



St. Senan's N.S.

School News | 27 Oct, 2023

Email: contact@stsenansns.com Website: <http://stsenans.weebly.com> Tel: 061-472005

NOTE FROM PRIOMHOIDE TORI

What an amazing half term! Well done to our Junior Infants on settling in so well to life in St. Senan's N.S. Congratulations to all on our many achievements, big and small. Thank you to the children, families and staff for all you do and continue to do. I wish you all a restful and safe mid-term break. Happy Halloween!

INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Last week, we welcomed Jackie O'Regan from Zeeko to speak to the children, staff and parents of St. Senan's. Her workshops were very engaging for both children and adults. The main aim of the workshops was to ensure that the children were using the internet safely. Well done to Jessica Earls for winning the draw for those who attended the online workshop for parents!

Useful sites such as the following allow you to check the suitability of apps your children are using, how to set up parental controls and general advice on keeping your child safe online:

- <https://www.common sense media.org/>
- <https://www.common sense media.org/>
- <https://www.esrb.org/>

Jackie also recommended watching the following to highlight the dangers of being online unsupervised:

- Childhood 2.0
- The Social Dilemma
- The Instagram Effect

Keeping informed and up-to-date can help ensure the safety of our children online.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- ✓ **Swimming:** 3rd & 4th Class Tuesday 7th November - 12th December
- ✓ **Parent Courses:** Commencing Tues. 7th Nov. (see overleaf for details)
- ✓ **Paddy Carrig Memorial Tournament:** Wed. 8th Nov. 9:20-2pm. Finals night Mon. 13th Nov. 5pm.
- ✓ **Science Week:** 13th-17th Nov.
- ✓ **Attendance Drive:** Month of November
- ✓ **Bingo:** Thursday 2nd November
- ✓ **School Closure:** 13th Dec. No school for the children to facilitate new Maths Curriculum training for staff.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association recently held their AGM and the following officers were appointed:

- Nicky Kirby - Chairperson
- Alice Diver - Vice Chairperson
- Susan Watson - Secretary
- Lorraine Kelly - Assistant Secretary
- Caroline Pike - Treasurer
- Breda McCoy - Vice Treasurer
- Louise Carrig - PRO
- Jessica Higgins - Vice PRO
- Helen Shchur - Ukrainian Liaison Officer

Welcome to the incoming committee and new members Helen and Jessica. Meetings will take place each month throughout the school year to discuss upcoming events and fundraising ideas.

LIFE IN JUNIOR INFANTS

Junior Infants were very busy in the month of October! During Maths Week we made 2d shapes out of playdough, did a Maths Trail with 6th class to find 2d and 3d shapes, made Shape Monsters and drew numbers/ shapes outside using chalk. We have been learning all about 'Houses and Homes' this month for our Aistear theme. We learned about the following houses: bungalow, two storey, caravan, apartment, cottage and farmhouse. We were very busy in the Role Play area cooking food, doing the shopping, writing shopping lists, cleaning the dishes and having a rest in the sitting room. We also made teacher lots of cups of coffee! Check Classdojo for photos. Finally, to finish the month off, Junior Infants sang a song at the Beginning of Year mass. We are very proud of you all! Enjoy the midterm break :

SWIMMING

Congratulations and well done to Alesha and Akshat who represented the school by participating in the SWIM IRELAND MUNSTER MINOR SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA in UL, with over 150 participants in individual races. We are very proud of Alesha and Akshat for achieving fantastic results in their respective events.



Well done!

Congratulations to Ella on being selected to attend the Youth Academy Programme, in University of Galway. Every year Galway University give high ability children an introduction to university life. It provides students with the unique opportunity to experience learning in a university about subjects outside of the school curriculum. Well done Ella, we are very proud of your achievement!



GAA NEWS

- CONGRATULATIONS to the girls Cumann na mBunscol team who have qualified for the final. They had a comprehensive win over Scariff in their semi-final and will play our neighbours St. Aidan's in the final. Date TBC.
- WELL DONE to the boys Cumann na mBunscol team who have qualified for the semi-final after coming out of the group stages of the competition held in Lee's Road on Oct. 26th.
- 3rd & 4th Class took part in a hurling blitz organised by Mark O'Donnell between the Shannon schools at Wolfe Tones GAA pitch. A fun day out was had by all.
- A camogie blitz was organised by St. Caimin's for the girls in 5th & 6th. Two teams took part on the day and there were great skills on display. Maith sibh!

DON'T FORGET!

REMINDER: 6th Class Parents - please remember to submit your child's secondary school application form! Closing date is November 10th for both Shannon schools.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The elections for the school Student Council 23/24 took place in 2nd - 6th classes earlier this month. Congratulations to Lily, Adam, Alex, Sarah, Gavin, Kayla, Hollie, Ryan, Kayden and Aoife who have been elected by their various classes to represent their fellow students' views on how we can further improve our school, both in terms of wellbeing of all and suggestions on new equipment & materials. The student council will meet once a month at lunch time, with Múinteoir Joanne and Múinteoir Jane to bring forward their ideas.



HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON (HSCL)



Siobhán has been busy doing home visits during the last few weeks. She has particularly enjoyed meeting all the new families that have joined the school recently, and also the new Junior Infant parents in particular. We are delighted to welcome you all to St. Senan's. Home visits form a large part of the HSCL role. If you need support or wish to make an appointment with Siobhán to visit you she can be contacted on 087-7063527 or siobhan@stsenansns.com.

TEAM HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOWBOX APPEAL



Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible. Since 2010, with your help, we have delivered over 2.5 million Shoebox gifts to Vulnerable Children across the world.

St. Senan's has a proud history of participation in this project. This year, we would like **shoeboxes to be dropped to the school by Wednesday, 8th of November please.**

Link with information on how to create your own shoebox: <https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebbox-appeal/how-to-fill-a-shoebbox/>

RACING TO READ READING CHALLENGE

On Friday the 27th of October we launched a new whole school reading challenge called 'Racing to Read'. The challenge will run between now and the 22nd of December.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT ...

Reading for 20 minutes a day exposes children to a vast quantity of words. This in turn raises academic standards across the curriculum in all subjects. We are simply asking our pupils to try read EVERY DAY, even during the holidays and on the weekends.

Teachers will calculate the total number of minutes read by each class using the AR and PM reading systems already in place in school. The total minutes read per class will be tallied. As a school we will endeavour to reach a total of 50,000 minutes by December 20th!

PARENT COURSES

Supporting your Primary School Child: The transition to primary school can be a stressful event for children and their parents. This course offers support on how to settle your child into primary school and to make this transition a positive experience for you and your child. This course explores areas such as social skills, language skills, school policies and confidence building. Suitable for a range of ages.

My Baby & Me:

This course is designed to explore key themes/messages for babies' development and wellbeing in an experiential and fun way. With a welcoming, informal atmosphere, 'My Baby and Me' offers a relaxed space in which parents can socialise, spend quality time with their babies and take away practical information on learning in the home. Each family receives a free baby book weekly to keep with a strong emphasis on oral language development and reading.

3RD & 4TH CLASS LIBRARY VISIT



HALLOWEEN BAKE SALE

A huge 'Thank You' to the PA who organised a very successful bake sale and raised over €800. Thanks to all those who helped out, donated and baked! Well done to Caroline Bagnell who won the cake, kindly made by Laura Hinsley.

A presentation was also made to an outgoing but very valuable member of the PA, Michelle Alford. We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Michelle who has always been on hand when help was needed. Go raibh maith agat Michelle!



 **HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

MYSTERY TOUR

The Mystery Tour this term saw the children visit Curragh Chase Pumpkin Patch. The children had great fun picking out their favourite pumpkin, visiting the Haunted House and carving the pumpkins. Check the website for more photos.



MUINTEOIR SINEAD'S CLASS

The children in Múinteoir Sinéad's Class have been very busy this half-term. They have been putting their kitchen skills to the test and have made some delicious treats.

The children are also very lucky to have the opportunity to attend a 4 week block of gymnastics at Ennis Gymnastic Club on Nov 20th, 27th, Dec 4th & 11th. This block of lessons will be run in association with Clare Sports Partnership. They will join with 2 other local Autism classes and the focus of the lessons will be emotional regulation through exercise, fundamental movement skills and of course fun!



MATHS WEEK

The children took part in Maths Week from October 16-20th. There were lots of Maths activities happening in each room throughout the school, including daily Maths puzzles such as 'Guess the Teacher'. Photos will be added to the school website so keep an eye there to see what everyone got up to.

ATTENDANCE DRIVE

During the month of November we are going to focus on improving our attendance in St. Senan's. There will be raffle prizes for children, classes & families during the month for those who have excellent attendance & punctuality. Don't allow your child to miss out by not being in school or being late. Every Day Matters! We look forward to your support for this initiative.

