

# Newsletter October 2019



## Music Generation

All pupils are learning the notes of the scale for the fiddle. They should spend a few minutes every evening practicing. Older siblings should help their younger brothers or sisters – paying particular attention to how they hold the fiddle and bow and also the position of their fingers.

## Code Week

Code Week took place last week. Children worked on the computer program *Scratch* to design their own animations.

The school blog has a video highlight of the week.

## Maths Week

Maths week takes place this week. All classrooms are taking part in maths activities in addition to their normal maths class. Maths is used every day in so many jobs. It is important that children see maths all around them. Lots of fun and games will be had during the week!

## School Blog & Facebook Page

The school blog is updated with photos of various school activities regularly so check the website to see what lovely work we have been doing.

The school also has a Facebook page. If you use Facebook – give the page a like (Feakle NS). The page is a good way for the whole community to keep up to date with what is happening in our school.

## Student Council

The students have met to discuss their plans for the year. They have begun planning their first event of the year – a games day on **October 25<sup>th</sup>**. The student council are asking all pupils to contribute €2 on the day. The student council will have games and competitions organised for the day. The money gathered on the day will go towards prizes for pupils throughout the year. Pupils can bring a board game or similar toy to school that day. No electronic devices please.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019**. Individual appointment times to follow. Some appointments will be arranged during other days that week – to avoid long delays occurring.

## Halloween Walk & Dress Up

Our annual Feakle Freaky Feet First Friday walk returns on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. All children will gather at the Fairgreen in the village and walk to the school at 9am.

We encourage all children to come in fancy dress for the day. Start getting those costumes ready!

## Green Schools

The school is currently working on Global Citizenship Litter and Waste. This is very topical at the moment and a very important theme for children to understand.

The Green School Committee this year are: Laoise; Shauna; Eva; Kevin; Eoin; Finn; Eddy; Sean. Let's hope we can keep up the good work this year and get our flag in May.

The committee will be completing an Environmental survey of the school and questioning all the pupils on their understanding of the theme this week.

Pictures of the Green School notice board will be posted to the school blog before Halloween.

## Cash for Clobber

There will be a Cash-for-Clobber clothes collection on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, please drop bags to the school **on or before Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**. The money that this raises helps pay for various bills throughout the year – new books; bus trips for sports events; new equipment for PE etc.

## Annual Shoebox Appeal

The school will be taking part in the Annual Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Each year this appeal sends thousands of gift-filled shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe and Africa. Shoeboxes should be returned to school by **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**. Please see attached leaflet for further details.

## Scoil Mhuire an Fhiacail

### Board of Management

Our current Board of Management are coming to the end of their term (2015 - 2019). A huge thank you to all members of the serving Board for giving their time and commitment to the school. Phil Canny (Chairperson), Val Donnellan (Treasurer), Marion McMahon (Secretary), Maria Conlon (teacher nominee), Carol Daly & Brian Moloney (parent nominees), Tim Walsh & Michael Daly (community nominees). Their time and experience is greatly valued.

Forms were sent home last week seeking parent nominees for the new term. Thank you to those who have returned the forms. Please consider standing for election if you have not returned a form. **Forms are to be returned by this Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**. Ballot papers will be sent home on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and parents will have one week to return them.

### Hollow Works

Work is beginning on the Hollow this week. It is hoped that work will be completed by the end of mid-term break.

### Christmas Annuals

Christmas Annuals are available to order for €4 per child. If you wish to order an annual for your child/children, please complete the attached form and return to school by **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019**.

### Healthy Lunches

Reminder that the school has a healthy eating policy in place. Children should not bring sugary snacks (cereal bars/biscuits/chocolate etc) to school. Children are allowed one small treat on Fridays.

### Vetting

We would ask parents to consider being vetted for the school. As we are a small school we often rely on parents for lifts and for helping out with events (e.g. Sports Day etc). The vetting process is an easy process and is done through the school. Please find attached a vetting form.

### Friends for Life Program

The Friends for Life program is being introduced in all classes beginning this week. The junior room will be completing Fun Friends and the middle and senior room will be completing Friends for Life.

The 'FRIENDS for Life' programme is a school-based positive mental health programme. The World Health Organisation cites 'FRIENDS for Life' as the only evidence-based programme effective at all levels of intervention for anxiety in children (WHO 2004). The programme helps students to develop effective strategies to deal with worry, stress and change and teaches the skills required to reduce anxiety and promote resilience. It is beneficial for all students, irrespective of their anxiety level.

Children will complete ten different lessons – run between now and Christmas. Each Monday pupils will complete a lesson. Please ask your child about the program. Children will have work to complete at home for the program – this will mainly be oral work.

### Dates for your Diary

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Christmas Annual Forms to be returned.
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Clothing Collection
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Halloween Walk & Dress Up
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Mid-Term Break
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School Re-opens
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Shoebboxes to be returned
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Parent Teacher Meetings
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	PA Christmas Fun Day
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	School Re-opens