

Shountrade NS School Newsletter



October 2018

Important Dates

Christmas Concert
12/12//18
Carols in Crescent SC
18/12/18
Confirmation: 05/04/19
Communion: 18/05/19

There is **NO**
elevator to
SUCCESS.

You have
to take the
STAIRS.

School Closed

Halloween:
29th Oct – 2nd Nov
Christmas:
School closes
Friday 21st Dec
Reopens Mon 7th Jan

French / Speech & Drama

FRENCH Delphine Dunne has started French classes with 6th. Pupils are very fortunate to be experiencing this beautiful language and to be exposed to the wonderful accent of our very own native French speaker! Thank you Delphine.

SPEECH & DRAMA There will be **NO S&D next Tuesday, 23/10/18.** It will resume after mid-term 06/11/18.

Zeeko - Internet Safety

Zeeko, a company who provide Internet Safety training, attended Shountrade National School on Monday 15/10/18. A range of topics were covered from classes 3rd – 6th. After a short survey, the overall level of safety and supervision of children on the internet is very good in Shountrade National School so well done to all parents! Our presenter was very informative distinguishing between various apps and how safe/unsafe they are. She also told pupils not be to engage with any **fillers** who might join their **squad** while playing popular games e.g. Fortnite. She also pointed out that screens should be shut down for an hour before bedtime! She had many other tips for parents too at the evening event. Lots to think about!

Sport

The 1st term of 2018-2019 has been really exciting in SNS. We were honoured by a visit from the Liam McCarthy Cup and our esteemed captain Declan Hannon. This was truly a momentous occasion for all. Declan was at perfect ease with all the children, who were so impressed by him. He was really generous with his time for each one of them and really communicated at their level when he commented that 'Winning the All Ireland felt like having homework off for a year'. He signed jerseys, flags, copies etc. before departing. It was the highlight of their lives for many in attendance but particularly for our former principals Margaret O'Brien and Kathleen Kennedy. We look forward to another visit from Declan next year and wish him and the team every success.

Football training for boys and girls has taken place each Wed evening with large numbers attending. The girls were really successful this year. They drew with Our Lady's Abbey and beat Abbeyfeale and Kilcolman. However, they were denied a place in the final due to the scoring difference. Meanwhile the boys have beaten Rathkeale, Ballingarry and Kilcolman thus far and await their last match against Ardagh before proceeding to the final on Thurs. 25th October in Mick Neville Park. Congratulations to Maureen Howard for being chosen to represent SNS on the West panel of the Larking Shield. Also congrats to Darragh Gleeson and Jack Murphy who continue to trial for the West panel of the Sarsfield Cup.

Halloween

We all look forward to Halloween. Friday is our Colours Day (please bring €2 per pupil) and pupils may dress up **if they wish** in Halloween costumes/book character/tv character. We wish everybody a wonderful mid-term!

SCHOOL FOOTBALL FINAL!!

Shountrade are in Cumann na mBunscoil final tomorrow in Mick Neville Park. Coach for 3rd – 6th supporters leaving school at 12 o'clock for Kick off at 1:45pm. €3 for bus.

