

**November Newsletter 2018**

**Dear Parents,** We hope all your children made the most of the bright autumnal days over the Hallowe’en Break and have recharged the batteries for the busy term ahead. Please encourage good homework practices and regularly praise and acknowledge your child for their efforts in school. While all children cannot be the “best”, we constantly encourage every child to be the best that he/she can be. It’s great to see homework diaries signed. It shows that you support your child’s learning at home. Please continue to encourage you instil mathematical tables and reading for enjoyment every day. Thank you for working alongside us.

**Congratulations:** We extend our heartiest congratulations to Ms. Dennehy, Ms Woulfe, Ms McPolin and Ms Walsh on the recent conferrals of their honours degree Bachelors of Education in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. We also acknowledge the outstanding success of Ms Woulfe who was awarded a scholarship to pursue a Master Degree in Education in Literacy in Maryland, USA to commence next year. We are exceedingly proud of her and indeed the high calibre of all our teachers in Scoil Chroí Íosa.

**Debating Success:** We further congratulate and applaud the success of our Debating Team, under the stewardship of Mr. Cotter and Ms. Fitzgerald. Our debating Team competed against Cloghroe NS in Round 1 of this year’s Concern Primary Debating Competition on Friday 9th Nov. The motion *‘People should be fined for not recycling.’ was* proposed by 6th Class and the whole class spent the past few weeks researching the topics of recycling, fines and much more. Represented by team captain Oisín Hayes, Aishling Reeves and Liam Daly, Scoil Chroí Íosa had a tough task on their hands to convince the adjudicators and audience that people should indeed be fined for not recycling. Cloghroe’s team articulately argued against the motion. However, our team’s ability to think on their feet and form knowledgeable rebuttals on the day won the motion. A special mention to our chairpersons, Sophie Dunne and Jenny Walsh and our timekeeper Ella Lesniak, who did fantastic jobs. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we look forward to debating a new motion in Round 2. Many thanks again to both their mentors, Mr. Cotter and Ms Fitzgerald and to their parents for supporting them.

**Literacy and Numeracy:** At the moment we are focussing on reading fluency comprehension strategies (Making Connections). We have completed work on the genre of report writing and now this month we will work on Procedural Writing. In Numeracy, we are concentrating on learning our tables and we continue the work on problem solving in the areas of Money / Shape & Space. Use the following acronyms to help your child remember how to tackle mathematical word problems. RUDE strategy – Read, Underline, Draw, Estimate in the younger classes. In older classes, please use RUCSAC (Read, Understand, Choose, Solve, Answer, Check).Please support your child with problem solving especially in “real-life” situations e.g. shopping , measuring, estimating etc.

**Gaeilge:** Our current School Improvement Plan concentrates on the use of conversational Irish regularly and naturally. A Frása na Seachtaine (phrase of the week) will be taught each week in all classes e.g “Tá mé tuirse traoachta"/ “ Tá mé ar mhuin na muice”. We encourage you to use the “cúpla focail” and to ask your child to teach you a few phrases that could be used at home. They will be delighted to be múinteoirí.

**“Cool 2 Read” Month:** As part of our continuing efforts to encourage and promote a love and life-long habit of reading and literature, we deem November ‘Cool 2 Read’ month The longer nights are conducive to playing card games, Scrabble, quizzes, telling stories and reading. ‘Cool 2 Read’ seeks to promote reading as a hobby and will benefit your child in the future and improve his/her literacy standards. To this end we are encouraging every pupil to join the local library for a mere 50c and each class will visit the library on a regular basis. ***Open a Book and Open a Mind.***

**Science Week:** Science Week 2018 will run nationwide from November 11th -18th, that celebrates the fascinating worlds of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). with numerous events across the country. A variety of fun experiments will take place in the various classes during the week. We encourage you to engage with rté.ie/science week programmes and with [www.corksciencefestival](http://www.corksciencefestival) for free family activities.

