



Scoil Mhuire, Clontibret

Tullybuck, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan.
Roll No. 18539A Eircode H18 XN29

Tel: (047) 80729 Fax: (047) 80044 Email: scoilmhuireclontibret@gmail.com

10th December 2021

December Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Christmas Dress Up Day



All pupils and staff are invited to wear something “*Christmassy*” on Friday 17th December, whether that be a Christmas hat, Christmas t-shirt, Christmas jumper, Christmas hairband or even some tinsel in your hair.

Pupils and staff may even enjoy making or creating something fun and festive to wear to add to the fun and cheer.



Please feel free to send in a donation on the day which will go towards The Children’s Health Foundation, Crumlin Hospital and the local St. Vincent de Paul.

So let’s get creating..... and have some fun!

Christmas Cards & Gifts

Due to the current circumstances there will be no swapping of Christmas Cards in school again this year. Please do not send Christmas Cards in with your child. We will do our best to make Christmas in school as wonderful and enjoyable as possible doing other things in other ways and having fun.

We also ask that parents do not send gifts in for Staff Members this Christmas. We know that many of you like to express your thanks at Christmas Time and we really appreciate and acknowledge your sentiments and gratitude.

Parents Association

Unfortunately, Santa will be unable to visit us again this year. The Parents Association committee is organising selection boxes / jelly sweets to be distributed on the day of the holidays. I know the children will really enjoy the treat.

Building Development

I am delighted to inform you that additional funding to complete the playground, fencing, drainage and painting of the exterior of the school has been sanctioned by the Department of Education. These works will also include a direct access to the astro-turf from the school grounds. We are planning that this work will commence in March / April, weather permitting.

It will be a fine job when completed and we will see years of planning coming to fruition. We are so very fortunate as a school to have such a wonderful facility.

Reading & Literacy

As always, we are encouraging reading for pleasure with all children and no better time than at Christmas time. Hopefully Santa will leave some books in the Christmas Stockings again this year.

Please find attached some tips and some possible useful ideas to use at home.

Policies Reviewed

Please note that the First Aid Policy and the Intimate Care Policy have been reviewed and updated by the Staff and the Board of Management. We will be sending you further details regarding the Intimate Care Policy in the New Year.

School Closure

School will close on **Wednesday 22nd December at 12:30** and will re-open on Thursday 6th January.

Covid – 19

The school inspector visited the school on Thursday 2nd Dec to conduct a “Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling” inspection. These inspection visits are designed to advise and support on creating a safe learning and working environment for all in relation to Covid-19. The report of this inspection will be published on the Department of Education’s website in due course.

Finally, sincere thanks to you all for your support and cooperation during this very difficult time for pupils, parents and staff.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Elizabeth Moorehead

Tips to Encourage Reading

Infants to 1 st Class	2 nd to 4 th Class	5 th to 6 th Class
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read to your child as often as you can. 2. Talk about books/characters/plots. 3. Enrol your child in the local library. 4. Provide a good role model by reading yourself/other family members. 5. Keep audio CD's of familiar stories to play in the car. 6. Vary the type of books read stories/poems/information 7. Accept your child's efforts with praise. 8. Concentrate on what he/she got right. 9. Make reading together enjoyable. 10. Take part in school based initiatives like 'shared Reading' or 'paired reading' when Covid restrictions allow us. 11. First class pupils and upwards. Take an interest in your child's accelerated reader account and see how they are progressing. 12. Sight word/sound snap 13. Draw (and/or) write little stories 14. I spy with initial letter sounds 15. Sight Word Games such as these listed on website document. 16. Patience-Pair games using high frequency words 17. Collaborative Reading 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to read to your child every day. 2. Read some of the books your child enjoys so you can discuss it with him/her. 3. Encourage your child to read to younger brothers/sisters. 4. Ensure that your child knows that you value and enjoy reading yourself. 5. Make sure there is a wide variety of reading material in your home- newspapers, magazines, information, cookery books etc. 6. Enrol and encourage your child to visit the local library once a week.... 7. Discuss favourite authors. 8. Encourage your child to read articles/headlines in newspapers. 9. Encourage your child to guess unknown words. 10. Praise your child's efforts. 11. Take an interest in your child's accelerated reader account and see how they are progressing. 12. Build a Book 13. For younger children picture representation the story. 14. Ask simple questions to encourage good comprehension skills. 15. Ask for the child's opinion of the stage or characters in the story. 16. Change the ending of the story collaborative reading. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage your child to visit the local library as often as possible 2. Recognise and praise your child's efforts in reading. 3. Ensure your child has access to a wide range of reading material, newspapers, magazines, guides etc. 4. Take an interest in different children's authors. 5. Discuss ideas and points of view proposed by newspaper articles etc. 6. Provide a well-lit study/reading area. 7. Ensure that you value and enjoy reading yourself. 8. Allow your child to choose his/her own reading material. 9. Encourage your child to read for information- timetables/weather forecast/menus 10. Encourage your child to try and guess unknown words. 11. Good writing tips & book recommendations on podcasts like "We Love Books" by RTE Junior 12. Family Book Club- parents read some book and discuss. 13. Dictionary- work together to look up meanings. 14. Encourage your child to read for 30 minutes daily.