***ALTINURE NEWSLETTER***





***ISSUE 3 – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022***

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

Two hampers were presented to St. Vincent de Paul before Christmas and these brought joy at Christmas to families in need. Thank you to everyone who supported our hamper draw.

Many thanks also to all parents who donated to the Foyle Search and Rescue Charity in lieu of giving staff gifts at Christmas. £150 was raised and will be presented shortly.

£100 from the proceeds from our Split the Pot draws has also been donated to the DEC Afghanistan Appeal. Again, thank you for your continued support!



**SCHOOL CLOSURES**

TERM TWO

Mid-term Break:

Mon 14th Feb – Fri 18st Feb 22

St. Patrick’s Day

Thurs 17th –Fri 18th March 2022

Easter Holidays

 Half day Wed 13th April 2022

 Return to school Mon 25th April 2022

TERM THREE

Mon 2nd May 2022

Thurs 2nd and Fri 3rd June 2022

School closed for summer holidays:

Half day Thurs 30th June 2020

**CLASS AND FAMILY PHOTOS**

Lafayette Photography will visit school on Thursday 20th January for class, individual and family photographs. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, younger family members are not permitted to attend for the photograph. Lafayette prefer to only take photos that parents *may* purchase and individual photos tend to be most popular in P1 and P7. If you know you will not purchase the individual photo, then your child does not need to have this photo taken. Of course, if you think you may purchase, then your child should get it taken. To ensure that the desired photos can be arranged, please complete the permission slip sent home and return to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

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**CROSS COUNTRY NI FINALIST**

Congratulations to Oran Finlay in P7 on qualifying for the NI Cross Country Final which takes place on 24th February in the Mallusk Playing Fields in Belfast. We wish him the best of luck!

**SPORTS AND IN/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

**Monday**

Play Therapy – Some KS1 and KS2 pupils

Speech and Language Support – Some Foundation Stage pupils

Yoga with Monica Donaghy **–** P6 – Group 1 – 3-4pm

-4 weeks from 10th – 31st Jan. (P6 Group 2 Yoga will take place from 7th Feb to 7th March.)

**Tuesday**

Gaelic – Andrena – P1/2, 2/3, P5 & P6- 9.15 – 12.00am

*P6 to stop Gaelic/P7 to begin on Tues 1st Feb.*

Swimming Yr 7 10.30 – 12.20pm

*(Last swimming session is 25th Jan)*

Literacy and Numeracy Club – P5 – Tues 24th January for 4 weeks

**Wednesday**

Language & Communication Support– Some pupils- P1/2/3

Irish Yrs 5-7 1-3pm

**Thursday**

EA Literacy Support – Some pupils – KS2

EA Violin – Mrs Small – KS2 - 1- 3pm

Gymnastics – P3 -3-4pm - 4 weeks -Thurs 13th Jan – 3rd Feb. (P4 Gymnastics will be from 10th Feb to 10th March)

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**TIN WHISTLE**

Mrs Boyle will teach tin whistle to Primary 6 and 7 pupils on Wednesday afternoons, beginning for Primary 6 on Thursday 20th Jan. At the same time, Mrs McAleer will teach Film Literacy to Primary 4. Tin whistles will be on sale at reception at a cost of £5.00 each.

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (beginning Jan 23rd)**

The theme of Catholic Schools Week is ‘Living Life to the Full.’ To launch Catholic Schools Week, Bishop McKeown will celebrate Mass at 10am on Thursday 20th January in Saint Eugene’s Cathedral via the webcam

<http://www.steugenescathedral.com/webcam.html>

On Wednesday 26th Jan, we will encourage pupils to show their appreciation for their grandparents to mark Grandparents Day. Pupils will produce a piece of work about their grandparents to bring home in recognition of all our grandparents do.



**TEACHING PRACTICE STUDENTS**

We are looking forward to having Miss Megan Gormley begin a 10 week teaching practice placement in P2/3 on Monday 24th January. We also look forward to Miss Aisling Mortimer beginning her teaching practice in P4 on Monday 21st February. We hope they both enjoy their time in our school!

**SPORTS**

**TRANSFER 2022**

Transfer results will be issued by post to pupils and their parents on Saturday 5th February 2022. Good luck to all pupils who sat the test!

