

**NEWS FOR DUDES EXTRA**

**FEABHRA 2019**

**www.cashelbns.ie**

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

**I hope this *News For Dudes Extra* finds you all well. The days and weeks are flying by. It doesn’t seem all that long ago that we were celebrating Christmas and now mid-term is around the corner (Thurs 21 and Fri 22 February – school closed). Lots happening around our school community as you’ll see from all the nuacht below. Bainigí taitneamh as!**

***Will Ryan***

**Príomhoide**

**Website**

Mrs Sharon Perdue does brilliant work updating the school website. It’s a great source of information and pictures about everything we do in school. We are revamping it at the moment so please visit us regularly over the next few months. The school calendar on the website has been updated with several key dates added right up to June.

**Reminder re: drop off times**

No boy should be dropped off to the school before 9am in the morning. Supervision of our boys is between 9am and 9.20am only. Ball games/running etc. are not allowed as the boys gather for school in the morning.

**Lateness**

School commences at 9.20am. It is important that your son(s) get to school on time. While we appreciate that family life in the morning is busy and that the traffic is heavy, a small minority are coming to school late and missing either part or all our Assembly in the morning. Thank you, though, for your efforts to get the boys in on time.

**Walk or Park ‘N’ Stride**

As the weather improves, why not walk or park ‘n’ stride to school? It’s a great way to start the school day as we’re finding out through our engagement with the Active Flag initiative.

**‘HSE’ House and Main Build Update**

This time last year, the Department of Education and Skills took ownership of the HSE house. We are still trying to work out the details of a lease agreement between the school and the Department.

Meanwhile, the design for our main build (Two ASD classes and two mainstream classes) is still with the Department of Education awaiting the green light to allow us move to the planning stage. The plans incorporate the former HSE house and the field beside it and we will, funding permitting, change those spaces into a carpark/set down area. The decision-making process is, however, infuriatingly slow.

**Dog Fouling**

We know that many of you (and us) are exasperated by the disgusting dog fouling on footpaths outside the school and on the Old Road in general. The issue has been discussed by the Parent Association, Board of Management, the Student Council and the Green School Committee who met with local representatives to try and come up with solutions. A plan is being formulated with details to follow.

**Student Leadership**

We are lucky to have super boys doing great work on our Green School and Active Flag Committees as well as our Student Council. Every meeting between the boys and staff leaves us greatly impressed. Student voice is very important to us, and the boys are not shy about offering opinions and suggestions.

**Active Playtime**

Thanks to the efforts of Mr Coskeran, Miss Webster and the entire staff, our playgrounds are a hive of activity at present. It’s brilliant to see our boys so engaged at playground and behaviour has improved considerably with less pulling and dragging! More things are planned for the future. Watch this space!

**Attendance**

There has been a lot of sickness recently, but attendance is still up on last year. Well done. Please look at our Attendance policy on our website for helpful tips and information re: attendance.

2017/18 2018/19

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| December | 91.4% | 91.7% |
| January | 89.0% | 93.1% |
| February | 90.6% | 93.3%, partial |

**Sixth Class JEP Programme**

As well as preparing for Confirmation (this year on 23 March) and their transition to secondary school, Mr Molloy, Miss Crosse and their 6th classes are working diligently on their Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The boys welcomed John O’Sullivan to school recently as one of the Dragons alongside myself and Ms O’Farrell. Watch out for details of their exciting product - ON SALE SOON! A word of thanks to the parents who supported the boys in all groups with their product presentations. Very impressive.

**Swimming**

Tá Rang 4 ag snámh gach Luan faoi láthair i gCluain Meala. 4th class are swimming every Monday at the moment in Clonmel. Their last session will be on Monday 18 February. **Rang 3** will commence its six week block on Monday 25 February.

**Spelling Bee County Final**

The internal school spelling bee competition took place in January with Filip Adamczak (Rang 6) coming out on top following an incredibly nerve-wracking final! Filip will represent the school in the County Final which takes place in our school on Thursday 14 March. He’s working very hard and, with a bit of luck, he could go far!

**Hurling**

Hurling coaching for 1st to 6th classes is provisionally starting on Monday 25 February for 10 weeks. Infant hurling lesson dates to be confirmed. I will soon send out an order form for hurling equipment. Our thanks, as always, to PJ Dunne (School-Club Liaison) and Cashel King Cormacs for their support.

**Soccer**

Many thanks to Cashel Town FC for its great support so far this year. The coaching on Tuesdays is going down a treat. Our gratitude to all the coaches, but especially our Dads Jimmy O’Neill and John O’Sullivan. Tina Flanagan is the School-Club liaison and is doing a fantastic job bringing it all together. The club sponsored new soccer jerseys, bibs, water bottles and a medical bag recently along with a large supply of soccer balls. GRMA!

