



Halloween Newsletter 2015

Christ the Saviour N.S. Ballingarry



Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year! Pupils and teachers in Christ the Saviour N.S. have been very busy since we returned to school in September and this newsletter will show you some of the exciting things we've been up to! We hope you enjoy this edition!!

Welcome to Junior Infants

We'd like to extend a special welcome to the 26 boys and girls who started this year in Junior Infants in September. We would also like to welcome their parents to school life in Christ the Saviour N.S. and hope that their child enjoys the next eight years in Primary School. They have settled in really well and are working very hard with their teacher Mrs McHale. They are pictured below with Mrs McHale in their lovely classroom.

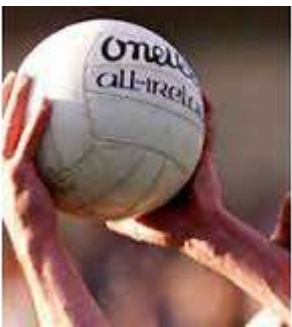


Welcome to New Pupils

Welcome to Molly Dunworth who has joined 2nd class and Todor Aleksandrov who has joined 6th class. We hope that they enjoy their time in Christ the Saviour N.S. Todor and Molly are pictured below with some of the boys and girls who have helped them to settle in to Christ the Saviour N.S.



Sports in Christ the Saviour N.S.



The Boys' Gaelic Football team played Rathkeale, Broadford and Shountrade this year in the Gaelic Football Championship. We had a great win against Rathkeale in our first match. Unfortunately we lost to both Broadford and Shountrade. Our boys represented the school with great pride. Hopefully we will have more success in the hurling championship! Thanks to Ms.Tangney and Ms. Hanley for training the boys.

Our Girls' Gaelic Football team reached the final this year. They played in a blitz in Mick Neville Park and won all of their matches ensuring a spot in the final against Killoughteen N.S.. This final was played on Monday 19th October. The girls played very well and narrowly lost by 2 points in the end. Thanks to Ms. Fitzgerald and Mrs. McHale for training the girls team.

Congratulations to Anna Mullane, Philip Byrnes and Michael Russell who have made the West Gaelic football teams for the Larkin Shield and Sarsfield Cup competitions. This is a great achievement for these three pupils and we wish them well in their respective competitions.

Parents' Council update

The AGM of the Parents' Council was held on Monday September 28th at 8pm in the school. We welcomed one new member and are hopeful that more will join us over the next few months. The current Officers were happy to continue in their positions for another year:

Chairperson: Aedin Hanley

Secretary/PRO: Aisling Frawley

Treasurer: Stephanie Sheehy

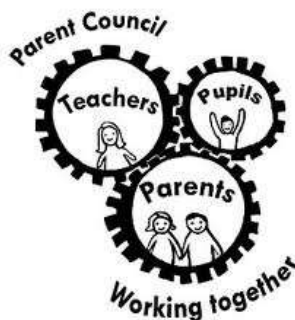
Ideas and suggestions for fundraising and events were discussed at length and we are very excited with what we have planned.

The first fundraising activity of the year was our clothes drive which took place on October 8th and 9th. The response from the whole community was phenomenal. By facilitating working parents and keeping the school open for receipt of clothes until 7pm we took in over 150 bags! These bags converted to €400 in cash which is a super start to our fundraising campaign!

In conjunction with the staff and pupils the Parents' Council have an exciting Halloween event planned for Friday Oct 23rd. A pumpkin carving competition and face painting are on the agenda! Prizes will be awarded to the deserving winners and of course the Parents' Council will distribute goodie bags to all the children on the day.

Over the next few months we plan to host a Jumble sale, Cake sale and another Clothes Drive before the Summer to mention but a few of our objectives.

As always the success of these events depends on the support of our school, parents and community. We are very grateful for all your continued support and we will keep you posted on how the proceeds of all the fundraising is spent.





