



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02
School Roll Number: 19486K
Charity Number: 20201057
Phone: 01-8350594
www.decsash.ie
Email: info@decsash.ie
Twitter: @decsash



Principal Teacher: Cian Kearins

Deputy Principal Teacher: Cathy Collier

ST. DECLAN'S NS NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020

Science Week

Science Week took place from November 9th to 13th. The core theme for Science Week 2020 was 'Science Week - Choosing our Future' focusing on how science can improve our lives in the future, and in the present. The children explored how science can help us to make positive choices that will impact the environment, our health, and our quality of life. Changes based in scientific evidence that we make today can hugely improve our future life, but also right now. Science, technology, engineering and maths all play a huge role in our everyday lives and in our economy. Science and technology have played a vital part in responding to Covid-19. Science Week was an opportunity for us all to engage with the science all around us. All classes participated in lots of different science activities and experiments which were posted on our school website www.decsash.ie. Well done to all the class teachers for working so hard and preparing fun experiments for the children. Thank you to Ms Mc Enroy for co-ordinating the event.

Lion's Club Art Competition

For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. Congratulations to Victoria Milczarek, Room 4, 6th class who came first and Jack Price, Room 4, 6th class who came second in the local level of the Ashbourne Lion's Club art competition. The 2020-2021 art theme is "**Peace Through Service.**" This competition allows students to share their unique images of peace with others, so that we may all have greater tolerance and international understanding and to express visions of peace. Victoria's picture will now go forward to national level. Good luck Victoria!!

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent-teacher meetings have been postponed until Term 2. It will not be possible to facilitate face to face meetings this year however we will be in contact with more information in the new year. If you have any concerns regarding your child(ren) please feel free to contact the school office so that a phone call can be arranged with your child's class teacher.

An Post Initiative

An Post are delivering letters, cards and parcels to nursing and care homes nationwide for free this winter in an aim to help communities to stay connected. Ms Jenkinson's 6th class and Ms King's Senior Infants wrote poems, cards and messages of encouragement and are sending them to Clarehaven Nursing Home, Rush Nursing Home and Kilbrew Nursing Home. We hope it will bring a smile to everyone's face when they receive their special deliveries. Well done Room 27 and Room 4. Kindness goes a long way!



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Parents' Association 2020-2021

Thank you to all parents who attended the virtual AGM of our Parents Association. The PA work with the principal, staff and Board of Management to build effective partnership between school and home. The committee are the team of people who manage the tasks of the Parents Association on behalf of the parents/guardians. We wish our new PA all the best in their term of office ahead. On behalf of our entire school community, a sincere thank you to Jennifer Mulvey and Ann Robertson who held the office of chairperson and vice chairperson over the past number of years. We are extremely grateful to them for their tireless work and dedication.

St. Declan's PA committee 2020-2021

Chairperson Caoimhe Gore

Vice Chairperson To be confirmed

Treasurer To be confirmed

Vice Treasurer Audrey O'Neill

Secretary Paula Cullen

Vice Secretary: To be confirmed

Is Eolai Mé TG4

Well done to Kayla Moroney Room 9 and Jamie Harris-Bracken Room 2 who appeared on the science programme Is Eolai Mé on TG4 last Thursday evening. As part of the show they visited Dunsink Observatory with presenter Catriona. In the observatory they researched solar physics, space weather, planetary science and star formation. They did St. Declan's proud. Well done Kayla and Jamie!!

Virtual Assemblies

We held virtual assemblies for classes 1st to 6th last Friday via Zoom. Assemblies are a way of coming together and staying connected. We share good news at our assemblies and talk about different events happening in the school. We discuss our school rules and try and improve on them. We give out pupil of the month medals and trophies. These could be awarded for good behaviour, being kind to others, playing nicely on yard, listening very carefully to teacher, trying really hard in class or doing really good homework. Every month four children from each class are nominated by their teacher and one person is awarded. Gaeilgeoir na Miosa is a prize given to one child from each class during assembly who is making a huge effort to speak in Irish throughout the day or when they meet others on the corridor. Each class gets a chance to do a performance at assembly during the year. We were treated to lovely Christmas songs by Ms Mooney's 2nd class Room 15, and Mr Lydon's 3rd class Room 11. Ms Jenkinson's 6th class Room 4 read out some of the poems they composed for the nursing homes. Thank you to all the teachers who prepared the children for our virtual assembly. It was a great success.



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Class Calendars

Order forms for class calendars were sent home last week with the eldest in the family. The cost of the calendars is €5 and there is no limit on the amount of calendars that can be purchased. Thank you to all parents who have purchased calendars to date. If you still wish to order calendars please send in completed order forms with the correct money into your child's class teacher by Thursday the 10th of December. The calendars are a fundraiser for our Parents Association. This will be the only opportunity to purchase calendars as there won't be no concerts this year, where normally surplus calendars are sold.

Christmas Cards

We ask for children **not** to exchange Christmas cards this year to help stop the spread of Covid19.

Lions Club Virtual Santa Dash

Normally every year the Lions Club host a Quiz, a Santa Cycle and a Food collection at Murtaghs, Dunnes Stores and Super Valu. The combined efforts normally raise €15k worth of food and fuel which is distributed in our local community by SVDP and the Lions Club. As it's not possible to host any of those events this year, the Lions Club are organizing a **VIRTUAL SANTA DASH**. The idea is that families, friends, students, teachers etc. will walk/cycle/run/hop or jump for 5km on **Saturday December 5th**. The cost of registration is €20 per family (2 adults and 4 children) €10 per adult and €5 per child. Tickets can be purchased on this Eventbrite link <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/virtual-santa-dash-ashbourne-district-lions-club-tickets-127767575257> (The event will take place according to HSE guidelines) The Lions Club will set up a stall at Murtaghs Hardware Car Park (12pm - 6pm) on Dec 5th where they will hand out participant medals and sweets for the children) This year SVDP will be providing food and fuel vouchers to those vulnerable and in need in Ashbourne, Ratoath, Curragha and surrounding districts.

Christmas Concerts

Our annual Christmas concerts won't be taking place this year due to Covid 19 restrictions. However all classes will be performing a song/play/poem from their own classrooms which will be sent home via Seesaw. Today we recorded all classes singing different lines from the song Do They Know It's Christmas. Thank you to Mr Mc Keown, Mrs O'Rourke and Mr Mc Loughlin for organizing this. We hope to put it together and send it home closer to Christmas.

Is mise le meas Cian Kearins (Principal)

Cathy Collier (Deputy Principal)