**Parent Association**

Our Parent Association continues to meet monthly and works hard behind the scenes on so many things. What an amazing job our Parent Association did on Winter Wonderland before Christmas. Another cracking evening.

The Annual PA table quiz will take place on Thursday 11 April at 8.30pm in the Brian Ború.

**Mrs Sheahan**

We welcome Mrs Sharon Sheahan back to school next Weds 20 February. Fáilte ar ais! We missed you.

**FRIENDS FOR LIFE & ROOTS OF EMPATHY**

One of the highlights of my week is visiting Miss Curry’s Rang 4 to deliver the “Friends For Life” programme. What a thoughtful and engaging group of buachaillí. “Friends For Life” is an evidence-based programme which gives the boys practical strategies for building resilience. Both Rang 3 classes are continuing with their ‘Roots of Empathy’ programme. Always the highlight is when our Baby teachers visit.

**Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**

The sensitive lessons in our RSE programme finish next Tuesday 19 February. I hope you take the opportunity to speak with your son at home about the various lessons he completed in school. More details on our revamped RSE section on the website.

**New Stay Safe Programme – PLEASE NOTE**

The New Stay Safe Programme will commence in all classes during the week beginning Monday 25 February. This is an **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** programme and we urge you to familiarise yourself with it. A home-school link will go home after every lesson and it’s important you do that worksheet together. Child Protection is all our responsibility. We must do everything we can, every day, to keep our children safe. Further details @ [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie)

**First Penance and Communion Preparation**

Ms O’Farrell and Miss Webster are preparing the boys for their upcoming sacramental celebrations. First Penance is up first on Weds 3 April at 7.30pm.

**St Patrick’s Day Parade**

The theme for this year’s St Patrick’s Day parade is ‘Cashel 700’. The school participates every second year. As we marched last year, we’ll next be on the streets in 2020. Many of us look forward to supporting the parade by attending on the day.

**Photographs**

The school photographer will be here on Weds 20 March. All pupils need to be in their GREY SCHOOL UNIFORM that day.

**Fifth Class Reading Buddies**

Fifth Class did brilliantly as Reading Buddies to Rang 1. We commend them highly**!** How lovely to see our younger and older boys working together.

**Literacy Lift Off & Maths Power Hours**

Well done to Mrs Perdue and her Special Education team for supporting the class teachers at various class levels this year so far. It is a great opportunity for teachers to work with small groups of boys over a defined period of time and seems to be working very well. Literacy Lift Off is next in both Third Classes and Maths Power Hour in Rang 1.

**Handball**

Well done to Adam Adcock who represented the school in the County Primary Schools finals in January. Eoghan Dunne and Conall Moloney were also scheduled to attend, but sickness put a stop to their participation.

**Tennis**

Play-off games are finishing up this week, so we’ll know next week who is on our Tennis team for the upcoming Munster Schools Tennis competition.

**Draughts Lunchtime League**

Mrs Callanan is in the process of establishing a lunchtime Draughts League for those interested. There is renewed interest in the game since the training before Christmas with John Alfred.

**Catholic Schools Week and Assemblies**

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated in late Jan/early Feb. One of the highlights was the visit of grandparents of our Junior Infant boys. What a very special occasion that was. Fr Enda also celebrated his first mass in our school! A lovely occasion enhanced by the beautiful singing of our Third and Fourth class choir.

**Cyber Bullying Awareness Month**

In our school, February is assigned as Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety Awareness month. This is a very important issue. <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/> is a great resource for parents looking for more information.

**Joint Building Fundraising Committee**

Thanks to your support and the brilliant efforts of our Fundraising Committee, we’ve been able to lay new tarmac in the Senior and Junior Yards. Although it’s not a huge space, it has made a considerable difference to us all in school. The Lip Sync battle, 50/50 Cashback etc has made this possible. Thank you!

**Dates for your Diary Up To St Patrick’s Weekend**

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| **Thurs 21 and Fri 22 Feb** – School Closed – Mid Term  **Mon 25 Feb -** Hurling commences in 1st to 6th and Swimming in both 3rd classes. START OF THE STAY SAFE PROGRAMME IN ALL CLASSES. School photographs.  **Tues 26 Feb –** Termly staff meeting 2-4pm. All boys finish at 1.45pm.  **Mon 4 March- Thurs 7 March** Whole School Evaluation – Management, Leadership and Learning**.** Welcome Inspectors Mary Culhane and Elaine Hyland.  **Mon 11 to Fri 15 March –** Visit of Greek teachers Maria and Sofia.  **Thurs 14 March** – Spelling Bee Co. Final @ 11am in School Halla and Confirmation Ceremony of Light @ 8pm in the Parish church.  **Sunday 17 March –** Social Tea Dance in Halla na Féile @ 9.15am. Music by Dermot Lyons. Proceeds in aid of the Joint Building Fund.  **Mon 18 March –** Public Holiday. School closed |