Active School Flag

Sports have an important part to play in our school life in Christ the Saviour N.S. and we are currently working on a project to become an "Active School". Miss Fitzgerald is co-ordinating this project with the help of her Active School Committee. Two representatives were chosen from each class by their classmates to be part of the Active Schools Committee. We look forward to enjoying fun, physical activities that will help to keep us fit and healthy and will help to earn us a blue Active flag for our school.

Active School Flag Committee 2015 - 2016

	Girl	Boy
Junior Infants	Lucy Kelly	Declan Dunworth
Senior Infants	Annabel Mulcaire Quille	Nigel Noonan
1 st Class	Muireann O'Sullivan	Kieran Long
2 nd Class	Aoife Russell	Cathal Markham
3 rd Class	Mai McKenna	Jack McMahon
4 th Class	Chloe O'Keefe	Jack Mullane
5 th Class	Emily Flynn	Paddy Frawley
6 th Class	Anna Mullane	Michael Russell





Green School 5th Flag: Biodiversity



The focus for our next Green School Flag is 'Biodiversity'. This will involve us exploring the plants and animals in our local area. As part of this project, we will be continuing to work on our lovely school garden and willow house. We will also be feeding the birds in the winter time with our bird table. A new Green school Committee has been formed and they will be working with the co-ordinator Mrs Murphy and our caretaker Hugh Shanahan to increase the biodiversity on our school grounds.

Pupil Members:

Classroom:	Boys:	Girls:
Mrs. McHale	Stephen Grimes	Aoife O'Sullivan
Ms. Tangney	Michael O'Donoghue	Isobel Blake
Mrs. O'Neill	Billy Birnie	Emily Sheehy
Ms. Fitzgerald	Charlie O'Sullivan	Abbie Clancy
Mrs. Murphy	Niall Sheahan	Jane O'Connell
Ms. Hanley	Brian Sheehy	Molly O'Connell

Adult Members:

Mrs. Murphy: Co-ordinator

Hugh Shanahan: School Caretaker





Grow In Love Religion Programme

A new religion programme has been introduced to Junior and Senior Infants this year called "Grow in Love". This programme replaces the Alive-O religion programme. Next year, "Grow in Love" will be introduced in 1st and 2nd class. This will continue each

year until Alive-O is fully replaced. The boys and girls in Mrs McHale's class and Ms. Tangney's class are enjoying the lovely bible stories and songs from this new, child friendly programme.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion Dates

Dates have been announced for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Boys and girls in 5th and 6th class will be receiving their Confirmation on Tuesday 19th April 2016 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballingarry at 1.30p.m. Boys and girls in 2nd class will be receiving their First Holy Communion on Saturday 14th May 2016.

DAILY SCHOOL REGISTER for *Whitbridge School*,
commencing *December*, 18*19*, and ending _____

School No.	NAME OF SCHOLAR.	Years of Age	MONTHS																	
			SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT.					
42	Walter Banks	10																		
43	John Banks	10																		
44	Jack Banks	10																		
45	John Bell	10																		
46	Thomas Williams	10																		
47	John Williams	10																		
48	David Williams	10																		
49	David Williams	10																		
50	James Williams	10																		
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School Roll Books

In Christ the Saviour N.S., we are now using a computer system called Aladdin to record the daily attendance of pupils. This is the first year the Department of Education have allowed schools to use electronic Roll Books. So now each day, teachers can show the Roll call on the Interactive Whiteboard as they call out the 'Rolla' to find out which pupils are 'Anseo' and which pupils are 'As láthair'!! The old Roll Books will still be retained in the school as historical documents and can be viewed on request.

Farewell to Miss Casey

The staff and Board of Management would like to thank Miss Caitriona Casey for her work and dedication during her time in Christ the Saviour N.S. Miss Casey taught 4th and 5th class from January to June 2015. She returned in September to teach 1st and 2nd class for 6 weeks. We would like to take this opportunity to wish her well in her future teaching career.

Welcome back to Mrs Murphy following the birth of her baby boy Matthew and welcome back to Mrs O'Neill following the birth of her baby girl Méabh.

