



Presentation Junior School

Junior Infants – 2nd Class

Boys and Girls

OPEN EVENING

We look forward to meeting you

Thursday 9th January 2020

4 pm to 6 pm

Enrolment Weeks

13th – 24th January

Please Spread The Word



Presentation Schools **NEWSLETTER**

19th December 2019

*Season's Greetings
&
Happy New Year*



May the warmth and
joy
of the **CHRISTMAS**

Season
remain with you
throughout
the coming year.

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Presentation Junior School

What is precious to a child has no price – only value

It is that time of year again to extend a warm thank you to all Parents and Guardians, for supporting your child and our school. Thank you for attending Parent/Teacher Meetings and for being there with costumes for all occasions. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and understanding, for your smiles, friendly greetings, notes, homework help, listening to reading, preparing for tests and encouragement. Thank you for the healthy lunches. Thank you for sharing your appreciation of the school with us and for being ready to share good experiences with your circle of friends. Above all, thank you for giving us the opportunity to get to know you and your child. The support you give your child at this stage of life gives your child important lessons which will shape their future. You are the primary educators and your attitude to education forms their educational path. Remember every day counts in the school year. Are you happy with your child's school attendance? Good attendance leads to successful learning outcomes. Your child will thank you for all the important lessons you help to teach now.

Parent Association News

The Parents' Association Committee have regular meetings in the school. The activities planned have included the Sweet Jar Guess which raised €150 in the last few weeks. The Association funded an Interactive Learning Panel as a result of the €2,500 donation in June. It is you and your child's generosity of spirit which makes so much possible. You and your child are the life blood of our school and every kind act is so appreciated in our Presentation family. It is hoped to have a cake sale in the New Year. If you would like to get involved in the Association please call to the Office. Our Parents' Association is a vital part of our school community.



Board of Management

Meetings of the Board took place on the 22nd October, 26th November and 17th December. The Board thanked the school community for all their work and enthusiasm in all areas of school life. The work of being well informed about teaching and learning is central to the work of the Board. The Board thanked the Parents' Association for their fundraising and support of the school. A new Board has been elected following appropriate procedure and this Board will be in place until November 2023. The Chairperson of the Board and the Patron's rep is Valerie Moore. Fr Kevin Heery is a Patron's Rep. Jacinta O'Reilly and Cormac McCarthy are the parent reps. Sr. Catherine Brosnan and Colm Smyth are the community reps. Bernie Beddows and Alma Manny are the school reps. Thank you most sincerely to the Board for all their dedication.

Croke Park hours

As in years gone by Croke Park hours continue to be utilised for Staff Meetings, Class Planning and Professional Development. We also organise school events. Our Open Evening is an important part of our school year. We would like to welcome you and your friends to our special evening on the 9th January. It was not possible to do it last

year due to circumstances beyond our control. Play is the work of children and we are looking forward to meeting old and new friends from 4 to 6 pm.



Energy Green Flag Year 1 of a two year initiative

This is the first year of working towards our Energy Green Flag. The Green Schools Committee, Ms Gavin, all the class teachers and pupils are busy. Thank you to all the children who entered our competition. We were asked to colour a Guzzler picture and to come up with a slogan. Guzzler is our energy mascot. We are trying to conserve energy as much as possible. Congratulations to Harper, Martin, Davie, Jodie, Lena, George, Eyad, Gustavo, John Joe, Albtool, Arijele, Emma, Roberto, Natalia and Lily. Each child received a certificate and prize. We will continue to make conservation of energy a personal goal. It is hoped that all our children will become more aware of the importance of being kind to our planet and using energy in a responsible manner. Switching off lights when we leave a room could become habit both in school and at home. Being aware the standby facility on electrical appliances continues to use electricity so trying to switch off completely to save energy. Small changes can add up to big energy savings.



Language Curriculum for Primary Schools

The Language Curriculum for Primary Schools was the topic of our Training Day on the 4th December. We have been implementing it in the subject areas of English and Gaeilge. It involves oral language, reading and writing. Thank you for your understanding of the need to have a Training Day. This was an extra closing which could not be included in the School Calendar 2019-2020 as we received a short amount of notice. The Language Curriculum sees the importance of using a similar methodology in the teaching of English and Gaeilge or indeed any language. Our ability to communicate is central to the teaching, learning and enjoyment of all languages. As the teaching of Language is central to all aspects of our school life we welcome the Language Curriculum training. Further training will be rolled out in 2020 to facilitate the implementation of this curriculum.



Music and Dance

Our thanks to Ms Mímnagh Dunne for teaching the Recorder to our Second Classes. We also have Dance Classes for First and Second Classes. All of these talents have come to the fore this week with all classes taking to the stage to perform their Christmas Shows. Each and every child, teacher and SNAs have given 100% to the stage performances. They rehearsed, got going with dance routines, sang their hearts out and took such pride in being on the stage. The lighting, sound and sparkle on the stage was a wonderful feast for the eyes. Well done you are all so talented. It is a magical time in school. Sharing the excitement of the season with the children, parents and teachers, we can reconnect with our inner child. A sense of humour is a gift. A good laugh is vital for our health.

Presentation Senior School

An tScoil Ghairne de chuid de na hOibrisí agus na hEalaíona de Mhúinteoirí



Parent's Association

Our Parent's Council have been very busy since September. We had 2 excellent Halloween discos and 2 Christmas movie nights which were very popular and enjoyable. Our Christmas Raffle took place on Wednesday 18th December. Congratulations to all the lucky prize winners. A huge thank you to all our sponsors for the wonderful prizes. We are always looking for new members and would be delighted if you would like to join us in the new-year. We look forward to welcoming you on board.

