



December 2013 Newsletter



Invitations:

Parents are invited to come to Cill Mhuire church on Friday 13th at 11.15am for a celebration of the nativity which will start at 11.30am.

We are also anticipating a special visitor on Thursday December 19th at 11.15am in the schools halls. This is always a lovely celebration organized by the Parents Council. Parents and family members are welcome to attend.



Christmas holidays:

The School is closing on Friday 20th December at 12.00 and will reopen at 8.55am on Tuesday 7th January 2014.

Kris Kindle:

As part of the Spirit of Christmas we are asking parents to support our Kris Kindle for Christmas Cards. Each teacher will give each child the name of one other child in the class. Your child can then make or give a Christmas Card to one child. Money saved buying Christmas cards and presents could be given to charity.

Christmas presents for staff:

Everyone likes to be appreciated. There is a great tradition of showing appreciation to teachers in the school. Instead of giving teachers a present we are actively encouraging parents to make a donation to a local charity. Alternatively parents are asked to send a coin to school on Wednesday December 18th. We will donate the coins collected to the local conference of St. Vincent de Paul and to the Bothar appeal run by Trocaire. Children are welcome to make a card for teacher. Money saved here could also be given to charity.



Witches Walk:

The final figure raised for the Witches Walk was €4572. Great credit is due to all who contributed so generously. We really need the help and the money will be spent carefully.

Volunteers:

The latest round of applications for Garda vetting were posted at the end of November. This will now happen twice each year for the new volunteers as part of the child protection policy. We are looking to get just 2 or 3 more volunteer readers – even if it's for a 6 week session we'll be delighted. Some rooms are in need of reading back up. Would any grandparents be interested? We have three already and they love it ! It could be your new year's resolution!!

Board of Management:

The Board of Management had it's monthly meeting in November. The next meeting is on January 7th 2014. We have three new members James Crudden replaces John Comerford as one of the community representatives; Michelle McGreal is the new mothers' representative and Thomas Whelan is the new fathers' representative on the Board of management. Eileen Hall ; and Fr. Ruairi O' Domhnaill continue as patron's representatives; Gerry Burns is the other community representative; Bairbre Elwood is the teachers' representative and Bryan O' Reilly serves as the Principal.

John Comerford spent time handing over the accounts to James Crudden who is in the process of examining them so that he is fully familiar with all the details. All Board of Management monies are managed through a single system which is transparent and open to audit if necessary.

Junior Infant applications:

If you have not already applied please go to the Parish Centre to fill in an application form between now and December 20th 2013. We anticipate that we may have a cut off date again this year and it is important to give parents adequate notice so that they can make provision for the 2014/15 school year. The applications committee will work to have offers made to pupils by the end of February 2014.

Communications:

The number of newsletters which customarily were issued on a monthly basis to parents is being reduced this year from monthly to quarterly. Communication with parents via text message is being increased this year as the cost of texts have been dramatically reduced and are proving to be a more effective way of communicating with parents.

Appointments:

Teachers and children are trying get on with the work in class. Too many interruptions do not help this. Children should be dropped at their classroom door and should go into the class themselves.

If you have a **serious matter** that is causing you concern about your child, please **write a note to seek an appointment**. What you might think will only take the proverbial 'two minutes' might be just one of several such interruptions in one morning. Teachers can deal with your concern properly when they are expecting you. It also helps the teacher to plan so that class work is not interrupted unnecessarily.

Parent teacher meetings:

Over 95% of parents have met with their child's class teacher. We are grateful to parents for making a special effort to come to the school to meet with the teacher. This is a valuable communication opportunity and the children love it when Mum or Dad come to school to see teacher. Many thanks to all. If you have not managed to speak with teacher we will be in contact over the coming weeks.

