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# NEWSLETTER – March 2020



**St. John’s N.S. Kenmare**

**Bunscoil Eoin Naofa An Neidín**

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**Upcoming School Closings:**

Closed: Monday, March 16th – School Closure to facilitate

Staff In-service for New Primary Language Curriculum

Closed: Tuesday, March 17th – Public Holiday

Closing: Tuesday, March 24th at **12 noon** to facilitate Confirmation

Closing: Friday, April 3rd at **12 noon** – Easter Holidays

Re-opening: Monday, April 20th at 9.20 a.m.

Closed: Monday, May 4th – Public Holiday

Closed: Tuesday, May 5th – School Holiday Closure to facilitate

Staff In-service for New Primary Language Curriculum

Closed: Monday, June 1st – Public Holiday

Closed: Tuesday, 2nd June to Friday, 5th June – School Holiday Closure

Closing: Friday, 26th June at **12 noon** – Summer Holidays

**Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation:**

Congratulations to the pupils in 2nd Class who received the Sacrament of First Confession on Tuesday, March 3rd. Pupils from Sixth Class will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, March 24th at 3.30 p.m.

At present pupils are taking part in the *“You Shall Be My Witnesses*” programme in preparation for Confirmation.

Pupils from Second Class will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 9th at 10.30 a.m. in Holy Cross Church.

**Junior Entrepreneur Programme 2020:**

****This year, Mr. Morley and Mr. Mannix’s Sixth Classes are taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur programme. This programme introduces the idea of entrepreneurship to the pupils and helps them understand and see for themselves the skills required to be a successful entrepreneur. The programme develops a wide range of skills in the pupils such as teamwork, problem solving, creativity, leadership and hard work.

The pupils are currently working in groups to come up with an ‘idea’ that could be marketed and sold if chosen. Each group will then present their ideas in the ‘Dragons Den’ where they face three dragons who grill them on their ideas.

Both classes have also had a presentation from local business man, Mr. Eamonn O’Sullivan, who has shared his experience of setting up and developing his Graphic Design Company.

The school are very thankful to Eamonn for his most informative input.

**Defibrillator:**

Many thanks to The Parents Association who collected €870 from a Church Gate collection which was organised to raise funds to purchase a defibrillator for the school. Using the money collected and school funds a defibrillator has now been purchased and installed at the school entrance. The presence of this defibrillator gives our school community the confidence and reassurance that should the need arise this defibrillator can save lives.

**School Competitions**:

**Credit Union Quiz** – Well done to our U11 Quiz Team who were victorious in the Killarney Area Finals in February. The team comprising of Laura Stauch, Orla O’Reill, Billy Lynch and Tiarnan O’Shea went on to represent the school in the regional finals on Sunday, March 2nd. Although not winners in this competition the team performed admirably and were gallant ambassadors for the school. Many thanks to their teacher and mentor, Mrs. Lucey, for all her hard work in preparing the pupils for each of the competitions.

**Spikeball –** Pupils from St. John’s took part in the County Spikeball Competition which was held in Killarney on Tuesday, March 3rd. Unfortunately, our mixed and girls team lost their finals being narrowly defeated by a single point. Good news for the boys’ team who won their final and now go on to the Regional finals being held in Mary Immaculate College on April 1st. Well done to all who participated and to their trainer, Mr. James Devane.

**Community Games Winners:**

Congratulations to all our school winners in the Community Games local handwriting completion:

(2) Community Games Handwriting Competition

**Gold – 1st place**

Lilia Hickson (3rd Ms. O’Sullivan), Ellie Mae Clifford (3rd Ms. O’Sullivan)

**Silver – 2nd place**

Eve Sullivan Casey (3rd Ms. O’Sullivan), Laura Stauch (3rd Ms. O’Sullivan)

**Bronze – 3rd place**

Maja Wojewodzka (3rd Ms. O’Sullivan), Emily Moore (3rd Ms. O’Sullivan), Jimmy McGann (4th Ms. C. O’Sullivan)

**4th place**

Alicja Zielinska (3rd Ms. O’Sullivan), Simon McGuinness (5th Mr. Hussey)

Eve O’Sullivan Casey and Lilia Hickson from Ms. O’Sullivan’s 3rd class went on to win Silver medals in the County Finals.

In the Art section of the County finals, Rian O’Sullivan from Ms. Doyle’s 1st class won Gold, Ted O’Sullivan from Ms. O’Sullivan’s 3rd class won Silver while Alex Wallace from Ms. O’Sullivan’s 4th class won Bronze.

Congratulations to all our winners!

**Covid-19:**

The school are following the advice of the HSE and the Department of Education in relation to the risk and prevention of COVID-19 on our school community. In general proper hand washing by all pupils and staff is vital as well as correct procedures in relation to coughing and sneezing. The school has been proactive in ensuring that pupils wash and sanitize their hands regularly during the school day and are asking all parents to do likewise at home.

It would also be advisable for each child to bring their own tissues in their school bag for use during the day. The school will inform all parents and guardians in relation to any developments directives in relation to the virus risk and prevention. The most up to date information is available on [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) and [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie).

**Prompt Collection:**

We kindly remind parents of Infants to collect their child promptly at 2.00 p.m. each day.

Likewise parents of pupils from 1st to 6th classes should be at school on time at 9.20 a.m. and be collected promptly at 3.00 p.m. This also applies to parents/guardians collecting pupils from After School Activities.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge:**

Seachtain na Gaeilge takes place from 2ú Márta – 17ú Márta and all the children have been making an extra special effort with their Gaeilge! The pupils are involved in a number of school initiatives such as Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine, Comórtas Scríbhneoireacht, Tráth na gCéist agus Lá Glas. It’s important for the children to hear Gaeilge as a spoken language both in school and at home, using cúpla focal at home every day would be very beneficial to the children. ‘Beatha teanga í a labhairt’!

**Dia duit** – Hello, **Conas atá tú?** – How are you?, **Aon scéal?** – Any news?,

**Le do thoil** – Please, **Go raibh maith agat** – Thank you, **Slán** – Goodbye.

**Lourdes Cycle**:

Many thanks to you all for supporting Mr. Courtney’s Valentines Cake Sale event to raise funds for his Lourdes Cycle during Easter. A total of €1610.50 was raised for the cycle which funds Special Needs Childrens Trip to Lourdes each year. A huge thanks to the pupils from both 6th classes who organized and ran the event on the day. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 virus the Cycle and Special Needs Childrens Trip has been deferred until a later date but none the less your fundraising efforts will continue to fund this worthy cause in the future.

Le gach dea ghuí,

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Denis Courtney

Principal.