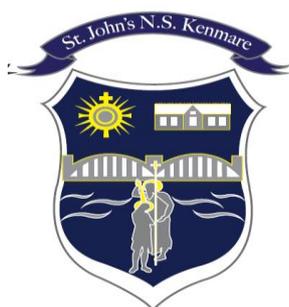


NEWSLETTER – February 2019



St. John's N.S. Kenmare
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Upcoming School Closings:

Closed: Friday, March 15th – School Holiday Closure
Closed: Monday, March 18th – Public Holiday
Closed: Tuesday, March 19th – School Closure to facilitate
Staff In-service for New Primary Language Curriculum
Closed: Monday, April 15th – Friday, April 26th – Easter Holidays
Closed: Monday, May 6th – Public Holiday
Closed: Friday, May 31st – School Holiday Closure
Closed: Monday, June 3rd – Public Holiday
Closing at 12 noon on Wednesday, 26th June 2019 – Summer Holidays

Traffic Management:

Many thanks once again to all those who co-operate with our set down and collection procedures, traffic warden signals and school bus clearways. We kindly ask you to be patient and to show courtesy to all fellow car park users particularly at busy times and during periods of wet weather. Unfortunately, a number of parents are regularly using the staff car park as a set down and collection area. We are very concerned that parents using the staff car park may be the cause of a serious accident.

After School Activities:



A number of after school activities take place each evening in St. John's N.S.

We kindly ask you to collect your child promptly when the after school activity is finished. Please wait in the reception area where the pupils will assemble when the activity is finished.

Please note after school facilitators will inform you of any changes to schedule / timetables.

Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion:



Pupils from Sixth Class will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, April 9th at 11.00 a.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 11th at 10.30 a.m. in Holy Cross Church.



Digital Detox:

Well done to the pupils from both Fourth Classes who have been taking part in a digital detox by refraining from using all digital devices from Monday to Thursday during term time. An active feature in Monday’s issue of the Daily Mail highlighted the benefits that the pupils are gaining from the initiative which include better concentration with schoolwork, more time for games, reading and friendships. Teachers also believe the pupils are learning better and have great pride in their achievement.



Parents of Fifth and Sixth Class are now being invited to meeting to be held on Monday night next March 4th at 7.00 p.m. to decide on the best strategy going forward in relation to smart phone usage, social media and online gaming in Fifth and Sixth classes. Guest speaker, Ger Brick, will give input on I.T. awareness and answer relevant questions parents may have regarding their child and technology usage.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme 2019:

This year, Mr. Devane and Mr. Hussey’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 worked in groups to come up with an ‘idea’ that could be marketed and sold if chosen. Each group then presented their ideas in the ‘Dragons Den’ where they faced three dragons who grilled them on their ideas. The standard was extremely high and eventually the dragons choose “Get Fit Fast” from Mr. Devane’s class, a board game for all the family and ‘The Stress Buster Kit’ from Mr. Hussey’s class that provides items to help us in times of stress or difficulty. The young entrepreneurs will now work together as a class to produce and sell their product, fun times ahead!

We would also like to thank Mike Webster of Mobacar who came in and spoke to the class about his own experience as a very successful entrepreneur. He answered a lot of testing questions from the pupils and his overriding message was to 'never give up' and to 'keep trying'. A positive message for all pupils not just our budding entrepreneurs!



Active Schools:

We are currently working on maintaining our Active School's Flag and Health Promoting School's status. The Active School Flag is awarded to schools who engage in a process of action planning and implementing projects in the school, which encourage and develop physical activity in pupils and the school community. The Health Promoting School's Flag is presented by the HSE to schools as an acknowledgement of their work in improving the health of their school communities. Along with the regular physical activity such as P.E. classes, St. John's N.S. offers a wide range of extra physical activities throughout the school including Irish Dancing, Spike Ball, Gymnastics, Soccer, Basketball, Hurling and Football.



This term, we are taking part in the School's Mile Challenge in association with Athletics Ireland, which promotes running as a fitness activity, as well as having a focus on personal improvement with a fun and competitive element. We are also taking part in the Operation Transformation, 10 @ 10 Challenge and Super Troopers in association with Laya Healthcare which encourages children and their families to live happier and more active lifestyles.

In the final school term the school will run an 'Active Schools Week' and a Sport's Day during which we aim to show that physical activity is good for you but can also be fun and is a great way to spend time with your friends!

Pancake Tuesday:



Tuesday, 5th March is Pancake Tuesday. The staff will be making pancakes for all the children! This year, we ask for a donation of €1 from each child which will go towards the Sneem Strictly Come Dancing Competition in which St. John's Teacher, Mr. Hussey, will perform. The proceeds of this fantastic event will go towards the Kerry-Cork Cancer Bus, St. Vincent De Paul, Local Defibrillator Services and other local charities. We are glad to support this very worthy cause and would appreciate this small donation on the day. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Green-Schools

Global Citizenship – Energy Theme:

The boys and girls at St. John's are currently working on the seventh Green-Schools' theme, Global Citizenship – Energy.

This maintenance theme gives schools the chance to revise the Energy theme while looking at issues surrounding energy on a global scale. The most obvious global link to the energy theme is of course Climate Change, the most serious environmental problem of our time and is intrinsically linked to our energy use.

Over the past two years, classes have participated in SEAI Sustainability Energy Use Workshops. Currently, we are working on themes such as climate change, fair-trade and single-use plastic. We hope to be awarded our seventh green flag this Spring.



Le gach dea ghuí,

Denis Courtney
Principal.