Christmas Jumper Day



All pupils were invited to wear a Christmas Jumper to school on Friday 13th December and to make a small contribution as part of our fundraising for several local charities.

Jumble Sale

Last week every class in our school held a little Bring and Buy/Jumble Sale to raise funds for local charities. The children were invited to bring in something that they were happy to sell. This year all the money we raise will be shared among several local charities.

Circus Visit



McCormick's Family Circus visited our school on Thursday 19th December. A great day was had by all.

Choir News

Our school choir performed brilliantly at two events which supported two very important charities. On 4th December the choir performed at the St. Vincent de Paul Shop and on 10th December they took part in the annual Carol Singing at Harbour Shopping Centre.

Christmas Plays



Well done to all the children from Rooms 3, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 17 who performed brilliantly in their Christmas Plays this year. Great talent and excitement from all.

Maths

Presentation Senior School celebrated Maths week by engaging in maths problem solving, solving monster puzzles and taking part in a 'Design your Maths Door' competition. The standard was really high this year and it created a nice positive atmosphere around maths throughout the school. Congratulations to Room 9 and Ms Mulroy who won this year with their wonderful MathDonald place value inspired door. They won a Knex set and some goodies for the class.

I'm a Scientist



All of our 5th class pupils took part in I'm a Scientist. This is an online activity where school students connect with real scientists about real life science. It's a competition between scientists, where students are the judges. The pupils posed questions for the scientists, had a live chat with a group of scientists and then voted for the winning scientist. We had great fun and learned a lot.

Visitors to the School

The Community Gardai have been visiting every class in the school, taking a class every Wednesday since September. We really appreciate all the time and effort our community Gardai put into these visits and the children really benefit from their talks.

Andrina Finch has been to all our classes helping the children design beautiful Christmas Plates which I'm sure you were delighted to receive.

Karaoke

We look forward to our annual Christmas karaoke which will take place in our school hall on Friday, December 20th.

Green Schools

Make it a Green Christmas by turning off your appliances rather than leaving them on standby. This saves huge amounts of electricity. Turning down the thermostat by 1°C. Not only does this save carbon and

money, it's a good excuse to wear your Christmas jumper! Or go for a nice brisk walk! Be Energy smart. Using the right-sized pots for the vegetables you cook, and only boil the kettle when you need it, with the amount of water you need, saves lots of energy and reduces your electricity bills too. Turn off lights and taps when not in use and showers instead of baths reduces water usage. Christmas Wrapping paper. This constitutes one of the biggest Christmas wastes - the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs estimates that last year's wasted paper would be enough to wrap up the Channel island of Guernsey. If we all recycled just half of the 8,000 tonnes produced we'd save 25,000 trees. Try wrapping your presents in brown or recycled paper, recycled foil or newspaper, and using string or raffia (made from bark which regenerates) to tie it up. Reduce, Reuse, And Recycle. According to Recyclenow.com, the average household will throw out an additional 3m tonnes - that's five sacks of rubbish per family - over the festive period. Much of this will be waste that could have been recycled. Over 80,000 tonnes of old clothes will be thrown away this Christmas. so if you do get a new wardrobe, make sure you donate your old clothes to a local charity shop. Be batteries Aware. New gifts at Christmas often mean that households go through a lot of batteries. Batteries contain toxic chemicals, do not biodegrade and are difficult to recycle. Try using rechargeable batteries or trying the new AA size USB rechargeable batteries. By opening the cap and plugging into a USB connector, you can recharge them pretty much anywhere. We can all make a difference. Climate Change, it's in our hands!

Presentation Day

Presentation Day 21st November was a lovely celebration day for our schools. We started the day really well by attending 10 am Mass celebrated by Fr. Kevin Heery. The children participated in the prayers, Offertory gifts, singing and readings making it a very special celebration. Presentation Day is our feast day and every day in our schools we try to live out the values of kindness, giving and caring, inspired by the Nagle motto; "Not Words, But Deeds". Of course, there are treats for all as well and no homework that night! All in all a memorable day.

Sports Desk

The annual Westmeath Schools Cross Country Run took place in Belvedere in September and was attended by schools from all over the county. The running training organised in early September clearly paid off as Presentation Senior achieved a record medal haul for the second year running including team medals and several individual medals. Huge congratulations to all the boys and girls who took part and represented the school so well. A big thank you to all staff members for their help and support each Wednesday after school. Well done to all the boys and girls involved in the Cumann na Mbunscoil Gaelic football competition this year. There has been huge participation by both boys and girls this year and both teams have progressed to the quarter finals for the very first time. Training will continue every Wednesday in the New Year. A big thank you to all staff members involved. It has been great to see so many boys and girls getting involved and representing the school, particularly those that might not have played Gaelic football before. A huge effort was put in by all participants, which bodes well for future years. Hopefully we can replicate this great success in hurling in the New Year. The Active School Flag is a Department of Education and Skills initiative which aims to get more children more active more often. We are now well underway towards achieving an Active School Flag. The initiative is focused on providing inclusive physical activity opportunities for all members of our school community with an emphasis on fun. We are already seeing the benefits of increased concentration through our Active Breaks and we have many more challenges prepared for the New Year. Follow us on twitter: [@PresSrMullingar](https://twitter.com/PresSrMullingar)

Pedestrian Crossing

In September the Westmeath County Council began installing a pedestrian crossing outside our school. Although we are happy that this is working well enough, we are conscious that there is no longer a lollipop warden present. It is essential that we talk to our children and teach them about observing the rules of the road and obeying the red and green lights in particular. We may only cross the road when it is safe to do so.