



## **HALLOWEEN LINKS 2014**

- ❖ Please make sure your child has a coat every day.
- ❖ Drop your child, weather permitting, where they can walk a little of the way to school – a great start to the day and a great way to reduce traffic too☺ - Remember we operate a **VOLUNTARY ONE WAY** system around the school at drop off and collection times to help ease congestion.

**Dear Parents, It is hard to believe that we are almost at Mid-term already and the school is beginning to get into that Halloween spirit ! The following news and dates for your diary may be useful:**

- We had a wonderful visit with our Lord Mayor and the Examiner & Evening Echo had lovely photographs of us. Why not check out our website for more fantastic shots. The Lord Mayor gave some excellent advice to the girls on looking out for each other and wearing a nice cheerful smile as we go about our day. She also highlighted the need for us all to be ever vigilant about Bullying in all schools. Homework off sent everyone home happy :).
- We were delighted to welcome the Cork Camogie Goalkeeper with the All Ireland Trophy –The O' Duffy Cup! What an inspiration Aoife Murray was – again check out our website for great photographs of her visit.
- We have had Enrolment Ceremony and Ceremony of Light for our First Holy Communion & Confirmation girls last week and, as always, these were beautifully spiritual and moving events. We thank you in advance for your continued vital support with sacrament preparation and ask that you would work on Mass responses regularly as this presents a huge time challenge for schools nowadays. Previously all pupils preparing for sacraments were regular Mass goers and so knew the responses by heart already.
- You may not realise that we pray each morning for many special intentions as people get great comfort from the sense that children's prayers storm heaven. We are praying especially for many special intentions at present - several relatives of pupils and we would love if you could join your prayers to ours too. In November we will remember especially deceased family & friends.
- Our Sciath Na Scol Football campaign is going amazingly well and we won the group Semi-Final on Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>. We now go on to play Eglantine in the final after Mid-term. We are so proud of the girls and their trainers- Ms. Kellegher, Ms. Walsh, Mrs. Mc Carthy and Mr. Clune.
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> is Dress up for Halloween Day and we ask that you support our Parents Association fundraiser for Maths Equipment with a €2 per family donation if possible. More on this to follow. We, the staff of St. Catherine's are hugely grateful to you all for your amazing support in ensuring we are a really well resourced school. Support like this is even more essential this year as the Government have refused to pay the Minor Works Grant for Schools which would have been over €11,000 for us. Capitation payment per pupil has also been reduced by a further 1% in the Budget also. Meanwhile, as you know from your own household bills at home, costs of utilities are constantly rising.
- Health Promoting School: We are seeing a marked rise in the amount of chocolate bar wrappers in yard after breaks and are very disappointed to see this as it means children are not complying with our Litter policy or our Healthy Eating Policy . We ask for your support again in this regard and remind everyone that Friday is Treat Day & that we are a completely NUT FREE zone here.
- Parent Teacher Meetings for Junior & Senior Infants take place this week – please note school closes 15 mins early for Infant classes on PT Meeting days. All other classes are as per School Calendar. **SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME THIS FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> .**

- Christmas Card orders will be taken after mid-term so more on that later:) Remember your child gets a pack with their personally designed card so I'm sure family overseas and Grand- parents especially will love to have one.
- May we thank you most sincerely again this year for the huge response to payment of school expenses. The feedback on how all of this has been organised has been so so positive and we are glad to hear that it took pressure off families and eased the back to school stress.
- Uniforms - please remember we have a great selection of top quality second hand uniforms available in school should you wish to take them. All we ask is that the area where they are stored is kept tidy and a small donation made to Office to cover cleaning etc. A big thank you to all who have helped so much with this since September. May we ask that you donate any uniforms - in very good condition please :-)- after mid-term as we hope to have volunteers to put these on display for Parent Teacher Meeting Days in November.
- Junior Infants 2014/2015- forms are now online & closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>**. It is very likely that not all those looking for places this year will be accommodated and places will be allocated strictly as set out in our Enrolment Policy (available on [www.stcathns.com](http://www.stcathns.com))
- The 2 H's – Hair and Hygiene – Reminder – Hair is to be tied up in school. Hand Hygiene is as critical as ever so please remind your daughter to wash hands after toileting- all pupils on senior corridor must have washbags. Pupils are also asked to cough /sneeze into the crook of their elbows to avoid spread of infection.
- Information from The ESB 's Bevin Cody of ESB Corporate Communications 01 702 7570-

To take part in one of the **Makeshop workshops** in Co. Cork over the October midterm break, simply email your interest to [sciencegallerymakeshop@esb.ie](mailto:sciencegallerymakeshop@esb.ie), with the preferred time, location, name of child and age; places are confirmed on the receipt of a confirmation email. Places are limited and on a first come, first serve basis. **Note: Parents must remain in attendance at the workshops.**

Friday, 31 October 2014: ESB Networks, Sarsfield Road, Wilton, Cork	
Time	Workshop
11.00	Doodlebot (6 – 11 years)
12.00	LED Torch(11 – 17 years)
13.00	Doodlebot (6 – 11 years)
14.00	LED Torch(11 – 17 years)

- Finally may I thanks all those helping out with our Parents Association ; The Do this in Memory Masses; 6th Class Year Book; Green Schools 4th Flag Campaign; Active Schools Flag; Ceolteoirí; Who will be my Witness Masses; Basketball; Book-rental; Website management &our Health Promoting Schools Campaign. What a busy school community we are!
- **Don't forget to keep updated on all that's going on in school on [www.stcathns.com](http://www.stcathns.com)** and follow us on twitter there too☺.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**