

ST. COLMCILLES'S J.N.S.



Autumn Mid-Term News

October 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this finds you all well as we approach the end of the school term. I want to thank you all sincerely for your continued help, support and the efforts you have made to date in working with us with the new systems we have put in place. These steps were taken to try and make our school as safe an environment as possible for all. It is a testament to the parents of Knocklyon and one of the major contributing factors as to why the system is working so well. It has not been easy and there have been many challenges for us all. We understand how difficult times are for people and we want to say how appreciative we are of the sacrifices you have all made throughout this pandemic.

Despite the uncertainty around us all at the moment, we have been very busy settling back into school life here in St. Colmcille's JNS.

Halloween

We are having fun preparing for Halloween in the school and all classes have created some beautiful art displays that are hanging on the noticeboards and indeed around the classrooms. Ms Gallagher as always has created a spooky Halloween display for all the children to enjoy outside the office.

The children can wear a part of their Halloween costume in for the last day Friday October 23rd before we break for the Halloween mid-term. Please do not include any extra parts that have to be touched and can be shared around the classroom i.e. broomsticks, cauldrons, soft toys, swords etc.!

PE & Exercise

We have been continuing with our PE programme in school and have been using our new floor stickers in the hall to do our exercises and to stretch before and after classes. Our teachers have also been conducting PE lessons outside, when the weather permits.

We speak to the children on a regular basis about the importance of getting outside and doing some exercise from family walks to cycling our bikes to gardening! There are so many different forms of exercises to enjoy!

Autumn Art

We have been looking out for all the signs of Autumn and creating some fantastic Autumnal Art for display throughout the school. We have discussed all the various Autumn signs and talked about the many games that can be played at this time of year. I was telling the children about a favourite of mine, the game of conkers! Some of the parents might have fond memories of this game from their time in school!!



Ms. O'Leary's PE Class



School Atrium Halloween Display



School News Continued

SEE-SAW

Post mid-term we will be using Seesaw to complement homework assigned on Aladdin Connect. In the event of school closure or a pod/whole class sent home, we will use Seesaw as the main platform. We will continue to use Aladdin Connect for daily homework. At this stage you should have all received a step by step guide for how to use Seesaw. We will provide each child with an individual learning code which allows them access Seesaw. Parents will receive this code on the Monday after the mid-term break.

Mindfulness

For the month of September we decided to give the children no written homework and instead focus on mindfulness in and out of school. For the last two weeks of September we ran our mindfulness radio after yard time where the children and staff listened to some nice peaceful relaxing music. The children were also given tasks to complete as part of mindfulness homework. There were lots of different ideas and alternatives for the children to focus on. We hope that the children continue to make their way through their lists and indeed come up with some ideas themselves. We hope that the children will continue to D.E.A.G.O (Drop everything and go outside).

Thank you to all the parents and children for helping to improve our environment by minimising our waste. We strive to follow our golden rule of 'What we bring in, we take home". All yogurt cartons, plastic wrappers etc. are taken home in our lunch boxes for recycling.

Pedestrianised Zone

Thank you to all for helping to make our school grounds a pedestrianised zone during school hours. With the volume of people walking to school, it was a measure we had to take. We feel it has greatly helped with the implementation of the new one-way system. The children arrive to school in a relaxed manner and it is a lovely way to start the school day getting to greet the children as they arrive en route to their respective classrooms.

Covid 19

We would advise parents to wear face coverings where possible when dropping and collecting the children. Thank you for your co-operation.

We would respectfully ask adults not to congregate after collecting children from school. Please adhere to HSE guidelines regarding group gatherings and leave the school surroundings as soon as you have picked up your child/ children.

We would be grateful if parents would make the school aware if a child or anybody in their household is being tested for covid 19. Members of the household should restrict their movements and follow the HSE guidelines during this time.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful mid-term break and thank you as always for your continued help and support particularly during these difficult times.

Le gach dea ghui,

David Curtin,
Príomhoide.

Dates for your Diary

Mid-Term Break: School closes on Friday 23rd of October at 2.10 p.m.
October Reopens Monday 2nd November at 8.30 a.m.

Christmas Holidays: School closes on Tuesday 22nd December at 12.00 p.m.
Reopens on Wednesday 6th January at 8.30 a.m.

Junior Infants Halloween Art



Junior Infant News

The Junior Infant classes have been busy bees since starting school. They have been learning lots of new skills and enjoying doing lots of Halloween arts and crafts! They have settled in so well since September and we are very proud of them all. We are learning lots of new words, sums and doing many activities daily. We love our new school and are always trying to follow the school motto and "Be the Best you Can Be".

Senior Infant News

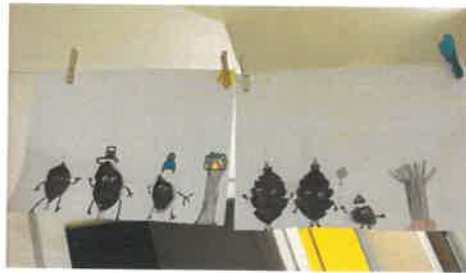
We have had a very productive few months in Senior Infants! The children have been enjoying learning all about Autumn. We went on a nature walk to collect Autumn leaves and some classes even made hedgehog beds. We have started to get our classrooms ready for Halloween and there are lots of spooky faces to be seen around the Senior Infant classrooms!



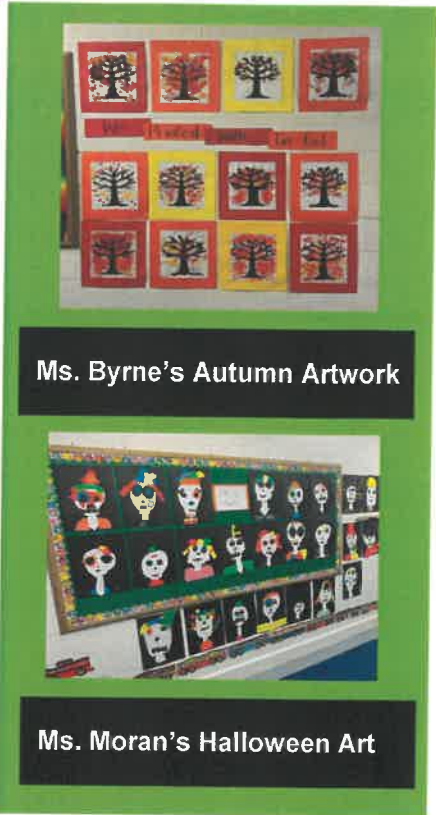
Photos from our talented Senior Infants above

First Class News

The boys and girls in First class have settled in very well to a different school year. We have been working really hard learning about Our Senses, Helen Keller, Autumn Time and Halloween in more recent days. We have participated in lovely nature walks in the last few weeks, observing the seasonal change all around us and how beautiful the leaves look this time of year. Some classes learned about the types of trees in Ireland, and even made some "Leaf Critters"!



Ms. Rafferty's Class "Leaf Critters"



Ms. Byrne's Autumn Artwork



Ms. Moran's Halloween Art

We are now learning about Halloween traditions, writing spooky stories and doing lots of artwork that we can decorate our houses with for 31st October. We are also discussing the importance of being safe at Halloween.

Second Class News

The children in Second class have hit the ground running. We have really enjoyed learning about lots of wonderful topics such as, Autumn, counties of Ireland, schools long ago, volcanoes and Halloween. We are so incredibly proud of the children in Second class.

Here are some examples of their fabulous work:

