

COGAR!

Friday 23rd September 2016

School Starts At 9, Be On Time!

Assembly

Áine holds an assembly in the school every Friday morning for all the children. The pupils from Junior infants - 2nd Class come to the first assembly with the pupils from 3rd - 6th class attending the second assembly.

These assemblies provide an important opportunity for Áine and the children to meet to talk about the week and any issues that have arisen. It is also used to further develop our Learn Together programme and to discuss topical issues.

This morning we discussed a motto for the school year ahead. We decided on the following statements:

"Work Hard, Be Kind" and "Do the right thing"

We agreed that a little kindness goes a long way so we are all going to look for opportunities to be kinder to each other.

The children in the Senior Assembly also took part in an initiative to mark International Peace Day called Beads for Peace. International Peace Day was on Wednesday 21st September and was celebrated around the world.

The children reflected on the topic of peace and were asked to hold a bead and to put a good intention/thought into the bead. They were then collected in and have been posted to Galway where they will be strung into necklaces, along with other beads from all over the country called "beads of peace". This initiative took place in 38 countries across the globe.

Fun Friday

Fun Friday for next week is pyjama day.

School Hoodies

School hoodies are once again available providing we have sufficient numbers. Order forms are available from Edwina. A minimum of 10 is needed before an order can be placed and each hoodie is €15.

Home School community Liaison (HSCL)

Happy Friday everyone! Just a little note to let you know home visits will be starting on Monday! I'm looking forward to meeting you all! ☺

Reminder about Parents Plus Programme:

It is a programme to support families to communicate effectively, build satisfying relationships and overcome emotional and behavioural problems.

Early years programme is for 1-5 years old.

It starts on the 3rd of October in the Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny. It is run by Catherine Kelly (074 9121596) and Donna Jacob (086 7251779).

Children's programme is for 6-11 years old. It starts on the 6th of October in Letterkenny. It is run by Ciara Harvey (086 4102725) and Gary Glennon (086 237917).

If you have any queries regarding specific courses or concerns regarding school policies or attendance you can contact me at

hscl@letterkennyetns.ie

Lisa ☺

Contratulations Máire

Congratulations to Máire and Seamus on the birth of their new baby boy, Hugh, on Thursday morning. We wish them all well as they start family life together.

If Your Child Misses School...?

Please remember to send an absence note/letter with your child when they return to school after being absent. We appreciate phone messages explaining why the child is missing school but we still need a written note after receiving such a call.

Team Teaching and Learning Support

Team Teaching is the phrase used to describe the way lessons are delivered to the children in our school. This means that 2/3 teachers might be involved in a Literacy or Numeracy hour in your child's class. Team teaching means that each teacher can be responsible for a much smaller group of children allowing them to plan activities suited to their individual needs.

Sometimes (because a class of 30 children all reading at the same time can be noisy!) a teacher might take a group of children to a resource room to complete the activity. **All pupils in our school are involved in the team teaching model of support.**

Team teaching is different to **Learning support**. Learning support will be offered to your child if we feel that they are experiencing some difficulty with their learning. If we feel that your child would benefit from Learning Support you will receive a letter/phone call from the school to discuss this with you directly. We need your consent to begin learning support with your child and you will be asked to sign a form. If your child is offered learning support it may be for a short period or over the course of a school year depending on your child's needs. Learning support is usually delivered in small groups.

Please feel free to contact Áine if you have any further questions regarding team teaching or learning support.

Class Meetings

Each year the class teachers at the school organise meetings to allow parents to get an overview of what the children will be learning in school each year. This is also an opportunity to meet the class teacher and to learn about the ways in which you can support your child. Each

meeting will last approximately 30 minutes and the timetable for the meetings is as follows:

6th Class - Monday 3rd October @ 2pm
5th Class - Tuesday 4th October @ 2pm
4th Class - Wednesday 5th October @ 2pm
3rd Class - Thursday 6th October @2pm
2nd Class - Monday 10th October @2pm
1st Class - Tuesday 11th October @2pm
Senior Infants - Wednesday 12th October @1pm
Junior Infants - Thursday 13th October @1pm

Attendance at these meetings is very important and appreciated by the staff and the children.