

'SS Michael and Peter JNS' Newsletter

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

It was with great delight that SS Michael and Peter re-opened its doors to the boys and girls on Wednesday 30th August. I would like to extend a special welcome to all our new Junior Infants and also to the other children that have joined our school for the very first time. We hope that they have a very fruitful and enjoyable experience here and we look forward to getting to know each and every one of them over the coming days, weeks, months and years. A fun and exciting year lies ahead for all of us, one where we can develop our talents, learn many new things in our classes and develop strong links with our local community of Arklow.

I would also like to extend a welcome to our eight new permanent members of staff and our four teachers covering maternity leaves. We hope they have a very enjoyable time in SS Michael and Peter JNS.

As newly appointed Principal of SS Michael and Peter I wish to extend a **Céad Míle Fáilte** to all members of both our school and the wider Arklow community. I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming years. My door is always open, so if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to make an appointment and I would be happy to meet with you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody; staff, parents, pupils and members of the wider Arklow community for the warm welcome that you have extended to me since my arrival here in SS Michael and Peter JNS and I look forward to your continued support in the years ahead.

As the proverb "Trí na chéile a thógtar na cáisléain" states, together we can achieve great things. By working as a team; staff, pupils, parents and the wider Arklow community, we can build a safe, happy and vibrant school community here in SS Michael and Peter JNS and I look forward to being a part of that.

Is mise le meas,
Lisa Dempsey



Class News

Junior Infants



Junior Infants boys and girls have settled in well in their first term of "big" school. We are so proud of them!

We are well on track of our Jolly Phonics sounds and we are enjoying the interactive aspect of the program. The children are looking forward to getting their first reading

book after the midterm.

They have also enjoyed Early Mathematical Activities, where we have been learning about shapes, matching, pattern and early number skills. During Maths week we enjoyed lots of activities including a shape hunt. The children are encouraged to mix well with everyone and new friendships are developing.



Play is one of our favourite activities and we have enjoyed learning through play about ourselves, homes, autumn and dressing up.

We are learning lots about healthy eating from the Food Dudes. We are tasting lots of different fruits and vegetables and enjoying it. We are looking forward to dressing up for Halloween and a well- deserved midterm break.



Senior Infants



Senior Infants have really settled into their new classes this term. They are making heaps of new friends as well as learning lots of interesting and exciting things. They have been learning all about Autumn, the changes in the season, as well as going on trails



collecting leaves, conkers, acorns and much more. They have spent a lot of time discussing the community and being part of a community both in school and at home and they even sang about this for the Beginning of Year Mass. All the Senior Infant classes are very excited about Halloween and they can't wait to dress up.



First Class



First class have been very busy since we started in September. We have been learning all about Autumn, ourselves, our homes, Halloween. We have enjoyed exploring our school grounds during our nature walks, collecting different leaves and fruit for our nature tables. We especially love playing with the helicopters that have fallen off the sycamore trees beside the school yard.

There is great excitement in our classrooms everyday to see what fruit and vegetables we will be eating for Food Dudes. We are all making a really big effort to eat healthy food. Even when we do not like certain fruit and vegetables we are really good at tasting the food. We love getting our rewards and stickers for our chart. All of First class are trying hard to be more active this year, to help our school get an Active Flag. Some of us have been enjoying soccer training, while other classes have it to look forward to later in the year. We love using pedometers that we got as a reward for Food Dudes, to count our steps on the yard and at home every day. This year we have active homework once a week. That is our favourite homework during the week!



We have been busy recycling and ensuring that there is less litter and waste in our school to help our school get the Litter and Waste Green School Flag. Some of us are on the Green School committee with some of the teachers and SNA's in our school. We have meetings to organise and discuss how we can improve recycling in our school. It is the committee member's jobs to remind and encourage other children, teachers and SNA's to continue to lessen waste in our school and to record the progress that is being made.



Some of First class have been working really hard at Literacy Lift Off which helps us improve our reading, writing and phonics. We love getting our new book to read every night and writing about interesting things in class. We loved

writing our poems about Autumn and Halloween. Some of us wrote rhyming poems and drew pictures to illustrate our poems.

We had great fun designing our posters for Maths week. We played lots of Maths games and activities. It was so exciting going on a Maths Hunt around our school. We were also given prizes for who finished the Maths hunt first and who could guess the correct number of pasta in the jar. Maths is so much fun!

