



Cliffoney National School

Nuachtlitir

Samhain 2016

www.cliffoneyns.com

0719166578

Looking forward to the festive season!

It has been another busy and exciting month in Cliffoney N.S. Thank you to all parents for attending the recent parent/teacher meetings. I hope that it was a positive experience for everyone. Good communication between the school and you, the parents, is so important in terms of providing the best education for your child. If you have any concerns regarding your child in the future, please make contact with your child's teacher.

As I mentioned last month, road safety is of particular concern to us at present. Please continue to remind your children about the dangers of the road. On December 8th, the Road Safety Promotion Officer will visit the school and talk to all our pupils in an effort to raise road safety awareness.

The festive season is nearly upon us and in preparation for the annual Christmas concerts, the children are busy learning their lines, singing songs and planning costumes and set designs. It is wonderful to see their excitement and confidence grow as they take to the stage. Please support your child in helping him/her with his/her role and come along on the day/night to enjoy what will no doubt be a West-end-worthy show!

Louise Kerins

Website

Our new school website was officially launched last week at our Parents' Night. A lot of hard work has gone into developing the website and we are deeply grateful to Kate McCarthy for sharing her expertise with us and giving so much time to this project. Please keep an eye on our website for the latest news and to find out about upcoming events and activities. Check us out at:



www.cliffoneyns.com

Cliffoney Markets

We are thrilled to have been invited to set up a stall and sell our Christmas cards and crafts at the Cliffoney Markets during December. The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking on the project. Each class has been involved in designing and making items. Mr. McTiernan's class will set up the stall and take responsibility for selling the products on the day. The Christmas Market on the 18th December promises to be a very enjoyable occasion with lots of carol singing, music and much more entertainment. Dates and times of the markets can be found below. Please show your support for our budding entrepreneurs and share in a wonderful event in our community.

Dátaí don Féilire

Cliffoney Market	Sunday, 4 th December 2016, 11a.m.-1p.m.
Cliffoney Variety Concert	Friday, 9th December 2016
Cliffoney Christmas Market	Sunday, 18 th December 2016, 11a.m.-5p.m.
Christmas Concert	Tuesday, 20th December 2016
Christmas Holidays	Thursday, 22nd December—Monday, 9th January 2017
Teacher training in new Language Curriculum	Wednesday, 8 th February 2016 (school closed)
Enrolment/Open Evening 2017	Wednesday, 8 th February 2016 (time to be confirmed)
Confirmation	Tuesday, 23rd May 2017 @ 11a.m.
First Holy Communion	Sunday, 28th May 2017 @ 10:30a.m.

Parental Involvement

- ♦ Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising a very enjoyable Quiz in Harrison's Pub on Friday, 18th November. Sincere thanks to all the sponsors of prizes and to Declan Harrison for serving up great food. As always, thanks to everyone who supported the event.
- ♦ Tickets for the popular Ball Run have been distributed and must be returned to the school by Wednesday, 7th December. There are fabulous prizes to be won and the children are particularly excited about the in-school raffle of a €50 Symths Voucher. Anyone who sells their full booklet will be in with a chance of winning this highly sought-after prize! **All tickets must be returned to the school regardless of whether they have been sold or not.** The Ball Run will be held on Friday, December 9th at 2pm.
- ♦ Thank you to everyone who attended our Parents' Night on Thursday 24th November.
- ♦ Last year, the P.A. organised for Áine McCarthy to give Irish lessons to parents who were interested in improving their Irish. If enough people are interested, this may be run again after Christmas. Please let Louise or any of the P.A. know if you would like to take part.
- ♦ We need your support for a bag-packing opportunity in Supervalu, Grange, on 31st December. On this occasion, we need your time. A letter will be sent home shortly, if you can give an hour or two, please indicate this on the letter and return it to the school immediately. Míle Buíochas!

A note on homework

At Cliffoney N.S., we feel that it is important that children receive homework. Homework is an effective way of reinforcing and extending the pupils' learning experiences and it allows parents to take an active role in their child's education. It also encourages a sense of responsibility (for example, in taking down homework correctly and bringing home the correct books and copies).

The following are guidelines suggesting the time to be spent each night completing homework for each class.

- Infants 10-15mins
- 1st and 2nd 15-30mins
- 3rd and 4th 30-45mins
- 5th and 6th 45-60mins

It is important that children do their homework in an appropriate environment — a quiet place with no distractions. Homework should be checked and signed every night.

If homework is causing stress or anxiety to the child or is taking too long on a regular basis, please inform the class teacher.

Christmas Festivities

- ♦ As Thursday, 8th December is a holy day of obligation, we will all attend Mass in Cliffoney Church at 10:30a.m.
- ♦ On Friday, 9th December, 1st-6th classes will participate in the annual Cliffoney Variety Concert. Time to be confirmed.
- ♦ On Tuesday, 20th December, we will have our Christmas Concert in Cliffoney Hall. The infants will perform *Whoops-a-daisy Angel*, 1st-3rd will put on *Born in a Barn* while the senior class will present *Scrooge*. A great night's entertainment is promised!

Thanks for your generosity

Well done to everyone who supported the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Over 50 boxes were sent from Cliffoney N.S. this year.

We will be collecting food for St. Vincent de Paul this week. To donate, please send non-perishable items e.g. tinned or dried foods, biscuits, sweets etc. into school before Friday, 9th December.

Miscellaneous

- ♦ Our Child Protection Policy and an Attendance Strategy Statement are available on our website.
- ♦ On Wednesday, December 7th at 7:30p.m., there will be a talk for parents on **Internet Safety/ Cyberbullying** facilitated by Mary Hough (Sligo Educ. Centre) in Scoil Naomh Molaise, Grange. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend.
- ♦ If you can spare some time on Saturday 14th January, to help us tackle the problem with the fence around the football pitch, we would be very grateful. The initial task at hand is cutting the overgrown hedge and trees. More details to come!