

COGAR!

Friday 07th February 2020

School Starts At 9, Be On Time!

Assembly

We had two very special visitors at our assembly this morning.

Declan Bonnar (Donegal Team Manager) and Michael Murphy (Team Captain) popped in to see the children.

The children had some really interesting questions for them both and Michael showed us how to do a 'hand pass'.

We then taught Michael how to do our dance from "Dance Monkey"!

Thank you to Ray (who is Declan's friend) for organising the visit for us and best of luck to the Donegal team for their game on Sunday. We will all be cheering you on.

Fun Friday

Fun Friday for next week is 'Class Choice'.

After School Clubs

Thank you to everyone who registered for after school clubs last night.

There are limited spaces available in the following clubs:

- Infant Art club - Wednesdays 1.40pm - 2.40pm
- Olympic Handball - Wednesday 2.40pm - 3.40pm (1st - 6th only)
- GAA Club - Monday 2.40pm - 3.40pm (1st - 6th only)

All clubs will begin next week and will run for 6 weeks. Clubs will not run on the week beginning 16th March.

Home School community Liaison (HSCL)

Happy Friday everyone! Just a few announcements this week:

Cheque presentation:

A big thank you to Tori, Amina and Olivier who came with us today to present our cheques to Pieta House and LK Day Centre today. Both organisations were delighted to receive a cheque for €660.35 from the 6th class bake sale. Thank you to everyone who supported us!

Read DL:

We are very excited to be taking part in Read DL and we were at the official launch in Central Library last night. Thank you to Emma, Aisling and Aishani who read their favourite poem from the wonderful book 'Hopscotch in the Sky'. 6th class will be working on this initiative in class for the next 6 weeks. If you want to get involved there will be copies of the book in the library. Check out our website <https://readdonegal.com/>

If you have any queries or questions you can contact me at hscl@letterkennyetns.ie
Lisa ☺

Learn Together

Hi everyone,

As mentioned before are hoping to create boxes of artefacts for each world religion. Over the next few weeks I will put a list of artefacts that we are looking to gather for a specific religion in Cogar. All donations would be greatly appreciated. This week we will focus on **Buddhism**.

If you have any of the following artefacts/objects and would like to donate it/them to the school please give them to Edwina in the office or send your child down to my room (JI beside Lisa's)

- Meditation C.D
 - Mallah Beads
 - Prayer Flags
 - Prayer Mat
 - Buddha Wall Hanging
 - Buddha Statue
 - Prayer Wheel
 - Singing Bowl
 - Alms Bowl
 - Offering Bowls
 - Butter Lamp
 - Tibetan Incense Sticks and Holder
 - Gong
- (any Buddhist artefact)

I am overwhelmed by the artefacts that people have contributed already. Thank you!

Finally, I am hoping to set up a 'Learn Together' group with a representative from each Faith/non Faith group to help organise visits for 6th class to places of worship, to organise visits in the school during festivals, for talks, advice etc. Basically a group of people who represent our school profile and make sure everyone in our school community is represented within our Learn Together Curriculum.

Thank you so much,

Mairéad

Child Protection and Safeguarding

All of the teachers at our school are mandated persons. This means that they all have a responsibility to report any concerns that they feel may be a child protection issue. This is a responsibility that is taken very seriously and the Board of Management has a responsibility to ensure that the correct procedures are in place.

Áine is the Designated Liaison person in our school. This means that any child protection issues must be reported directly to her by staff. She then seeks advice from TUSLA who will tell Áine how to proceed. If Áine is not available Máire is the Deputy Designated Liaison person.

All schools are required to have a Child Safeguarding policy which includes a risk assessment. Our policy is displayed in the front lobby of the school and is also on the school website. This policy is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

As adults we all have a responsibility to protect children and to do our utmost to ensure their safety. Even if this means having uncomfortable conversations!

If you would like more information please have a look at the policy that is available on the website.

Message from the Board of Management

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At our Board of Management meeting, held on Tuesday 4th February, Áine updated the Board on her most recent meeting with the Department of Education regarding the on-going building work at the school.

The Department have communicated to us that they are in the process of appointing a construction firm to undertake the necessary remedial works in all of the affected schools. At this point the suggested timeline is that the works will continue over the course of the next school year, 2020/2021. This news is disappointing for our school community as we had hoped that necessary works would have been completed at a much quicker pace.

The Board of Management acknowledges that the current situation is challenging for all involved and appreciates the support shown by the school community. This support is particularly important to the school staff who are ensuring that the educational experiences of the pupils are not impacted on during this period.

The Board of Management are also communicating their frustration and disappointment to the Department of Education

and will continue to demand that all works be completed as quickly as possible.

We will keep you updated with further developments as they arise.

Kind Regards,

Board of Management

Thank you Mags and Sarah

Two of our parents, Mags and Sarah, have been coming into school for weeks to help Catriona cover new books. They have been so kind to all of the children that they meet, so easy to work with and even brought their own scissors!

The job of covering books is not a glamorous one and is time consuming but so important in order to keep the books in good condition.

Thank you so much Mags and Sarah!

We're lucky to have you.