We had such an exciting time performing our song 'Can't Stop the Feeling' at The Big Sing in Glenart College. It was



so much fun performing on stage in front of other schools. We all looked so cool with our sunglasses and dance moves.

We love being creative and experimenting with different elements of Art. We painted hedgehogs with plastic forks, painted autumn trees with cotton buds, sponge painting of autumn leaves, constructed houses, used chalk to draw self portraits, used sticks and leaves to create 'Stickman' from one of our favourite books, constructed crazy monsters and much more. We are very proud of our Art!

We are all really looking forward to Halloween. We have been learning all about Halloween, listening to stories about witches and wizards, the traditions of Halloween and doing lots of Halloween Art. We love dressing up and can't wait to scare our teachers with our costumes. We can't wait to see what our teachers will dress up as this year!

Second Class



Second class have had a very busy September and October. We have learned so much and had so much fun!

We have been busy learning all about space. It was International Space Week and we learned all about the first people and animals to go to space. We made Super Space Maths pictures using lots of shapes and we created a time line on an Astronaut called Neill Armstrong. We also created space portholes with our very own aliens and planets! We learned a really fun way to remember the 8

planets of our Solar System and a poem called Gravity.

We've learned about the importance of eating healthy food. We learned that fruit and vegetables are very good for us and we have been tasting some as part of our Food Dudes programme. In Art we made our own healthy dinners and colourful table cloths to put them on.

We found out lots of information about castles. We learned about the different rooms found in a castle and about how people in the castle protected themselves. We then designed our own Coat of Arms.



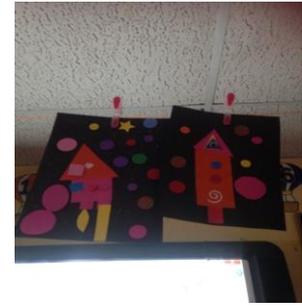
We really like to tell stories and we love to sequence too, so we decided to sequence one of our Irish stories, An Madra Rua. It was lots of hard work, but lots of fun too.

We are also enjoying learning how to play some new musical

instruments. An after school Music Club has started in our school. Some of us are learning how to play the tin whistle, guitar and fiddle. Music is a life long gift and our school is very lucky to have this wonderful opportunity.



Finally, we have been taking part in lots of exciting Maths activities. We looked at Piet Mondrian's Art. We explored line, shape and primary colours. We worked with a variety of concrete materials. These helped us with our addition and subtraction sums. We also completed a Maths hunt. It was so much fun!



ASD Classes

A big welcome back to all of our brilliant children and a very warm welcome to all the new students who have joined us this year. We are all looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year ahead!

We are all learning about our new schedules and our work stations. We are doing lots of great work at our station. We are also learning lots of new things at Circle Time such as new rhymes, songs, the days of the week and the weather. We love saying "good morning" to our friends and listening to their news.



We have been enjoying nature walks around St. Mary's grounds, looking for animals, collecting leaves and conkers and looking at the big trees. We all love our walks there and spending time outside.

We are all trying our best with the new fruit and vegetables we get from the Food Dudes. It can be difficult to try something new

but we are doing our best.

Some of us are enjoying trips to the town library. We love looking at the different books and listening to teacher read us a story.

We are busy working on our fitness in class doing some yoga and dancing using our friends on GoNoodle and Cosmic Kids.

We hope that everyone has a safe and happy Halloween and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in November!



Extra Curricular Activities

Green Schools Committee



A Green Schools Committee has just recently been established in our school.

A child rep has been selected from each class from Senior Infants to Second as well as other representatives within our school community.

Our enthusiastic class reps are:

Chloe Breen, Kirsty Kehoe, Eva Whelan and Mary Anne Harkin from Senior Infants.



Szymon Maziarz, Tommy McLoughlin, David Decean and Amy Malone from First class & Bella Chen, Cayla Bolton, Saul Kehoe and Millie Jane Phiri from Second Class.

They have been busy bees lately doing a Litter and Waste Audit to examine the waste in our school, investigating litter black spots around the school, as well as filling out surveys on each classroom and they are already full of great ideas to put into our action plan which will be up and running very soon.



Food Dudes

SS Michael and Peter JNS is currently participating in the Food Dudes Initiative.

