



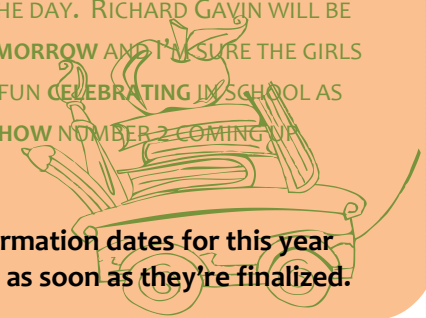
2 COMMUNIONS, 1 CONFIRMATION AND A PENANCE!

SEPTEMBER HAS BEEN A REALLY BUSY MONTH CATCHING UP ON SACRAMENTS THAT WERE POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS. WE STARTED OFF WITH A BEAUTIFUL SACRAMENT OF **FIRST PENANCE** IN THE HALL WITH THE CHILDREN IN **3RD CLASS ON 9TH SEPTEMBER**. THE GIRLS DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR THIS SACRAMENT AND WE HAD A LOVELY CEREMONY.

THURSDAY **16TH SEPTEMBER** WAS **CONFIRMATION DAY** FOR LAST YEAR'S **6TH CLASS** WHO GOT TO REUNITE WITH ALL THEIR OLD CLASSMATES ON THE DAY. OUR THANKS TO MRS. BREEN AND HER SELECT CHOIR OF 4 – **LAUREN HANLON, ELLA CLEARY, ABBEY LARKIN AND REBECCA MCCORMACK** – WHOSE BEAUTIFUL, ANGELIC VOICES REALLY ENHANCED THE CEREMONY.

NEXT UP WAS THE CLASS THAT HAVE HAD TO WAIT THE LONGEST FOR THEIR BIG DAY... **4TH CLASS MADE THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON FRIDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER** IN ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH. EVERYONE LOOKED BEAUTIFUL AND PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD GAVIN WAS ONSITE IN THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 20TH TO TAKE THEIR STUNNING **PHOTOS**. WE FOLLOWED THIS WITH A **COMMUNION PARTY** FOR THE GIRLS AND AN **OUTDOOR FASHION SHOW** FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL WHERE THE CHILDREN GOT TO STRUT THEIR STUFF DOWN THE CATWALK TO ADMIRING CHEERS.

LASTLY, THE GIRLS IN **3RD CLASS MADE THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER**. ONCE AGAIN, THE STYLE WAS GORGEOUS AND THE BEHAVIOUR AND ENGAGEMENT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE CEREMONY WAS A CREDIT TO THEIR PARENTS AND TEACHER, MS. SHERWIN. THANKS TO VIVIENNE MCCORMACK WHO HELPED THE CHILDREN MAKE THEIR OWN SPECIAL COMMUNION BRACELETS TO WEAR ON THE DAY. RICHARD GAVIN WILL BE TAKING THEIR **PHOTOS TOMORROW** AND I'M SURE THE GIRLS WILL HAVE JUST AS MUCH FUN **CELEBRATING IN SCHOOL** AS **4TH CLASS DID**. **FASHION SHOW NUMBER 2 COMING UP TOMORROW**☺



Communion and Confirmation dates for this year will be sent to parents as soon as they're finalized.



Some of our 4th class Communion Queens 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may be aware some of the guidelines changed last Monday 27th September around close contacts. But what does it mean for you?

1. If your **child has symptoms** of Covid 19 they must **stay at home** and self isolate. **Book at test.**
2. If your **child is a close contact from their household** (someone else in your house has Covid), they must restrict their movement, **stay at home** and get a Covid **test**. This includes if your child has a sleepover in a friend's house and someone in that house tests positive.
3. If your child is a **close contact** of a confirmed case **in school** and has **no symptoms, they continue to come to school and don't need to get a test**. If they have symptoms, they need to self-isolate and get a test.
4. **Contact tracing will not be happening in schools but infection prevention measures remain in place.**

Homework Folders

The children will start to get home learning from **Monday 4th October**. Everything they need to complete their home learning will be in their home learning folder. Work is set for the week and there is flexibility for you as to when you complete it. Folders are returned to teacher on Friday. There will be a cover sheet in the folder laying out each week's work. Many thanks to Debbie Doyle for her power-house laminating skills!! Some of the core aspects of the homework packs are;

Reading out loud – all classes.

Junior Infants-2nd will have **2 books** in their folder for the week. Book 1 will be treated like a **bedtime story**. You will read this book aloud to your daughter twice in the week to foster a love of reading. Book 2 will be a book that **your daughter will read aloud to you**. These books will be made up of words the children can break up and sound out themselves (**decodable books**)

3rd-6th class will have **1 book** in their folder each week. They will be doing **paired reading with you**. Set aside 10 minutes each day where the two of you read the text together at the same time and same pace. This is to foster a love of reading in your child so if she gets stuck give her the word immediately (don't ask her to break it up or sound it out) and continue with the text. In this way you won't be interrupting the flow and your child will better understand what she is reading and enjoy it.

PE homework – All classes will have a laminated page in their folder for the month with 4 activities explained on it. Do 1 activity twice during the week. The activity will have been explicitly taught by the teacher in school so the children will be familiar with what they are supposed to do. The activities all focus on **fundamental movement skills that all children need to develop**. Because we are living much less active lives than before, more children are now struggling with basic movement skills. Practising this at home will help them.

Mindfulness Homework – 2nd-6th class

Children's levels of anxiety are increasing year on year. Children need to practise basic **calming, breathing techniques daily** to be able to use these techniques when they are overwhelmed. 1 activity will be set by the teacher after they have practiced this in class. Try to set aside quiet time twice a week to practise this.

Unstructured Play Homework – Junior Infants-1st class

Children at this stage of their development **learn best through play**. Step into the wonderful world of their imaginations for 15 minutes twice a week and watch the wonder unfold. Focus on **developing oral language**.



European Sports Day Thursday 30th September 21
The whole school celebrated **European Sports Day 2021 on Thursday 30th September**. It was great fun for everyone and fantastic to see all the children smiling and active for the whole day. The children did 4 different active stations and 4 different mindfulness activities. It was a lovely opening to our school year.

Reminders

- **Adults please remember to wear a mask when dropping off and picking up the children**
- **The playground is designated to one class bubble only each week for safety. Please do not let brothers or sisters use the playground while you are waiting to collect your daughter.**
- **We are having huge issues with dog poo on our astroturf and sprint track. There are no dogs allowed in the school grounds at any time.**
- **If your daughter's hands are getting dry with the cold weather and increased sanitizing, a good idea is to put some rich, unscented moisturiser on their hands at night going to sleep so it can absorb.**

Le Meas,
Aoife McNicholas

