

## Important Dates.

### Junior & Senior Infant Nativity Plays.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.

### School Carol Service:

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 8.00pm

### Christmas Holidays

School will close to pupils At 12 o'clock on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

School will re-open To pupils on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am.

### February Mid Term

School will closed to pupils from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February inclusive.

### Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 at 11.00am.

### First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 11.00am

## INTEL MINI SCIENTISTS

The Intel Mini Scientist Exhibition is a competition for Primary school students from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class in which they develop science related projects which are exhibited at fairs within their own schools.

Winning projects selected at this school level exhibition then go on to take part in the Mini Scientist Regional Final.



*Darragh at Regional Final*

The competition aims to:

1. Encourage students to see that science is all around us and that it can be fun and exciting.
2. To encourage investigation into how, what and why things work the way they do.
3. To foster a strong interest about science in students before they take

on the Junior Cert curriculum in secondary school.

4. To allow students demonstrate their experience of completing their project and the knowledge gained to the rest of their school.

Pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes displayed their projects in the school hall on Tuesday November 29<sup>th</sup>. Following much deliberation by the judges Darragh O Callaghan claimed first prize with his project on Hydraulics and was followed closely in second place by Emma Dunlop and Caitlin Sexton with their project on Calories in School Lunches.

Darragh represented our school at the Regional Finals held at INTEL Shannon on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> November and received merited recognition for his efforts from the judges.



*Emma and Caitlin receiving their prizes from the INTEL judges.*

The project proved to be most beneficial to all those who took part. Our thanks to the class teachers involved for their guidance and help.

## Well-being

Well-being has two main elements: psychological well-being (including feeling and thinking) and physical well-being. It is very worrying that there has been a significant increase over the past number of years in the number of children presenting with mental health issues. The Irish College of Psychiatrists estimate that 8% of children have a moderate to severe mental health issue. Children's relationships and interactions with their families and communities contribute significantly to their sense of well-being. Children need to feel valued, respected, empowered, cared for, and included. They also need to respect themselves, others, and their environment. Pupils become positive about themselves and their learning when adults value them for who they are and when they promote warm and supportive relationships with them. Life is full of challenges and struggles. Therefore, being flexible and having a positive outlook on learning and on life is crucial. All these experiences help children to become resilient and resourceful and to learn to cope with change and situations in which things go wrong. In our school we aim to create an environment which promotes mental and emotional well being and foster positive social interactions among all members of the school community. To enhance this provision school staff will undertake Continuous Professional Development in the area of well-being in the New Year and look forward to working in partnership with the Parent's Association and wider school community in promoting Well-being in our School Community.

## School Calendars



The Parent's Association are currently producing a school calendar for 2016. The calendar contains the known dates for forthcoming school events. Thanks to the many local businesses that have once again supported us by advertising in the calendar.

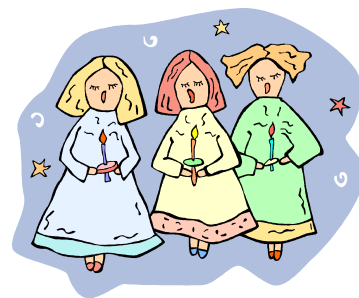
Parents are encouraged, where possible, to support our sponsors when the opportunity presents itself. Calendars will be available from the Parents Association and the School office.



The Accelerated Reader Programme continues to be a huge hit with the pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Since returning to school in August pupils have read **48,873,394 words contained in 4878 books!!! WELL DONE TO ALL!!**

A huge thank you to the Library Volunteers and to the Parent's Association for their continued support of this initiative. Please check at home and return any library books from the school that are not in use.

## Celebration of Christmas



Our annual celebration of Christmas for pupils in Junior & Senior Infants will take place in the school hall on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** commencing at 6.30pm.

Due to the size of the hall places on the night will be limited. Parents are reminded that older siblings of pupils in Junior & Senior Infants will get an opportunity to see the performance during school on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Junior Infants can be collected from their respective classrooms AFTER the Senior Infant performance.**

Pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will take part in a Carol Service in the Church on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> commencing at 8pm. There is an anniversary mass in the church before the Carol Service and as a result people are asked not to present in the church before 7.45pm.



*Nollaig Shona Daoibh go Leir.*