Food Dudes is a programme to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables and to enable children to enjoy eating healthy diets, and to create a healthy eating culture within schools. This programme is managed by Bord Bia and receives financial support from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine and the European Union through the School Fruit Scheme. The children are currently sampling the fruits and vegetables offered.



The Big Sing

'Singing is good for the soul!'

As part of Mental Health Awareness week (16th-20th October) we attended 'The Big Sing' in Glenart College alongside other primary schools in the locality. SS Michael and Peter JNS was proudly represented by 1st class, the largest choir at the event. We sang a wonderful version of "Can't Stop the Feeling" by Justin Timberlake. It was a great day out for all involved as we enjoyed performing and also listening to the other school's compositions. What a great way to promote Mental Health Awareness for both children and adults!

Active School

Our school decided in September 2017 that we would try for the Active School Flag this year. We have been improving all areas of P.E gradually and feel that this year, we are ready to start this process. We know that there is still a lot of hard work to be done, but we are up for the challenge. Our first task was to set up an Active School Committee of Teachers and students. We are very excited about all the new activities and initiatives that will be coming on stream over the coming weeks and months.



Shoe Box Appeal

Our school is participating in the Christmas Shoebox appeal this year. It is run by the Team Hope Charity. We are asking children to take a shoebox and wrap it in Christmas paper (lid and main box separately). Fill it with items from the "4 W's (something to Wash with, Wear, Write with and to go WOW) - you'll find some suggestions in the leaflet that will be sent home - and then close the box with an elastic band. A donation of €4.00 is requested to be put in each box which covers the cost of making the project happen including promotion and getting your box to the receiving child. An envelope is included in each of the leaflets for this purpose. The shoeboxes need to be in school by the 9th November.

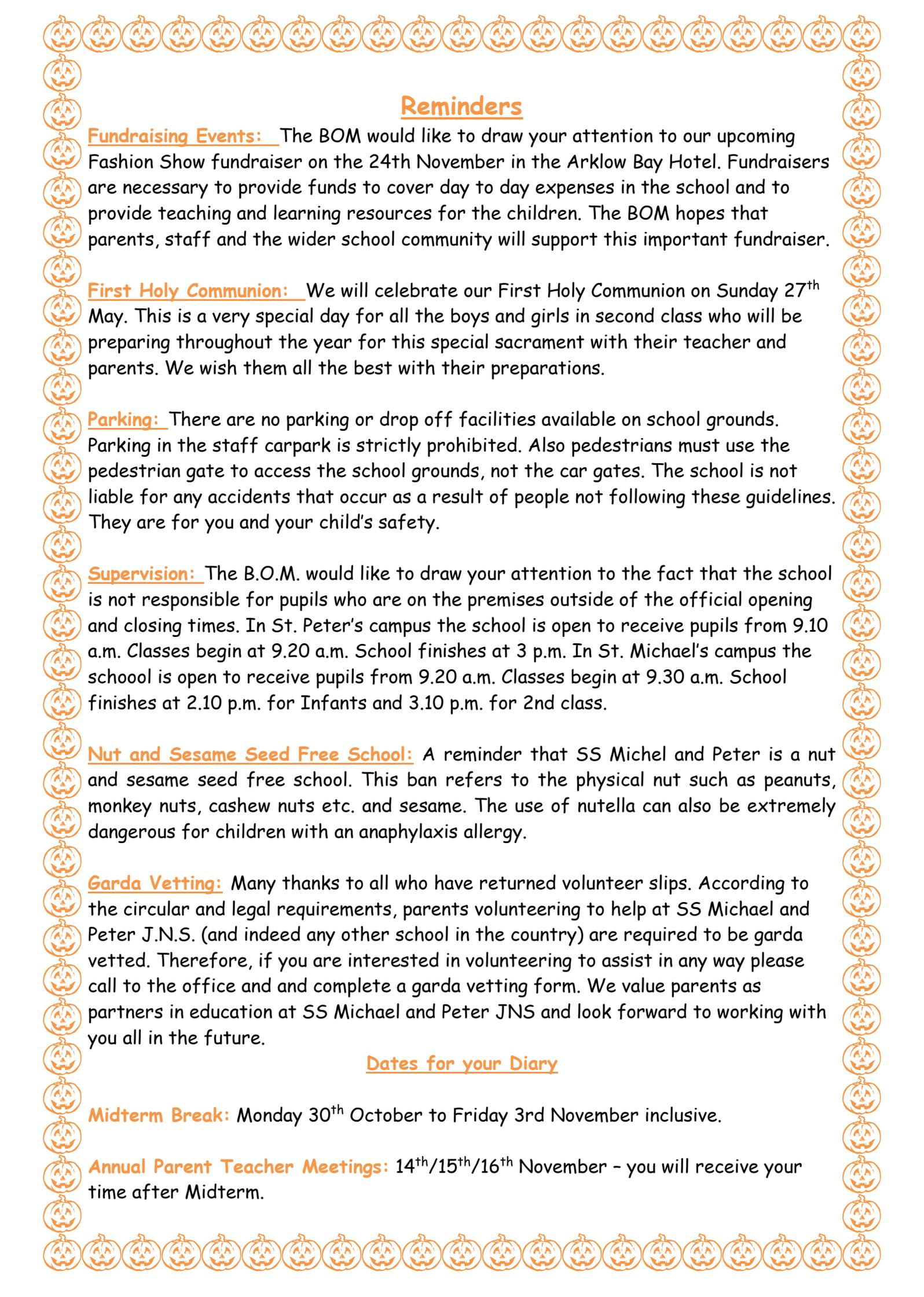
Sports Alongside their regular P.E. slots the children of SS Michael and Peter over the course of the year also benefit from G.A.A., Rugby and Soccer coaching. The children really enjoy participating in these activities and hopefully they will be encouraged to take up some of them as hobbies outside of school in their spare time.



