



Ennis National School

Ashline, Ennis, Co Clare

www.ennisms.ie

Newsletter January 2017

Dates for your Diary

- Flag Day Fundraiser for our school: Saturday, January 28th
- Closing date for applications for Junior Infants for September 2017: Thursday, February 9th at 3pm
- School Closed: Thursday and Friday, February 23rd and 24th
- First Penance for Second Class pupils: Wednesday, March 8th
- Confirmation for Sixth Class pupils: Saturday, March 11th



Junior Infant Enrolment: Ennis NS is accepting applications for enrolment to Junior Infants for September 2017. If you know of anybody looking to enrol their child in our school, please tell them to contact the school office for an application form. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Thursday, February 9th at 3pm**.



Clothing Collection: We are holding a clothes collection fundraiser for the month of January. Bags of clothes will be accepted until Friday February 3rd. All types of clean, unwanted clothing are accepted including men's, women's and children's clothes, paired shoes, belts, handbags, bed linen and paired curtains. This is a great way to support the school as unwanted items are put to good use and our school benefits financially. Clothes can be left at the bicycle shelter or dropped into the school foyer.



Health Promoting School: Ennis National School is formally recognised as a HSE Health Promoting School. This acknowledges the commitment the school has made to the health and wellbeing of the school community. As a result of this, Ennis National School has received a Healthy Ireland flag which will be launched on February 10th. During this day, we hope to have an active day for the whole school. We will be working alongside Operation Transformation with their initiative 10 @ 10. This will entail the children partaking in a mass physical activity break for 10 minutes. We also hope to fill the day with such activities like a school run and yoga.



Flag Day: On this coming Saturday, the Parents' Association are organising the annual Flag Day fundraiser in Ennis. Last year the Flag Day raised over €3000 for the school. This year we are hoping to have enough volunteers so that each person is only timetabled for one hour. We are still short volunteers to fill timeslots between 12 and 4pm. If you can help for one hour on Saturday, please send your name and contact number into the school office as soon as possible (065 6829158).



Quiz Success: Ennis NS was represented by two teams in the County Clare Primary School Quiz Final last week. Almost forty schools were represented in the quiz which was held at St Tola's Primary School, Shannon. Our team of Conor Hessessey, Kate Zarza de Courcy and Amy Matthews came third overall with a fine score of 69 correct answers. Our team of Jack Kavanagh, Shane Tierney and Andrew Cahir-Whelan were the overall winners with a score of 74 correct answers. Congratulations to both teams and their mentors who have worked very diligently .



Food Dudes: Our pupils are currently participating in the Food Dudes programme. They are encouraged to eat fruit and vegetables in school and at home. The aim of the programme is to enable children to enjoy healthy diets and to create a healthy eating culture. Ask your children about the fruit and vegetables which they taste at school each day.



Marathon Challenge: In October, pupils from fifth and sixth classes commenced a Marathon Challenge. The challenge allows pupils the opportunity to take the first steps towards fitness, with the emphasis on participation, whether walking, jogging or running. Pupils complete 1.2 kilometres during break time, two days a week and enjoy the non-competitive nature of the challenge. Pupils have shown such commitment to and enthusiasm for the initiative in fifth and sixth classes that we are now encouraging third and fourth classes to become involved in a Half Marathon Challenge every Tuesday at 10.45.

Attendance: Pupil attendance is monitored on a daily basis. Since we returned to school on the 28th of August, we have had an average attendance of 95%. To date, the class with the highest attendance is Ms Moran's Fifth Class with an average attendance of 97.7% followed by Mr Walsh's Fourth Class (97.4%). Over 100 pupils have attended every day in this school year.

Around the School

- ⇒ Our boys and girls basketball teams have been in action recently in preparation for the primary schools' basketball competitions.
- ⇒ Boys and girls from Fourth and Fifth classes have been in training for the upcoming indoor hurling and camogie competitions.
- ⇒ Our school band is busy preparing for the annual School Bands Spectacular which takes place in Shannon Airport on February 16th.
- ⇒ Second and Sixth Class pupils are putting a lot of effort into Mathletics which is an online programme to develop their maths skills. Each pupil has their own account and login details and parents can check their children's progress. Pupils work towards achieving bronze, silver and gold certificates
- ⇒ Third, Fifth and Sixth Class pupils use Accelerated Reader to assist them to develop their reading skills. Parents can check their children's online libraries to see what books they have read.
- ⇒ Fourth Classes look forward to their weekly visits to the computer room to work on their programming skills. They are learning to make constructions from lego and to programme them on the computers.