

Scoil Mhuire, Clontibret

Tullybuck, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan.
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4th October 2021

October Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, well done to all our pupils on their first month back at school. The children have been super, have settled in well to school and are continuing to adhere to all practices we have in place to reduce the risk of the transmission of Covid-19.

Sincere thanks to you the parents for your co-operation and support.

Change to the Time Class Starts and Finishes from Monday 1st November 2021

As and from Monday 1st November 2021 the following changes of school times will be implemented:

- The school gates will continue to be opened at **8:50**.
- Class will begin at **9:10** instead of 9:20, ten minutes earlier.
- Class will finish at **13:50** instead of 14:00 for pupils in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, Cairde 1 & Cairde 2 (some pupils), ten minutes earlier.
- Class will finish at **14:50** instead of 15:00 for pupils in First Class to Sixth Class, Cairde 2 (some pupils) & Cairde 3, ten minutes earlier.

Reason for this Change:

- With the lifting of the restrictions from the 22nd October, the Board of Management has decided that we can now revert to the provision of 20 minutes supervision before school starts as was the case pre-Covid instead of the half hour which has been in place for the last year.
- The half hour supervision time was provided for last September in an effort to minimise the congregating of pupils and parents.
- Prior to Covid-19, supervision of pupils did not begin until 9:00 with class starting at 9:20. However, from last September, we have provided supervision from 8:50 and this earlier opening seems to suit the majority of parents as very few pupils are arriving after 9:10.
- It has been decided to continue with the earlier opening time of 8:50 but class will begin ten minutes earlier at 9:10 and therefore end ten minutes earlier at 13:50 / 14:50 as appropriate.

The Board of Management thanks the Staff for their willingness to provide for this lengthened supervision time which meant that we did not have to go down the route of a staggered opening time which many schools were forced into.

Clontibret Breakfast Club and After Schools and all Bus Service Providers have been informed of this change.

Teaching & Learning

As we have settled back in to school, we are only too aware of the impact school closure has had on teaching and learning over the past two years. As a school we have identified the following as areas for great emphasis and attention.

Mathematics:

- Understanding and recall of Number Facts
- Understanding and use of Maths language
- Problem Solving – Methodologies & Understanding

Literacy:

- Reading & Comprehension
- Vocabulary Development

Gaelige

- Gaeilge Neamhfhoirimiúil – Conversational Irish

SPHE – Social Personal & Health Education

- Stay Safe
- Well Being & Resilience
- Anti – Bullying

We need your support in recognising that the Learning and Reading Homework is as important as the written homework. Tables, Spellings Maths Facts and Reading are the basic foundation blocks for all other learning. We are planning to introduce a number of initiatives with in the school to promote and encourage reading and we will keep you informed of this.

Confirmation

Confirmation for last year's Sixth Class will be celebrated on Friday evening @ 7:30pm in St. Mary's Church. This will entail the Rite of Confirmation only.

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be celebrated for the pupils in Third Class on Wednesday 20th October @ 6pm in St. Mary's Church.

Green Schools

We are delighted to announce that we have we have received our 5th Flag, the Biodiversity Flag.

The awarding ceremony will be held remotely on October the 7th at 11am.

The Green School Committee will gather to participate in the ceremony.

Congratulations to all involved and in particular to the Pupils on the Green Schools Committee and Mrs. Quinn.

Dressing Up Day

As Mid Term and Hallowe'en approaches at the end of the month, we are inviting the pupils to dress up as any character or as they would for Hallowe'en on Friday 22nd October.

We ask parents to be creative and to use what you have already at home.

This is NOT to be an extra expense on anybody! Just a bit of fun to lift the "Spirits".

We look forward to your continued co-operation and support.

Yours respectfully,
Elizabeth Moorehead,
Principal