



# Ennis National School

Ashline, Ennis, Co Clare

[www.emmisms.ie](http://www.emmisms.ie)

## Newsletter November 2017

The **AGM of the Parents' Association** takes place on Thursday November 23rd at 8pm in the school staffroom. We are very fortunate to have a very active Parents' Association who do tremendous work on behalf of the school. Come along on the night to hear about the activities and to see how you might contribute. The following committee members have served two or more years and are stepping down at the AGM: Stephen Coote (Chairperson), Rowena Markham (Treasurer), Edel Flynn (Secretary), Maura O'Conner, Augustina Preston, Marcella Casey, Noeleen Shanahan, Eileen O'Callaghan. I wish to sincerely thank them for their contribution to the school. All other members will remain on the committee. With these changes in place the committee will be looking to recruit 7 new members and there are 3 positions to be filled: Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.



### DROP AND GO

In the mornings, all parents are asked to drop off their children and leave. Even if you walk to school, others think that because you are there, they can also stay with their child. If everybody cooperates with 'Drop and Go', you will all be able to get in and out of the carpark more quickly in the mornings.



Class teachers will be contacting you shortly with dates for **Parent Teacher Meetings**. These meetings will mostly be held during the third week of November. These meetings give you an opportunity to meet with the class teacher and to discuss your child's progress. If the time allocated to you is inconvenient, please contact the class teacher to arrange a more suitable time. Parent Teacher meetings for parents of pupils in junior infants will be held in February.



The **Clothing Recycling Fundraiser** was held before Halloween and 240 bags of used clothing were collected by the National Council for the Blind. The school received a cheque for €1320. Thank you for your support.



**Cycle Safety Training Course** : Our school is participating in cycling training run by Cycle Safe Ireland. The course is for pupils in Fifth Class and will consist of 4 sessions with the pupils. Topics covered include safe equipment, rules of the road, starting and stopping, road positioning, shoulder checking, turning left and right, overtaking. The emphasis is on safety through control of the bike and awareness of surroundings.

The cost of the course is €10 per pupil and this is subsidised with grant assistance from Green Schools (An Taisce) and from Clare County Council. Pupils are welcome to bring their own bikes and helmets but if pupils wish to use their own, they are more than welcome to. The first training session takes place on Tuesday, November 14th.



### **Winter Uniform (from Halloween to Easter)**

- Grey School Jumper or alternative option of black half zip School Sweatshirt
- Grey Shirt and Tie
- Dark grey skirt/pants
- Grey or Red socks / tights and any shoes / runners

**Parent Contribution:** Sincere thanks to all of you who have paid the parent contribution. As you know, the contribution is spent directly on pupil insurance, homework journal, art and craft materials for each classroom, stationery, photocopying for classrooms, and the texting service. The parent contribution allows the school the freedom to provide awards and treats for pupils. Further, it facilitates the provision of the Athletics and the Accelerated Reader services for pupils from third to sixth classes and a Christmas Annual for pupils from infants to second class.





## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

We are participating in the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal which helps vulnerable children overseas who are struggling with poverty or with the effects of conflict.

To participate, get a shoebox and wrap it in Christmas paper. Choose a boy or a girl to receive your box and choose what age: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 years old. Fill your box with gift items. Suggestions include:

- Something to Write with: Pens, Pencils, crayons, paper, colouring books, markers etc
- Something to Wash with: Soap, Hairbrush, Comb, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Facecloth
- Something to Wear: Socks, Hat, Underwear, Scarf, Gloves, Flipflops
- Something to Wow: Cuddly toy, Skipping rope, Small musical instrument, Sweets, Toy Car, Stickers, Doll etc

Filled boxes should be returned to the school by Friday, November 10th. Donations of €4 are requested to assist with delivery costs. This can be placed in an envelope inside the box.



## Quiz News

One of the highlights each year at Ennis National School is the annual Quiz Brain competition. The top performing pupils in the Quiz Brain competition are selected to represent the school in various interschool quiz competitions throughout the year. This year's Junior Quiz Champion is Zoe Kulikowska (Third Class) and the Senior Quiz Brain Champion is Keira O'Neill (Sixth Class). Congratulations to them both. Medals have been presented to the overall winners and also to the first three pupils in each class.

Our annual Halloween Family Table Quiz was well supported with over 70 teams participating. Many thanks to all of you who supported the quiz. This is always a really enjoyable event. Thanks to all who assisted on the night and to our Quizmaster, Eoin Walsh.

## Accelerated Reader

The Accelerated Reader Programme is being used in Third, Fifth and Sixth Classes. The school pays a licence fee of €6 per pupil to use this online programme which motivates pupils to read independently. Pupils take a reading test which will indicate the reading level of the pupil. The pupil then reads books which are appropriate to their level of reading. Once pupils **have** read a book they take an online quiz. If they pass the quiz, the pupil is awarded a score which equates with the number of words in the book. Over the course of the school year, many pupils will read one million words or more. Already this year, a number of our pupils have achieved Millionaire Status. Congratulations to Aoibh Doody, Fia Doody, Sadhbh Doherty, Sean Azkorbebeitia, Sophie Maher, Saoirse Conway, Nathan Morgan, Andrew Naimov, Ronan Kilroy and Serine Armane.

You can check the books your child has read on their virtual bookshelf and also their book quiz scores. Each child has their own login details to access their account. See <https://ukhosted11.relearn.co.uk/2935049/>



## Mathletics

Pupils in Second and Fourth Classes use the online Mathletics programme. The school pays a licence fee of €6 per pupil to provide access to Mathletics for the school year. Pupils get points for successfully competing Maths activities. The aim is to accumulate 1000 points per week to qualify for a certificate. Over the course of the school year pupils can earn bronze, silver and gold certificates. They can also compete in live Maths games against pupils from other schools around the world. Classes from Ennis NS regularly feature on the European leaderboard. Each pupil has their own individual login details and parents can check their progress. The website is <http://www.mathletics.eu/> We have found Mathletics to be highly motivational for pupils and to assist in building accuracy in number work.

