



## **St. Molua's N.S.**

### **Christmas Newsletter 2019**

Welcome to the Christmas edition of St. Molua's N.S. newsletter. It has been a busy few months for pupils and staff. Here we endeavour to let you know what we have been up to. We hope you enjoy it.

#### **Literacy Lift Off:**

Under the guidance of Mrs. Ambrose and Miss Liston, Ms. Cronin and Noreen Geoghegan (SNA) the pupils of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class just completed an intense six week literacy programme. The children were tested before and after the programme and recorded very significant improvements in reading and comprehension.

#### **School Self Evaluation**

School Self Evaluation is a process of internal school review which enables teachers to provide better outcomes for learners. This year we will continue to focus on fostering whole school awareness of the different writing genres and motivate pupils as writers. We are now in year two of this three year plan.

#### **Internet Safety Talk**

An internet safety and cyber bullying talk was held in the school for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The talk was given by a UL Master of Psychology student, Fergal Flanagan. He engaged well with the children and delivered the talk at their level in a professional and engaging manner. Hopefully, this proactive approach to educating children on internet safety and cyberbullying will protect them by making them aware of the dangers, how to deal with online bullying and the consequences of their actions.

### **Science Week:**

During Science Week this year all the children in the school were actively involved in many Science Technology, Engineering and Maths lessons. Children from 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> class attended St. Anne's Primary School in Rathkeale for "" show.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils went to U.L. to a show called 'A Journey Through Space'. This journey took us on a fantastic trip through space and time. On our way, we visited a space station, took a trip to Mars and went back in time to see our Sun and the planets being formed.

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 four years.

### **Bake Sale:**

The school held its annual bake sale on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October this year. This was a fantastic event and was really well supported by everyone in the school community, in particular parents who baked a fantastic array of cakes, cookies and tasty treats This year €626 was raised in total. Thanks to Tom Flavin for his super scary cake and to the pupils who took the time to bake and decorate some gorgeous cakes also.

### **Christmas Shows:**

On Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December West Midlands Theatre Company performed *Aladdin* for the children from junior infants to second class. The children really enjoyed this excellent show in the local hall. On December 6<sup>th</sup> third to sixth classes attended SMI for their musical *Mamma Mia*. It was an amazing show and it was great to see so many talented past pupils performing.

### **Charity:**

The school participated in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal in November. The school collected boxes which is a fantastic achievement. A huge thank you and well done to all who organised boxes for this very worthwhile appeal and to Daphne Casey and for coordinating the initiative this year .

A Christmas Jumper Day was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Children had the option of wearing their Christmas jumper or own clothes to school on the day and making a donation. A big thank you to you all for your very generous donations. All funds raised will be donated to Crumlin Children's Hospital.

### **Swimming:**

Children from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Tree Day:**

Pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> class attended Curraghchase for National Tree Day on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The children enjoyed a very informative talk on trees, in particular the different species that can be found in Curraghchase. They also learned about the lesser horseshoe bats whom have made their home in Curragh Chase House, originally home to the famous Aubrey De Vere.

### **Football/Soccer:**

The school took part in the Boy's 13-A-Side Football Tournament in September and October. Well done to all who participated. The girls played a one day football blitz and were very strong, winning two of their four games, and unlucky in a third.

Boys and girls competed in a hurling blitz in Desmond College. Both teams performed to the very best of their ability.

Sixth Class pupil, Cliodhna Heffernan was on the west team who won the Larkin Shield in the county final on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> in the Gaelic Grounds. Well done to Cliodhna on her wonderful achievement.

### **Christmas Recital:**

The Christmas Recital took place in Ardagh church on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The children played tunes on the tin whistle, recited festive poems and sang some Christmas favourites. This year we also had a performance of by Cliodhna Heffernan and Ella O'Connor. We were also treated to a performance of *O Holy Night* by Shane Daly and Rhys Lynch.

### **Supervision:**

School begins each morning at 9.00 a.m. Children will be supervised from 8.45 a.m. Please do not drop children to the school before 8.45 a.m. Please keep the space in front of the school free for the school bus, in the morning and also at 2.40 p.m. We would appreciate your help in keeping your children safe at dismissal time. Please tell your children that if you are ever delayed, they should wait inside the school gate for you and not leave the school grounds. If they

leave the school grounds and find that you are not waiting down the road, please advise them to return to the school where they will be supervised by a member of staff until you arrive.

### **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.

### **Attendance**

The school participated in an initiative called 'Every School Day Counts' for the month of November. This initiative was run by Tusla to promote attendance during November. Children were encouraged to have full attendance for the month and a certificate was awarded to every child who had.

### **Food Dudes**

The school recently took part in the Food Dudes Programme to promote healthy eating. This programme was coordinated by Mrs O Callaghan and we are grateful to her for doing so.

### **Enrolment:**

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

### **First Holy Communion**

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May in St. Molua's Church, Ardagh.

### **Parent's Association**

The Parent's Association held its AGM on xx. The following officers were elected.

Joint Chairperson: Mairead Moran and John Doyle

Joint Secretary: Linda Daly and Janet Mc Cormack

Treasurer: Rose Barrett

Assistant Treasurer: Sandra Murphy

This year the Parent's Association organised the printing of personalised Christmas Cards for every pupil in the school. The children drew or coloured their own picture which was then printed on their own card. The cards turned out fabulous and the children are really proud of them. Thanks to the parent's association for organising this.

### **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](http://stmoluasns.ie) that contains lots of information about the school.

### **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.

### **New Board of Management**

A new Board of Management commenced on December 01<sup>st</sup> this year. The following are the board members for the period 2019 -2023.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> at 9.00 a.m. We thank you sincerely for all your support during the year.

Ask Marie for a greeting in Irish.

