



St. Molua's N.S.

Christmas Newsletter

Green Flag:

The school has begun the process of achieving its first Green Schools Flag. The aim of the green schools programme is to make environmental awareness a focal point of the life and ethos of the school. The goal of the first Green Schools flag is to reduce litter and waste in the school. The objective is to explore practical means for reducing and minimising the amount of litter and waste produced by the school. While this is a whole school focus, a Green School Committee has been formed to oversee this. The committee is comprised of students from 1st - 6th class namely Jack, Antonia, Luke, Eira, Mai, Ava, Lucy and Jamie. The committee and the school look forward to your support throughout the programme.

Science Week:

During Science Week this year all the children in the school were actively involved in many Science Technology, Engineering and Maths lessons. The children really enjoyed conducting experiments on top issues as electricity, materials, sound and light. Children from 1st - 4th class attended St. Anne's Primary School in Rathkeale for "The Ugly Animal Show".

The school will be entering the Discover Primary Science Award initiative again this year. We have received the highest award, a plaque, in each of the past two years.

Maths Week:

Maths week took place this year from the 14th of October to the 22nd of October. St. Molua's N.S. took full part in a series of very exciting and enjoyable maths activities. Classes took part in maths trail around the school. 5th & 6th class followed a QR code problem solving trail. All classes solved many real life maths problems as well as using their "Maths Eyes" to see maths in the environment. We really enjoyed Maths Week here in the school and it really helps to promote a love of maths for all the children.

Bake Sale/ Lip Sync:

The school held its annual bake sale on the 27th of October this year. This was a fantastic event and was really well supported by everyone in the school community. This year €900 was raised in total. This money was donated to the "Trollettes" a group that took part in the Lip Sync fundraiser in aid of the development of the Ardagh & District Astro Turf. The school will have full use of this fantastic facility when the project is completed. The school would like to thank Becky Steele, Linda Clifford, Linda Kiely, Susan Quigley, and Marie O' Donnell who represented the school on the night in the Lip Sync Battle. The group put in a great performance over the two nights. Well done to all.

Healthy Eating:

The school is currently working on a new Healthy Eating Policy. The Staff, Parents Association and Board of Management of the school have already formulated a draft copy of this policy. It is expected that a final draft will be made available to all parents by the end of January. The school is looking to encourage children to have a healthy lunch each day which is in line with best practice.

New Policies:

The school has developed a new Attendance Strategy in recent weeks. This strategy promotes good attendance and punctuality amongst all pupils in the school. A copy of the strategy is available to view on the school website under the 'About Tab'.

The school has also developed a Whole School Geography Plan in recent weeks which will support the teaching and learning of Geography in the school.

The school has also reviewed its child protection procedures and Critical Incident Policy in recent weeks. These are also available to view on the schools website.

Supervision:

School begins each morning at 9.20 a.m. Children will be supervised from 9.00 a.m. Please do not drop children to the school before 9.00 a.m. Thank you for your co-operation.

Absent Notes:

If your child is absent from school it is important to send a written note explaining their absence on their return. This note will be placed in your child's file. There is **no need** to ring the school on the morning of the absence. A note on the child's return will be sufficient.

Tusla:

The school is obliged to report to TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) when a pupil misses twenty days in the school year. A message is automatically sent to parents when your child misses 15 and 20 days. If you have concerns around your child's attendance please contact the school.

Dick Whittington:

On Wednesday the 13th of December West Midlands Theatre Company performed the tale of Dick Whittington for the children from junior infants to fourth class. The children really enjoyed an excellent show in the local hall. Please check in with the school website for pictures.

Charity:

Team Hope held the shoebox appeal in November in the school. The school collected 80 boxes which is a fantastic achievement. A huge thank you and well done to all who organised boxes for this very worthwhile appeal.

Enrolment:

Enrolment for next year's infants will begin in January. Please contact the office for an enrolment application form.

Twitter / Website:

The school has a twitter account we can be found on Twitter at @st_ns. We regularly tweet about the various activities and events that occur in our school. We also have a school website stmoluasns.ie that contains lots of information about the school. Under our blog page we regularly post pictures and details about school events and activities. This week we have lots of pictures of our Christmas art and of the "Dick Whittington" show in the hall.

Swimming:

Children from 1st - 6th class have completed their swimming lessons in Askeaton pool for this year. As usual the lessons were a great success. Aquatics is a central strand of the P.E. curriculum and it is important that all children attend.

First Holy Communion:

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday the 5th of May in St. Molua's Church Ardagh.

Christmas Carol Service:

The children have been learning a number of tunes on the tin whistle since September. David Healy of Tradtime has been helping the children with their tin whistle. We are looking forward to showcasing this fantastic talent on the Wednesday the 20th of December in the church at 6.45 p.m. As well as retelling the Christmas story the children will also sing a selection of Christmas Carols. All in the community are welcome to attend.

Head Lice:

Like many schools, there has been an outbreak of head lice in recent weeks in the school. Head lice can affect all children but children between 4-8 years are mainly affected. We would like to encourage parents of children in junior to second class to check their child's hair every Friday night using a fine tooth comb. If all parents of these children do this it will help greatly to reduce any outbreaks. You should only treat your child if you find moving lice during this check. We have attached a leaflet from the H.S.E. explaining how this regular Friday night check works. We'd like to thank parents for cooperating with this measure.

Incidental Inspection:

The school had an incidental inspection on the 5th of October led by district inspector Saundra Uí Chiosóg. The inspector was very happy with the standard of teaching and learning in the school and complimented the pupils on their oral language and reading in English and Irish. The inspection was a very positive experience for all and everyone in the school community will continue to work hard into the future.

Tree Day:

Pupils from 1st - 6th class attended Curraghchase for National Tree Day in October. The children enjoyed a very informative talk on nature trees from members of Coillte as well as a talk on the different species that can be found in Curraghchase.

Happy Christmas:

The Board of Management and staff of St. Molua's N.S. wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all back again on January the 8th at 9.20 a.m. We would like to thank you for all your support during the calendar year.

