



Cliffoney National School

Nuachtlitir

Deireadh Fómhair 2016

www.cliffoneyns.com

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Midterm Break!

It's hard to believe we have reached the half way point in our first term already! Where have those two months gone? We have had a great start to the school year. The children are well and truly settled in at this stage and appear to be very content.

We have a busy term ahead of us in the lead up to Christmas. We are already getting excited about Christmas markets, concerts and all the festive fun. There are so many valuable learning experiences to be had at this time of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in completing and returning school forms and your contribution towards the school book rental scheme and art/craft money. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

Louise Kerins

Road Safety Issues

Road Safety is fast becoming an issue of major concern to all in our school community. As a community, we must play our part in helping to reduce the risks and prevent road injuries and tragedy. The school has taken the following measures:

- ◆ Letter sent home to parents
- ◆ Approached the local Gardaí
- ◆ Requested a school visit from the R.S.A.
- ◆ Sought help from the National Road Authority
- ◆ Expressed concerns to Councillor and Mayor of Sligo, Marie Casserly

Music Lessons

Over 30 pupils are learning to play the tin whistle and read music on a Tuesday afternoon with Margaret Byrne and Ms. Kerins. It is wonderful to see so many interested and keen to play an instrument. Keep up the great work! Ann Marie Reilly is running fiddle lessons in the school on Tuesdays. She has place for two beginners who would like to learn to play the fiddle after Christmas. If you are interested, please let Ms. Kerins know.

School News

- ◆ 4th, 5th and 6th classes participated in the Holy Door Pilgrimage organised by the Diocese of Elphin on Tuesday 25th October. The children visited Tobernalt Holy Well and the Cathedral as part of the pilgrimage.
- ◆ Ciara Barrett, ably assisted by our pupils and teachers, cleared and prepared the school garden for next year. Cuttings and seeds were also taken for planting next year.
- ◆ The Mini-Sevens Tournament was held in Grange on October 10th. Our senior class all participated and displayed great skill and determination. Maith sibh!
- ◆ Everyone (teachers included) enjoyed the Halloween dress-up day on October 28th.
- ◆ There will be a dental screening of all pupils on Wednesday 16th November. Please return the forms A.S.A.P.

Dátaí don Féilire

Midterm Break	Monday, 31st October—Friday, 4th November 2016
Parent / Teacher Meetings	Tuesday, 22nd November & Thursday, 24th November
Cliffoney Variety Concert	Friday, 9th December 2016
Christmas Concert	Tuesday, 20th December 2016
Christmas Holidays	Thursday, 22nd December—Monday, 9th January 2017
Confirmation	Tuesday, 23rd May 2017 @ 11a.m.
First Holy Communion	Sunday, 28th May 2017 @ 10:30a.m.

Fundraising 2015/2016

Last year, with your help, the Parents' Association raised an incredible €5000 for the school. Back in September 2015, we made a list of the targeted spending of fundraised monies for the year. The following is an account of the spending:

Website:

Developing a new website €400.00

I.T.

Fixing of old laptops & anti-virus €334.86

Fixing of a projector and purchase of two new bulbs for projectors €381.28

4 new laptops €1,888.97

3 x iPad covers €120.00

School Garden:

Heritage in Schools (nature programme) €200.00

Topsoil for garden €55.00

Arts Education:

Music Generation (guitar lessons 3rd -6th) €850.00

Sports:

Sports Equipment €355.23

Orienteering outing €190.00

Youth Sport West (gymnastics course) €150.00

Irish Dancing Céilí €50.00

Total €4,975.34

The Board of Management and staff of the school would like to extend their sincere thanks to the Parents' Association and all involved in this amazing fundraising effort.

Parental Involvement

- ◆ After a very successful school year 2015/2016, our Parents' Association are back and hard at work. In the coming weeks, we will agree this year's target and wish list and begin to plan and organise many enjoyable events for the year ahead. The first of which, a **Quiz night in Harrison's Pub**, Cliffoney has been organised for **Friday, 18th November**. It promises to be a very enjoyable night. Please show your support by joining us on the night. Donations for a raffle on the night would be greatly appreciated.
- ◆ You will shortly receive notice of a date/time for your child's parent/teacher meeting. If this is not suitable, please let the school know as soon as possible.

Cliffoney Country Market

Cliffoney N.S. has been invited to attend the Christmas markets on 4th and 18th of December in Cliffoney hall. Over the next few weeks, all classes will get busy and creative in designing and making Christmas cards, decorations and other festive bits and pieces to sell at these markets. The children will take responsibility on the day for setting up their stall and selling their products and all money earned from the markets will be used to purchase new resources and equipment for the school.

If there are any parents, grandparents, aunties or uncles out there with ideas about products we could make or anyone with skills they would like to share with the children, we would love to hear from you. This is a wonderful opportunity and a very different learning experience for our pupils. Any assistance would be positively received.

School Website

We have been working on developing our new school website over the last year. Thankfully, it is almost ready to 'go live'! The website in time will become a great source of information for parents and a wonderful means for the children to present their work and school news to the wider community. Watch this space between now and Christmas!

Aistear

Junior/Senior Infants engage in structured play time each day. In September, we learned about the home and houses, and during October, we set up a doctor's surgery and a hospital. During play, the language and skills required in the various settings are explored and developed. In November, we will be setting up a restaurant. If you have any play materials (small table and chairs, plastic food, aprons etc.) at home that your children do not use anymore, I would be very happy to take donations!