NOTE ESSENTIAL

Parents Information Night

Shountrade National School for the first time had a Parents Information Night for current parents of the school. Presentations from teachers on certain aspects of school life were delivered. Mrs. Lyons spoke about Child Safe Guarding Measures. **Mrs. Lyons is Designated Liaison Person and Mr O'Connell is Deputy Designated Liaison Person.** Mr O'Connell spoke about Sport and the very busy schedule of sport in Shountrade National School outlining Hurling, Football, Camogie, Indoor Hurling/Camogie, Spikeball and other sporting activities. Ms Walsh presented on 3rd class homework and transition from the junior section of primary school to the senior section and that pupils now must take some responsibility for their own learning. Ms Ryan spoke about Literacy Lift-Off and the benefits of this initiative on children's reading and comprehension and showed delightful, live sound bites and video clips of pupils expressing their views! Mrs. Fitzgerald spoke about a new initiative that we intend to implement in the near future – **Guided Reading**. This will act as a continuation from **Literacy Lift-Off** and as a preparation for Non-Fiction texts that will be encountered as our pupils continue their education right through Secondary School. Ms Dore outlined what Junior & Senior Infants are doing at the moment and of what should be expected at this stage regarding homework and developing pupils' independence. She assured parents that all students had settled well and all is going according to plan. Ms Cantillon made a bilingual presentation on Bliain na Gaeilge and encouraged parents to have a positive attitude towards our native language as well as using it positively at home. Mrs Ryan presented on 1st & 2nd class and spoke about First Holy Communion and informed parents about her intrinsic reward system an approach in the classroom where pupils value their own work and are proud of their efforts!

It was Mrs. Ryan's first time meeting our parents and we are very delighted to have her as part of our team.

Parents Council 2018/2019

Congratulations to Úna Dempsey, mom of Shauna and Aoibhe, who has been elected Chairperson of our Parents Council. We have always had a vibrant, energetic Parents Co. in Shountrade National School and we look forward to a great year ahead working with our new PC partners in Education.

Elected Officers :

Chairperson: Úna Dempsey

Vice Chairperson: Yvonne Williams

Secretary: Jenny Walsh

Vice-Secretary: Marguerite Doody

Treasurer: Katie Maher

Vice-Treasurer: Ciara Toomey

PRO: Stephen O'Dowd

Our thanks to Parents Council 2017/2018 for their support and hard work in the past 12 months

Geoff Hunt

On Wed 17th **Geoff Hunt**, local expert on flora and fauna in the area, accompanied 6th Class to Curraghchase Forest Park.

The children learned about birds, plants and insects in their habitats, concentrating especially on our native red squirrel – a wonderful opportunity to study nature and science in our locality.



VEX ROBOTICS

SNS 5th class are participating in **Vex Robotics** programme sponsored by Dell. After mid-term, Eoghan Toomey and Bryan Jones and Mr. O'Connell will devote 1 hour per week to this programme and have a project to submit by spring 2019. The Vex robotics programmes are based on well-established STEM learning principles. The programme is enhanced by the input of our 2 industry volunteers. Thank you Eoghan and Bryan.

Literacy Lift Off

Our Literacy Lift Off has started in 2nd Class and has once again been a wonderful success. Pupils and parents have greeted the initiative with enthusiasm and teachers are thrilled.

SHOUNTRADE ENHANCES FACILITIES

The BOM has purchased 1 acre of land (approx.) adjoining the school. This is a lifetime opportunity for our school community to enhance our facilities. We now appeal to all our parents & pupils (both past and present) to support our fundraising events over the next year. Our enthusiastic Parents Council have many exciting ideas and events in store. Our vision for the field will unfold in the next few weeks. Initially, access, fencing and levelling are our immediate priorities. However, there are many, many possibilities for us to explore. This is an exciting time for our school community and the wider local community.



Shountrade National School

School Calendar 2018-2019

First Term 2018

Wed 29th August @ 9:00 am	School year begins
Friday, 26th October @ 2:40pm	School Closes
Monday 5th November @ 9:00am	School Re-opens
Friday, 21st December	School Closes - Christmas Break

Second Term 2019

Monday, 7th January 2019 @ 9:00am	School Re-opens
Thursday, 21st February @ 2:40pm	School Closes
Monday, 25th February @ 9:00am	School Re-opens
Monday, 18th March BANK HOLIDAY	School Closed
Friday, 12th April @ 2:40pm	School Closes – Easter Break

Third Term 2019

Monday, 29th April @ 9:00am	School Re-opens
Monday, 6th May BANK HOLIDAY	School closed
Monday, 3rd June BANK HOLIDAY	School closed
Friday, 21st June	Summer Break