Maths Week

Q: What do mathematicians eat on Halloween?
A: Pumpkin Pi

Maths week was celebrated in SS Michael and Peter from 18th - 24th October! To mark the occasion we had a Maths Problem of the Day every day for the week and we also participated in maths hunts and active maths activities. A pupil in each class was also awarded 'Mathematician of the Week'. Well done to all involved.

A decorative border of orange pumpkins with carved faces surrounds the text. The pumpkins are arranged in a continuous line along the top, bottom, and sides of the page.

Reminders

Fundraising Events: The BOM would like to draw your attention to our upcoming Fashion Show fundraiser on the 24th November in the Arklow Bay Hotel. Fundraisers are necessary to provide funds to cover day to day expenses in the school and to provide teaching and learning resources for the children. The BOM hopes that parents, staff and the wider school community will support this important fundraiser.

First Holy Communion: We will celebrate our First Holy Communion on Sunday 27th May. This is a very special day for all the boys and girls in second class who will be preparing throughout the year for this special sacrament with their teacher and parents. We wish them all the best with their preparations.

Parking: There are no parking or drop off facilities available on school grounds. Parking in the staff carpark is strictly prohibited. Also pedestrians must use the pedestrian gate to access the school grounds, not the car gates. The school is not liable for any accidents that occur as a result of people not following these guidelines. They are for you and your child's safety.

Supervision: The B.O.M. would like to draw your attention to the fact that the school is not responsible for pupils who are on the premises outside of the official opening and closing times. In St. Peter's campus the school is open to receive pupils from 9.10 a.m. Classes begin at 9.20 a.m. School finishes at 3 p.m. In St. Michael's campus the school is open to receive pupils from 9.20 a.m. Classes begin at 9.30 a.m. School finishes at 2.10 p.m. for Infants and 3.10 p.m. for 2nd class.

Nut and Sesame Seed Free School: A reminder that SS Michel and Peter is a nut and sesame seed free school. This ban refers to the physical nut such as peanuts, monkey nuts, cashew nuts etc. and sesame. The use of nutella can also be extremely dangerous for children with an anaphylaxis allergy.

Garda Vetting: Many thanks to all who have returned volunteer slips. According to the circular and legal requirements, parents volunteering to help at SS Michael and Peter J.N.S. (and indeed any other school in the country) are required to be garda vetted. Therefore, if you are interested in volunteering to assist in any way please call to the office and complete a garda vetting form. We value parents as partners in education at SS Michael and Peter JNS and look forward to working with you all in the future.

Dates for your Diary

Midterm Break: Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November inclusive.

Annual Parent Teacher Meetings: 14th/15th/16th November - you will receive your time after Midterm.