Board of Management

The four year term for this current Board of Management is coming to an end. Mrs Cleary and the staff would like to sincerely thank the current Board of Management for their time and dedication over the past four years. The Board of Management comprises of eight members who help to ensure the smooth running of the school on behalf of the Patron Bishop Brendan Leahy. They give of their time in a voluntary capacity and we wish to thank them sincerely for their contribution to Christ the Saviour N.S. The eight members of the current Board of Management were: Kevin Kennedy, Fr. Dan Lane P.P., Trudy Trainor, Paschal Moynihan, Patricia Houlihan, Dónal McGoey, Rebecca Cleary and Mary Hanley. A new Board of Management will be convened in December for a new term of four years.

School Self Evaluation



In 2011, the Department of Education published a document called 'Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life'. This was a national strategy to improve Literacy and Numeracy in all educational settings from 2011-2020.

As part of this national strategy, all schools have been asked to engage in a process of self-evaluation. This involves the staff, parents and pupils exploring and reflecting on what are the strengths of the school and what could be improved in relation to the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy. As a staff, we have been working on this process of 'Self Evaluation' to improve the teaching, learning and assessment in the school over the past number of years.



In the teaching of Maths, our focus has been on Problem Solving and word problems which is often a challenging part of the Maths curriculum for pupils. Teachers are using a variety of approaches to help pupils with word problems.

In the teaching of English, we are focusing on improving the teaching of Spellings and Phonics. Brendan Culligan, who is a leading lecturer and expert on the teaching of spellings will be visiting the school in November to provide teachers with advice and guidance on the best approaches when teaching spellings. We hope Brendan will be available to provide an information talk for parents also. More details of this will be provided after the mid-term break.

Please check our school website www.ballingarryns.com for regular updates on our work in Literacy and Numeracy as part of our School Self-Evaluation Plan.

Literacy: Station Teaching

Station Teaching for Literacy is a project involving 3rd, 4th, and 5th classes for this past term. Our Learning Support teachers Mr. Keogh and Mrs. Cleary have been working with Ms. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Murphy. The novels they have been reading with the classes are: *A Witch In A Fix*, by Marian Broderick, *Bill's New Frock* and *Diary of a Killer Cat*, both by Anne Fine, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, and *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes. Both students and teachers are enjoying reading these novels immensely.

The five stations include: **New Reading**- here the children read a chapter or more of their new novel with their class teacher. Next (after twenty minutes) the children will move onto the **Word Work/Comprehension** station- here the children will dissect what they have just read, focusing on different aspects of the English language that have come up- such as similes, metaphors, alliteration, analysing quotes, changing words into antonyms and synonyms, doing cloze activities based on reading etc.

The children then move onto the **Writing** Station. Here they focus on whatever writing genre that the school is doing at that present time. We are working on Recount Writing at the moment.

The fourth station is the **IPAD** station. The children will be working independently, using the IPADs to create an interactive book of activities based on their novel. Some of the things the children will be doing include: writing Character Profiles, summarising chapters, creating alternative titles, book covers.

The last station is the **Workbook** station, where the children will be working independently on a task that has been prepared by their class teacher.

It's a busy hour, which takes a lot of preplanning and preparation. Also the school has invested a large amount of money in purchasing all these wonderful novels. We did so in the knowledge that the children will benefit immensely from smaller group instruction, and a greater (three) teacher presence.



Halloween Celebrations

On Friday 23rd October, we have a Colours Day and boys and girls can wear their own clothes or dress up in their Halloween costume. Teachers will be getting into the Halloween spirit too and will be dressing up!! Each class is designing a pumpkin and we will have a special Whole School Assembly on Friday where all the boys and girls will come to the General Purpose Room and see who has the scariest and most creative pumpkin! 6th class will visit classrooms to do face painting. It promises to be a fun filled day! Thanks to the Parents Council for sponsoring pumpkins for each classroom and face paints as well a Halloween treat bag for all the boys and girls!

The staff and Board of Management would like to wish all families an enjoyable Halloween mid term. School re-opens on Monday November 2nd.

