



Ennis National School

Ashline, Ennis, Co Clare

www.ennisns.ie

Newsletter February 2018

Dates for your Diary

- School Closed: Thursday and Friday, February 15th and 16th for Mid-Term
- School Closed: Monday February 26th for Staff Inservice Training
- Note Change of Date— **First Penance for Second Class pupils:** Tuesday, March 6th at 6pm Cathedral
- Ceremony of Light for Sixth Class pupils: Tuesday, March 6th at 8pm Cathedral
- Confirmation for Sixth Class pupils: Saturday, March 10th at 11am in the Cathedral
- School Bingo Night for all the family: Wednesday March 21st at 7pm



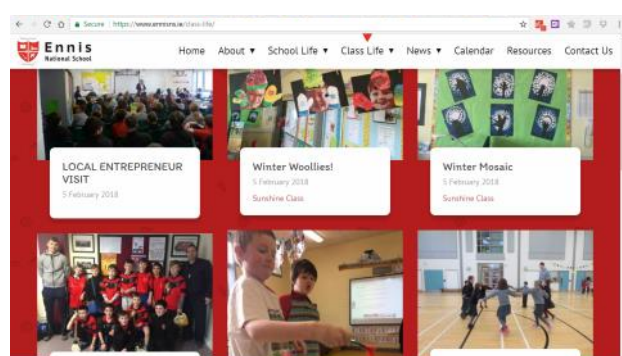
This week we will roll out the Aladdin Connect software service to parents/guardians of children in our school. The Connect service will give you secure access to messages from the school and to details of

your child's attendance, test results, reports cards etc via secure login from your internet browser or Aladdin Connect App on your phone.

In the next few days, you will **receive a text message** containing your **registration link**. Once you are registered you will be sent an email with a link to download the **Aladdin App** for your mobile device. The main advantage of using the App is to receive immediate alerts for app messages sent by your school.

Check out our new school website on www.ennisns.ie

We have a new look school website with all the news from our classes and activities around the school. These are two screenshots from the new site.





School Band Spectacular

Our annual School Band Spectacular takes place in Shannon Airport on Tuesday next, February 13th at 10.45am. Parents and friends are welcome. This is a free event with free parking. There are four schools taking part and each school plays its own recital for 10 minutes and then all the schools join together for the Grand Finale. This is the 12th year of the Band Spectacular.



STEAM

Our Third and Fourth Classes are participating in a science project called STEAM in association with Clare Education Centre. Each month, groups of pupils get a science challenge whereby they have to collaborate in groups to come up with a solution to the problem. The latest challenge was to create a marble run so that a marble travels along a run of 150cm to drop into a bottle which cannot touch the marble run. It was incredible to see the various solutions that different groups of pupils tried. The photo below shows Norah, Mia, Dilan and Nicolas with their vertical marble run. They watched the other groups who all tried to build a horizontal marble run before deciding to build a vertical run which gave them a greater chance of success. Well done!

JESSIES

Our Sixth Classes pupils are participating in a Junior Entrepreneurs programme called Jessies. Kieran McDermott from McDonald's visited the pupils last week and spoke to them about business life. The pupils then divided into teams, planned their products and prepared their pitches. The next step was the Dragon's Den. With the Dragons' awaiting, each group had to make a presentation in front of a packed audience. Group after group showed that they had thought out their ideas, done their market research, calculated their costs and meticulously prepared their business plan. The preparation was well worth it and the Dragons were amazed at the presentation skills of the pupils and the quality of their ideas. Well done to all involved and we look forward to seeing the final products from the chosen projects.

Bumbleance

Friday, January 26th, 2018, was Hot Chocolate Day at Ennis NS. This was a fundraiser for Bumbleance, the National Children's Ambulance service. Pupils donated 2 euro in return for a hot chocolate and a little treat. The Reading Class students were in charge of the initiative and worked hard all day delivering drinks and treats to each classroom. Thanks to the support of all, a total of €1,060 was collected to donate to Bumbleance! The Bumbleance ambulance will visit the school on Wednesday Feb 7th. Pupils will have an opportunity to see the ambulance for themselves and a cheque will be presented to the charity.





