returned whether filled or not
- When card is complete, please send card and money into the secretary
- Families can request additional cards if so desired
- We are encouraging children to ask family and close neighbours for sponsorship as their safety is of utmost importance

All cards and money should be returned before Tuesday, December 17th, whether they are complete or not.

Board of Management:

- The process to appoint the Board of Management for Athenry Primary School will commence after the Christmas holidays. The patron is currently working towards electing a chairperson.

Elemental Dance:

- Athenry Music School have been visiting campus B teaching the children songs that they will perform in the NATIONAL CONCERT HALL in Dublin on Feb 8th as part of the National Festival of Youth Orchestras
- Students from 5 local Athenry schools are participating in the Voices of Athenry project choir which will perform “Elemental Dance” alongside Athenry Youth Orchestra, featuring 5 songs that explore the feelings about the environment and the legacy of past generations. The project promotes discussions on sustainability, individuality and community spirit while enhancing singing as a life skill and mental wellbeing
- During the 11th and 12th of December, Athenry Music School have the opportunity to document this marvellous project working with film maker Simon Boyle. Please contact Ann or Eithne in the school office if you would prefer that your child does **NOT** feature in this documentary.
- For all those signing up for the National Concert Hall performance your child must be able to attend the following rehearsals in Clarin College:
 - Saturday Jan 4th & Sunday Jan 5th 11.30-5pm
 - Thursdays: Jan 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th & Feb 6th from 6.30-7.30pm
- There will be two exciting performances to celebrate the students’ hard work:
 - Sunday Feb 8th: National Concert Hall Dublin
 - Friday Mar 21st: Raheen Wood Hotel, Athenry
- Dress Codes: Black long-sleeved Athenry Music School Choir shirts (€20)
- National Concert Hall Trip Details:
 - Transport: Athenry Music School will arrange transportation for all performers. (Contribution €20). Departure time To Be Confirmed. Departure from Kenny Park Car Park.
 - Concert Schedule: Rehearsals and lunch will precede the concert, which starts at 1pm
 - Lunch: Please send your child with lunch, snacks & water. They should also bring money for an early dinner stop on the way back
 - Return Arrival: To Be Confirmed

Birthday Invitations:



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.

Raincoats & suitable footwear:

- Please ensure your child brings a **coat** to school and wears **suitable footwear** every day. The children will be going outside for break every day so they will need to be suitably dressed for the weather.
- Now that we are in the Winter months, children are encouraged to wear layers under their uniform, to ensure they are warm.
- The heating in the school is on all day also.

Sixth Class Hoodies:

- All the 6th class pupils will be getting a hoodie as a souvenir of their final year in Athenry Primary School.

- The pupils have chosen the colour / design and have all put their signature on a template, which has been transferred onto the hoodies.
- Payment for the hoodies can be made via Aladdin, once they have arrived.

Community Links:

- ***Emerald Knights Chess Club***: every Monday in Athenry Community Hall, starting November 18th.
 - Age 7 – 12: 7-8pm
 - Youth: 12-17: 8-9.30pm
 - Contact: dodo.moreira@gmail.com or 087 7208271
- ***Ultra Flex Acro Dance Class***: in District Health & Fitness
 - Age: 5-7: Monday 4.30-5.30pm
 - Age: 8-10: Monday 5.30-6.30pm
 - Age:11+: Tuesday 6-7pm
 - Contact: Kim: 087 7788489 or book online: www.ultraflexdance.ie

Cathriona Cronin

Acting Principal