



**Scoil Mhuire na nGael**  
**January 2020 Newsletter**

Dear Parents,

The month of January is almost over and we are looking forward to Spring and lots of fun activities here in Muire na nGael – the Peace Proms, our annual cake sale, Seachtain na Gaeilge, our school Feis and so much more!

***School Closures:***

The school will close for midterm break on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> & on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February. All our school closures can be accessed on our school website.

***Contact Details***

Please ensure we have the correct contact details for your child (parents' & emergency contact phone numbers and e mail addresses). Should you need to update your contact details please e mail same to [smgdundalk@gmail.com](mailto:smgdundalk@gmail.com)

***Children leaving school early***

We have an increasing number of children requesting to go home daily as they claim to be unfit to stay at school. It is very difficult for a teacher to ascertain if it is necessary for the child to go home. **If your child is unwell before school, please do not send him/her to school on that day.**

***Enrolment for Junior Infants***

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for junior infants 2020-2021 is February 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. No late applications will be accepted.

***Thank You***

A warm thank you to all who donated unwanted gifts after Christmas. We shared your gifts between our inter-generational project with St. Oliver's Community Hospital, Dundalk Soup Kitchen and Women's Aid, Dundalk. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

***Clothing Collection***

Our clothing collections have been very well supported in recent years. We will have our next clothing collection in early March. I ask that all families make an effort to support our clothing collections. The more money we raise the more events I can organise for the children. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> classes enjoyed a free performance of Setanta today. Start filling a black refuse bag today with unwanted clothes, blankets (no duvets or pillows), shoes, handbags, belts etc.

***County Photos***

You have received the proofs of your child's photos from County Photos. There is no obligation to purchase same. **If you wish to place an order simply return the proof and the correct money in the envelope provided by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February. No late orders will be accepted.**

County Photos will return to the school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30pm to take photos of our First Communion children. Class, individual and also family photos if requested will be taken. The prices will be the same as for our school photos and I'm sure you appreciate this is significantly cheaper than other photographers. Any other family who wishes to have photos taken (family photos, new baby etc) on this evening can also do so. Simply let me know in advance and I will arrange a time slot for you.

***Assessment Tests***

Our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will undertake assessment tests for their respective secondary schools on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February. We wish all our pupils the best of luck in these tests. **Once again I remind parents to contact the secondary school of your choice to enquire about their enrolment procedures.** It is advisable to do this when your child is in the junior classes in our school as some schools operate a first come, first served policy.

### ***Peace Proms***

Our school choir is looking forward to performing at the Peace Proms with the Cross Border Orchestra in the R.D.S. on Sunday. This is a great opportunity for the children and great credit goes to Ms Sloane, Ms Mc Kenna & Ms C Brennan who have worked with our choir during lunch breaks in recent months. We are looking forward to seeing our choir showcase their talents at this musical extravaganza.

### ***Catholic Schools' Week***

This week we are celebrating Catholic Schools' Week. We were delighted to welcome so many grandparents and family friends to our school this week. Our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils participated in a table quiz with their grandparents. It was a keenly contested event !!! 'The Dinosaur' team took the honours on Monday morning with 'The Golden Oldies' claiming 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. The "Forget Me Not" team were clear winners on Tuesday morning with the "Smarties" claiming 2<sup>nd</sup> prize after a tie breaker round. Thanks to the sponsorship received from local businesses we were able to offer spot prizes to our delighted grandparents. Where possible, we ask you to support these businesses in the future. The lucky winners were as follows:

<b>Prizewinner</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Erika Eidininkient	Fruit Hamper	Fyffes
Elaine Finnegan	€20 voucher	Park Café
Tom Kearns	€20 voucher	Park Café
Trevor Noone	€20 voucher	Connolly's Pharmacy
Mary Hoey	Wine & Chocolates	Londis, Quay St.
Tommy Heely	Carvery lunch for Two	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford
Mary Cotter	Golf for Two	Ballymascannon Hotel
G Mc Guigan	€100 book vouchers	River Roe Books
Edel Browne	€100 voucher	Skypark, Carlingford
Patricia Crawley	2 x 30 minutes spa treatments	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford
Kathleen Hughes	Box of chocolates	Donation

### ***Parking outside the School***

Please show consideration for our school neighbours when you are parking outside the school. Local residents must be able to access their driveways at all times.

### ***Cross Country Running***

Some of our senior pupils took part in the Drogheda & District AC Schools' cross country event at Newtownstalaban training ground recently. They acquitted themselves very well with some of our athletes finishing in the top fifteen out of a field of more than one hundred athletes.

### ***Sacramental News***

#### ***(a) First Penance***

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> class pupils are busy preparing for their First Penance ceremony which will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March in the Holy Family Church at 6.30pm. Thank you to Ms Daly, Ms Eldershaw & Mrs Cullen for preparing the children for the ceremony.

#### ***(b) Confirmation***

Our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils are also preparing for their Confirmation ceremony which will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. They will attend their Ceremony of Light on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February together with their parents and sponsors (where possible).

### ***Student Council***

Our new Student Council has been elected by the pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes. They have been very busy in recent weeks working with Mrs M. Brennan during lunch times. The members of our Student Council are Corey Kehoe, Karl Hanratty, Niamh Maddy, Ella Brown, Cian Copas, Isabelle Mc Cabe, Seán Morgan, Nathan Gray, Rebecca Crawley, Eve Duffy, Aaron Johnson, Maddie Cristal, Cayla Martin & Paul Donnelly. They are looking forward to convening one of their forthcoming meetings in the County Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk in the near future.

Kind Regards,  
Martina Rafferty.

## **Some day I'll tell my children**

Someday when my child is old enough to appreciate what motivates a parent, I'll tell them...

I loved you enough to bug you about where you were going, who with and what time you would be home.

I loved you enough to worry and nag about your health.

I loved you enough to choose your temporary upset, in the hope that the lessons would bring long term happiness.

I loved you enough to be 'overprotective'.

I loved you enough to not make excuses for your bad manners and lack of respect.

I loved you enough to choose to put myself last, most of the time.

I loved you enough to ignore what 'every other parent' did.

I loved you enough to let you stumble, fail and fall, so that you could learn to stand alone.

But most of all, I loved you enough to risk you hating me for decisions that I made in the hope that I was doing what was best for you, that was the hardest part of all.