Clothing Recycling Fundraiser

We are running another used clothing collection in aid of NCBI to raise funds for the estimated 224,000 people in Ireland experiencing severe problems with their eye-sight including blindness.

Bring your previously loved Clothing, linen, curtains, belts, handbags and shoes (paired) in a large plastic sack to your school where it will be collected by our driver.

No Cushions Duvets, Pillows, Socks or Underwear please.

NCBI process your donations and sell garments in their Charity

Shops nationwide. They recycle what cannot be used for resale.

Our school will receive an achievement award highlighting the number of bags collected which helps your school maintain its Green Flag. Our school will also receive money per **10KG Filled bag**.

Clothes can be left at the bicycle shelter or dropped into the school foyer between now and the mid-term break.



Kindness Calendar

Each pupil has received a copy of the Kindness Calendar. During the month of February, teachers will chat about the calendar and foster an attitude of kindness in each child.

We ask our parents and guardians to encourage your children to continue to do acts of kindness throughout the week and at the weekend.



School Uniform

Our school uniform is now available from Pyne's on Abbey Street and from McCannon's in the market.

Safety around the school

To increase safety and traffic flow, we are trying to avoid use of the pedestrian crossing to the staff carpark in the mornings. Pupils coming from the main carpark are asked to use the main school entrance. Pupils coming to the front gate are asked to turn right via the bicycle shelter.



Credit Union Quiz Success

Ennis National School entered teams in the u11 and u13 Credit Union Quiz. The Quiz consisted of twelve rounds of questions which included a mix of trivia, music, sport, general knowledge and current affairs. Both ENS teams were in contention at the break and continued to score strongly in the second half of the quiz. The u11 team consisting of Cathal Casey, Ruth Nihill, Serine Amrane and Croíadh Keeley finished Third. However the u13 team finished very strongly and were rewarded as winners on the night. Congratulations to Andrew Cahir Whelan, Shane Tierney, Caoimhe O'Dwyer, Aoibh Doody. They now go forward to the regional finals.

Ennis NS - Active School



Your Homework challenge – 60 minutes of daily physical activity for 3 weeks.

Colour in 1 star for every 10 repetitions (times) you complete the daily exercise

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Week 1	Jumping Jacks ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Squats ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Kneel Ups ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	High Knees ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Donkey Kicks ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	
Extra Physical Activity	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	
Week 2	Jump & Reach ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Knee Raise PullDown ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Quick Feet ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Line Jumps ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Bear Crawl ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	
Extra Physical Activity	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	
Week 3	Stair Stepper ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Air Boxing ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Circle Arm Walk ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Shooting Hoops ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	Floor Sits ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆	
Extra Physical Activity	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	What: How long for:	
What do you like most about exercise:						
What do you dislike about exercise:						
What NEW Sport would you like to try:						

This is the last week of the Active Homework Challenge that we have been running in cooperation with Clare Sports Partnership. We hope that our pupils have enjoyed the fun activities. The idea of the challenge is to help children to reach the recommended 60 minutes physical activity per day. Each child received a diary to keep track of their activities. The activities are demonstrated at school and they can be completed in the home, in a small space.

In school we are encouraging pupils to participate in our 'Run Around Europe Challenge'. The pupils run together once during the week. The distances ran are added together. The goal for the classes is to run to another capital city in Europe. First and Second Classes are running to London, Third and Fourth Classes to Paris, and Fifth and Sixth Classes to Berlin.

On Mondays, Peter Casey from Clare GAA takes pupils from Senior Infants to Fourth Class for Fundamental Movement Skills. Pupils are getting access to high quality coaching and are making tremendous improvements in their running, jumping, hopping and skipping techniques. These workshops will continue until Easter.