**Post Primary School applications must be made online by Year 7 parents. The online portal will open on Tuesday 1st February 2022 and will close at 4pm on Wednesday 23rd February 2022.**

**The Admissions Criteria for Post Primary Schools will be published on the Education Authority website on Wed 12th January. Parents must consider the Admissions Criteria carefully when making their school choices. Evidence must be provided of the criteria such as receipt of Free School Meals.**

**It is of utmost importance that parents list at least 3 schools on their child’s Post Primary application and at least one of those choices should be a non-grammar school. A Zoom Information session will be held on 1st February at 7.15pm by Miss Doyle and Mrs Redmond to provide support for parents in understanding post primary schools admissions criteria. More details to follow.**

***Most post primary schools are not having Open Evenings but are offering virtual tours or visits by appointment. Keep an eye on school websites/social media for updated information. We will also aim to share their information on our website/Facebook page.***

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**CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation will take place in St. Mary’s Church Altinure on Saturday 26th March 2022 at 11am. Lafayette Photography will be available to take photographs in the church after the ceremony.

Primary 7 pupils have been completing online Confirmation sessions this week, organised by the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre. P7 pupils will also attend a Confirmation retreat on 9th March as part of their preparations.

**CHILDREN’S ADORATION**

Adoration will take place in school for P4-7 on Monday 17th January from 10 -12 noon. Children should bring their own rosary beads if possible.

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**FIRST CONFESSIONS**

It is hoped that First Confessions for the Year 4 pupils

will take place in St Mary’s Church, Altinure on Tuesday 5th April 2022 after half ten Mass. All parents welcome.

**FIRST COMMUNION**

First Communion will take place on Saturday 28th May at 11am in St. Mary’s Church, Altinure. Lafayette Photography will be available to take photographs after the ceremony.

Charlotte Gormley, the parish Faith Formation Co-ordinator, will implement the ‘Do This In Memory’ Programme with Primary Four pupils and their families in the coming months. The first special Mass for P4 will take place on Sunday 30th January. Details have already been sent home.

**SAFER INTERNET DAY**

Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 8th February. That day, pupils in all classes will discuss internet safety and strategies they can use to stay safe online. Cyber Pal will conduct workshops with Year 5, 6 and 7 pupils on Monday 7th February to enhance the older children’s understanding of how to protect themselves on the internet. **We have also planned a Cyberpal Parents’ Information Session on Thursday 10th February at 7pm in our school Assembly hall.** **Parents of P3-7 children are invited.** Social distancing measures will be in place and parents are asked to wear facemasks. As the internet can be a dangerous place for children, we strongly recommend you attend this meeting to help you keep your child safe online.

**VIOLIN TUITION**

Fees for EA violin tuition are now due for Term 2/3. Pupils should pay £60 to the school reception as soon as possible. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TWO O’CLOCK BUS**

We continue to ask Year One and Two parents to support the two o’clock bus if possible. This service costs £2 per day.

**ONLINE APPLICATIONS TO YEAR ONE**

Children born between 2nd July 2017 and 1st July 2018 must begin primary school in September 2022. **Parents are asked to make an application for a Year One place through the EANI Citizen Portal at** [**www.eani.org/parents/admissions**](http://www.eani.org/parents/admissions). This portal opened on Monday 10th January and will close at noon on Friday 28th January. Applications are not allocated on a first come, first served basis and will only be considered after the closing date on 28th January.

***Any parents wishing to see around our school before making an application are very welcome. Please contact reception to make an appointment.***

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**PRIMARY 6 PARENTS MEETINGS**

Mrs McAleer will conduct telephone parents’ meetings with Primary 6 parents from Monday 16th to Thursday 19th January. An appointment time between 2.15pm and 4pm will be issued to you shortly. On receiving the appointment letter, please confirm the telephone number on which you wish to be contacted and return to letter to school.

**COVID 19 UPDATE**

Following recent changes in legislation, if a child tests positive for COVID 19, they must isolate but if they have no symptoms, they no longer need to complete a PCR test. They can return to school **if they have no temperature** and they have a negative lateral flow result on Day 6 and Day 7, taken at least 24 hours apart.

If a family member tests positive for COVID 19, children can continue to attend school but they must complete a lateral flow test each morning and receive a negative result before attending. If parents wish the whole household to isolate as a precaution, that is also allowed.

In the event of self-isolation, school work can be collected from school reception. Please telephone to arrange. Remote learning will only be provided if staff shortages result in whole classes having to isolate and learn from home. We appreciate your continued support in following social distancing rules, wearing facemasks and encouraging good hygiene practices among pupils.