



Scoil Mhuire, Clontibret

Tullybuck, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan. Roll No. 18539A

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19th December 2022

Christmas Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

School Closure

School will close on **Wednesday 21st December at 12 noon** and will re-open on **Thursday 5th January**.
The school buses are available to collect the pupils @ 12 noon.

Scoil Mhuire Christmas Carol Service

Sincere thanks and gratitude for all your kind donations and contributions to the nominated charity of Crumlin Children's Hospital and to the local fundraising for painting of St. Mary's Church. Funds gathered so far are in the excess of €1640. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Santa & Christmas Dress Up Day

Just a reminder that we are expecting the arrival of Santa around 9.30am on **Tuesday 20th December**. We are all so looking forward to his visit. All pupils and staff are invited to wear something "*Christmassy*" on Tuesday 20th December to welcome our very important visitor.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Matthew McMahon, Cairde 3, who came second in the Credit Union Poster Competition at chapter level. Well done Matthew!

Congratulations to Michaela Sweeney, 4th class, who has been nominated for the Family Carer of the Year Awards 2022 in recognition for her outstanding care provided to loved ones. Well done Michaela!

Congratulations to Emma McGuigan, 3rd Class, who donated her beautiful hair to the LauraLynn charity and raised much needed funds for Ireland's Children's Hospice. Well done Emma!

Congratulations to the 2nd Class pupils who have won the junior category for County Monaghan in the 'Someone Like Me' competition! 'Someone Like Me' is a competition which aims to promote diversity and inclusion among primary school children. It provides an opportunity for the children to discuss and learn about these areas, and then express what they have learned in a creative way.

The 2nd Class pupils worked together to create a poem which describes how each and every person in their class is unique. They then each put their handprint around the poem, again showcasing how each pupil is unique as the handprints are all different shapes, sizes and colours!

Congratulations also to the 3rd Class pupils in Miss Brennan's room, who also entered the competition in the senior category. 3rd Class worked together to design a poster with the slogan 'Diversity is a fact. Inclusion is an act.'

Well done everyone! A great learning opportunity and a fantastic achievement!



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 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.

GAA Coach

The GAA Coach, Eamon Hughes, will be with us from Tuesday 10th January until Tuesday 14th February. Eamon is planning that the first three weeks will be dedicated to football skills and the second three weeks will be dedicated to hurling skills. Each pupil will require a gumshield for the football skills beginning on 10th January.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Staff, the Board of Management and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all most sincerely for your ongoing support and cooperation during the year.

I wish you all every blessing for a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. May the Spirit of Christmas bring you and your family much joy, love and happiness and may we all look forward with a renewed hope and faith for the New Year ahead.

Nollaig Shona faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!!

Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Moorehead
Príomhoide

Tips to Encourage Reading

Infants to 1 st Class	2 nd to 4 th Class	5 th to 6 th Class
<p>1. Read to your child as often as you can.</p> <p>2. Talk about books/characters/plots.</p> <p>3. Enrol your child in the local library.</p> <p>4. Provide a good role model by reading yourself/other family members.</p> <p>5. Keep audio CD's of familiar stories to play in the car.</p> <p>6. Vary the type of books read stories/poems/information</p> <p>7. Accept your child's efforts with praise.</p> <p>8. Concentrate on what he/she got right.</p> <p>9. Make reading together enjoyable.</p> <p>10. Take part in school based initiatives like 'shared Reading' or 'paired reading' when Covid restrictions allow us.</p> <p>11. First class pupils and upwards. Take an interest in your child's accelerated reader account and see how they are progressing.</p> <p>12. Sight word/sound snap</p> <p>13. Draw (and/or) write little stories</p> <p>14. I spy with initial letter sounds</p> <p>15. Sight Word Games such as these listed on website document.</p> <p>16. Patience-Pair games using high frequency words</p> <p>17. Collaborative Reading</p>	<p>1. Continue to read to your child every day.</p> <p>2. Read some of the books your child enjoys so you can discuss it with him/her.</p> <p>3. Encourage your child to read to younger brothers/sisters.</p> <p>4. Ensure that your child knows that you value and enjoy reading yourself.</p> <p>5. Make sure there is a wide variety of reading material in your home- newspapers, magazines, information, cookery books etc.</p> <p>6. Enrol and encourage your child to visit the local library once a week....</p> <p>7. Discuss favourite authors.</p> <p>8. Encourage your child to read articles/headlines in newspapers.</p> <p>9. Encourage your child to guess unknown words.</p> <p>10. Praise your child's efforts.</p> <p>11. Take an interest in your child's accelerated reader account and see how they are progressing.</p> <p>12. Build a Book</p> <p>13. For younger children picture representation the story.</p> <p>14. Ask simple questions to encourage good comprehension skills.</p> <p>15. Ask for the child's opinion of the stage or characters in the story.</p> <p>16. Change the ending of the story collaborative reading.</p>	<p>1. Encourage your child to visit the local library as often as possible</p> <p>2. Recognise and praise your child's efforts in reading.</p> <p>3. Ensure your child has access to a wide range of reading material, newspapers, magazines, guides etc.</p> <p>4. Take an interest in different children's authors.</p> <p>5. Discuss ideas and points of view proposed by newspaper articles etc.</p> <p>6. Provide a well-lit study/reading area.</p> <p>7. Ensure that you value and enjoy reading yourself.</p> <p>8. Allow your child to choose his/her own reading material.</p> <p>9. Encourage your child to read for information- timetables/weather forecast/menus</p> <p>10. Encourage your child to try and guess unknown words.</p> <p>11. Good writing tips & book recommendations on podcasts like "We Love Books" by RTE Junior</p> <p>12. Family Book Club- parents read some book and discuss.</p> <p>13. Dictionary- work together to look up meanings.</p> <p>14. Encourage your child to read for 30 minutes daily.</p>