**Active Schools:** As part of our Active School involvement, Scoil Chroí Íosa is*“****Running around Ireland”* for the next 5 weeks. Each class will has a destination to run to e.g. Limerick, Dublin etc. and will spend part of their weekly P.E lessons running laps in order to achieve the distance to their particular destination. A representative from each class will keep track of the distance and progress on a map of Ireland and will report to our Active School Flag co-ordinators, Ms McHugh and Ms Morgan. We look forward to the fun and excitement of this initiative and aim to be fit and active during the winter months.**

**Bio Diversity:** Biodiversity is the fifth Green Schools Theme and looks at steps which can be taken to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, animals and habitats, and to increase species richness in our locality. Christine Coleman (SNA), Ms Hayes (Special Education Teacher), Ms Woulfe (Senior Infants Teacher) and Ms McPolin (3rd Class Teacher) are delighted to announce that they will be the Green Schools staff co-ordinators this year for Scoil Chroí Íosa as we begin our very exciting journey towards  our fifth Green Schools flag for Biodiversity!   
In the coming weeks, the most important members of the Green Schools Committee, our pupils, will be selected so that we can get the ball rolling in making very exciting plans about ways our school can build awareness of the importance of plants, flowers, animals and their habitats here in Blarney. If there are any parents out there who are interested in this area and who would like to help out, we would love to hear from you too! If you would like to express your interest in helping out, please contact niamh@scins.ie.

**Parents Association:** Our very active Parents Association will be putting the 'fun' back into fundraising with their next event. **'Family Bingo'** will take place on **Sun 18th Nov from 4pm to 7pm** in the Martin Suite at the **Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel.** It will be a great afternoon out for all the family. Refreshments will be available through the hotel. Some great spot prizes are starting to accumulate. Bingo Books can be purchased in advance from Susan/Caroline in the office or through members of the Parents Association. Books are €5 each. Additional books can be brought on the day. We encourage immediate and extended families to participate in this fun community event and enjoy quality family fun. All funds raised will be used towards the purchase of a class set of iPads that can be used in each class in school. This is a major task and we would really appreciate any sponsorship, donations or involvement from businesses / companies to support us in ambitious undertaking. Please contact Mary Magner if you can help in any way. Many thanks for your continued support of our pupils and our school.

**Enrolment Applications for 2019 /2020: An Open Night** for next year’s Junior Infant class will take place on Tuesday 22nd November. Enrolment applications are available on the night. If you have not already applied for a place for your son or daughter, please do so immediately. Application forms are available online on our website or in the Office.

**Junior Infant Photos:** Quaid photographers will take individual and class photos of Junior Infants on Tues 20th Nov. Individual and / or sibling photos of children in other classes will be facilitated on the day. Please inform the class teacher. Children moving from Senior Building to Junior Building will need to be accompanied by parent / guardian.

**Finally a few Gentle Reminders:** Bug Busting every Friday night; please Label everything; please ensure children can tie their own laces in the interest of their own safety; Healthy lunches and water during day to aid concentration (no sweets). Please inform school and teacher if your child has a medical condition. Sincere thanks for all of your help in ensuring a safe environment for our pupils with severe nut allergies and I ask that you simply continue this support. There are no nut products allowed in Scoil Chroí Íosa.

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Parents’ Meeting re Communion/ Do This in Memory Programme:** Mon 12th Nov @ 7.30 p.m.

**Parent / Teacher Meetings:** Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th Nov. Please respect the designated 10 minute time slot.

**Enrolment for Communion:** Sat 17th Nov in Parish Church at 6 p.m.

**Family Bingo:** Sunday 18th Nov. in Martin Suite, Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Quaid Gallery Photographs of Junior Infants 2018:** Tuesday 20th Nov at 9 a.m.

**Open Night:** Tuesday November 27th in Scoil Chroí Íosa Junior Building at 7 p.m.

**Turning on of Christmas Lights:** Sat 8th Dec in Blarney Square at 6 p.m.

Community Carol Service: Monday 10th Dec in Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at 7 p.m.

**Christmas Performances in the Junior Building:** 18th December from 9 a.m. onwards.

**Christmas Performances in the Senior Building:** 19th December from 9 a.m. onwards.

**Christmas Holidays**: Friday 21st December. School re-opens on Monday 7th January.

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Principal Deputy Principal