Family Bingo Night



Wednesday March 21st at 7:30pm in the School Hall

Entry €10 including book and €5 for half book (children)

Ennis NS - Goals & supporting actions for remainder of 2015-19 Board of Management term

1. **Promote the continued professional and personal development of staff**
 - I. Create a budget to (partially) fund targeted training and incentivise CPD
 - II. Support the development of leadership capacity in post holders

2. **Support the needs of prioritised pupils in the areas of mental health, bereavement & separation counselling and challenging behaviour**
 - I. Subject to budget - allocate funds to provide necessary counselling (in addition to any Counselling Grant received from Tusla)
 - II. Support staff to receive the required training to deal with pupils presenting with challenging behaviour
 - III. Endorse the Incredible Years Teacher Classroom Management Programme (TCM) and provide funding for staff not already trained in this programme

3. **Maintain school enrolment (target 635) to ensure three streams in all years**
 - I. Actively engage with local crèches and pre-schools

4. **Pursue solutions for parking and access to ENS**
 - I. Advocate for behavioural and physical infrastructure improvements to reduce safety risks for children arising during drop-off and collection from school
 - II. Work with Clare County Council, the Diocese of Killaloe and the Department of Education & Skills to ensure the school's traffic management plan addresses child safety and traffic congestion at school drop-off and collection times
 - III. Promote "Smart Travel to School" initiatives amongst parents and school staff

5. **Resolve on-going "building issues" - leaks, water quality, air-con & paint**
 - I. Continue working with the DES, Stewarts and contractors to close issues

6. **Improve communication within the school and wider school community**
 - I. Invest in new website
 - II. Replacement of IT equipment on a rolling basis, as deemed necessary
 - III. Regular review of internal and external means of communication
 - IV. Use appropriate opportunities for PR

7. **Engage with the Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU) to ensure compliance with DES Circular Number 0060/2017 within the required timeframe (2018/19 school year)**
 - I. Migrate to suggested FSSU templates for monitoring school income and expenditure (during the 2017/18 school year)
 - II. Adopt standardised national template for annual accounts before commencement of 2018/19 school year

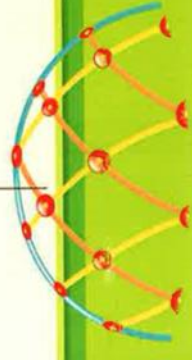


ENNIS NATIONAL SCHOOL

February 2018

Kindness Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hold the door open for someone.	Smile at everybody. It's contagious!	Do a favour without asking for anything in return.	Tell someone you are thankful for them and say why.	Clean up, even if you didn't make the mess.	Thank someone who inspires you.	Tell your parents you love them.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Say "Good Morning" to 5 people.	Be a problem solver.	Be kind to yourself!	Clean your desk without being asked.	Take the time to listen to someone.	Stand up for someone.	Write a letter to a relative or friend who lives far away.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Lend a classmate a pencil or rubber.	Say "hi" and smile to other pupils and adults in the corridor.	Tell the Principal how great your teacher is.	Tell someone why they are special to you.	Give a thank you card to someone you are thankful for.	Remember to say "Please" and "Thank you".	Cheer someone up.
26	27	28				
Hand out notes with compliments to friends.	Read to a younger pupil or family member.	Play with someone you do not usually play with.				



Traffic Tips

Ennis National School is accessed via a Public Road. Below are some Tips devised to help minimise delays while the school considers other solutions. Thank you!

1

Use the Walking Bus in the morning and the afternoon. It leaves Curley's Car Park at 8:30am and returns with senior school children at 2:50pm approximately.

2

Drop and Go. Don't linger when you drop your child. Free up space by moving your car.

4

PLEASE NEVER, EVER.....
Never, park or pull over in the **Red Zones** (highlighted on the reverse of this sheet). Doing so prevents the free flow of traffic and could obstruct emergency vehicles.

6

Prepare your children for drop off. Let them in and out of the car on the **path side** and not on the traffic side.

3

Avoid the school by parking at **Curley's** or **Westgate Business Park**.

Cars Travelling have **right of way** over cars moving out of parking places. **Keep moving**. Those motorists will be free to exit when cars are stopped at pedestrian crossing.

5



8

Park in one of the allocated parking spaces **OR Pull Over** when dropping and collecting.

7

When parking, **Reverse in** and **Drive out**.

9

PLEASE NEVER, EVER.....
Never let your children out of or into the car when you're in the flow of traffic!

10

The staff car park can only be used when a **child is unable to walk** due to injury or otherwise. **Passes** for staff car park are **available from the school**.



Please cooperate with Volunteers. They are there to help you by keeping cars moving.

These Traffic Tips and the plan on the back were developed with the support of parents, Clare County Council and An Garda Síochána. Thank you !