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15/3/2019

Dear Parents,

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support in regard to the activities of the Junior School. It has been a busy few weeks in the school.

**World Book Day**

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. On this day, some of the children came to school dressed up as their favourite character from a story book. It was great to hear the children talk about their favourite characters and the books from which the characters had come. The book fair was held on the week previous to World Book Day. Many thanks to all who attended the book fair. Our commission has meant that we can buy additional group readers for the children, as well as books for the library.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Seachtain na Gaeilge was held during the week of the 11th until the 15th March. It was an action packed week. All children received a wrist band that reminded them to use as much Irish as possible during the week. When children were heard speaking Irish, they received a golden ticket (ticéad óir) that was placed in a raffle box with spot prizes given during the week. We also had many activities going on such as Bingo, Céilí dancing and cooperative games. It was great to hear so much Irish being spoken around the school. Maith sibh go léir!

The 2nd classes also debuted their music video for ‘Shotgun’ as Gaeilge, which was directed and produced by the very creative and talented Ms Cahill and Ms Reilly, along with the 2nd class teachers. Thank you all for your hard work. The children were delighted with the result and I’m sure you were too. Thank you to all for your hard work. You can see the end product on the Lusk National Schools Facebook page. We also had a lovely visit from John Spillane who played a variety of songs, ‘songs from my childhood’ for our children on Tuesday. The children enjoyed the concert immensely. Thank you to Ms Fay for organizing the visit.

**Native Woodland Project**

With our campus beginning to develop and take shape, we had a number of our children planting trees this week together with their ‘senior school’ buddies. We would like to thank Ms Ní Dhúil for her ongoing work in coordinating the school’s woodland project, as well as all of the teachers and parents and members of the Parents’ Association who have volunteered their support.

**Climate Change**

Following the example of a 15 year old Swedish teenager, Greta Thunberg, who has been protesting outside government buildings since September to demand action for climate change, the children in Lusk Junior National School lent their support by staging a School Strike for Climate Action. The children had great fun learning about climate change, and making their voices heard by making posters and creating school ‘chants’ to demand action now for the future.

**Pick up for 2:30pm**

Following a request from the Parents’ Association, the Board has decided that we are going to open the set down areas for the first twenty cars at 2:20pm. We will continue to accommodate the six or seven families who require access to cater for a child or adult with mobility issues. Hopefully this will reduce the number of cars parking at Church Green. The Board of Management has decided to trial this for four weeks and assess whether this makes the parking situation safer for our school community. We are doing our very best to make the campus work for the whole community. It was decided by the Board of Management that due to reduced numbers going home at 1:30, the set down area will remain closed at this time.

**New Text Message**

Databiz are now offering a text message service. As previously advised, we would like to ask all parents/guardians to download the Cadoo App, if possible, onto your phones so that text messages can be received in this way.

**Access to School**

The following is a recap on access to the school in the morning. Please note that children are not taken into the care of the school until 8:50am.

* The school gate will open at 8:40am. It will not be possible to access the school yard before this time. The gate **will not open any earlier** on rainy days. Please wait for the gate to be opened for you. As it is a heavy gate, it is imperative that it is not opened by any parent, guardian or child.
* Children will wait on the yard in their lines until they are collected by their teachers.
* All children will enter the school with their teacher only.
* No parents are to enter the school through the four doors on the yard. If a parent needs to access the school for any reason at all, they should do so through the front reception door and sign their name in the visitor’s book.
* Any child who misses their class line in the morning should enter the school through the front reception door.
* On a rainy day, the gates to the yard will only open at 8:40am. A decision will be made by school personnel whether access to the school is warranted (e.g. in the case of very heavy rain). Please do not enter the school unless this decision has been communicated to you. Due to health and safety reasons and for child protection reasons, we cannot have any additional adults in the school without our knowledge.
* At pick up time, the gates to the yard will open at 1:25pm and 2:25pm. Children will be picked up from their yard as normal. Again, on rainy days, the gates and the school will not be open any earlier than this. A decision will be made at 1:25pm and/or 2:25pm by school personnel as to whether access to the school for pick up is required (e.g. in the event of very heavy rain).

We hope you understand the necessity for these procedures to be adhered to. As a school, for child protection and for health and safety reasons, we must, at all times, be aware of any non-staff members who are present in the school.

We wish you all a happy St Patrick’s weekend. We hope you all enjoy the festivities.

Kind regards,

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Órfhlaith Clarke