

SS. MICHAEL & PETER JS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a very busy and productive first half-term in SS. Michael and Peter Junior School. It was great to see all our pupils return happy and ready for the new school year at the end of August. We were also delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants and others who have joined the school this year. Ms. Hogan has joined our school in a permanent capacity, Ms. Whelan has joined us in a temporary capacity and Ms. O'Rourke has taken over Ms. White's class while she is on maternity leave. Welcome also to Ann Curran, our new SNA. We hope you have a very happy time here in SS. Michael and Peter.

1st and 2nd Class celebrated our Beginning of School Year Mass alongside our Senior School. This was a lovely occasion and we look forward to working together with St. John's in the year ahead. Our Infant Classes attended a special Beginning of School Year Blessing, in which they performed their action songs, which added so much to the occasion. We thank Fr. Michael for celebrating these occasions with us.

Our choir represented the school proudly at 'The Big Sing' concert, part of Arklow Youth Mental Health week, on Friday 12th October. Well done to all, we definitely won the 'cute' factor!

This year, we have selected English and Maths as our specific areas of focus. We have purchased new resources, our teachers are engaging in professional development and the staff is so enthusiastic in buying in to our collaborative view for our school. We are using new

approaches in our teaching and as a result the children are benefitting from in-class support in Maths and/or Literacy.

Our school is also engaging with the School Self-Evaluation programme and we have identified Oral Language as our area of focus. We are currently creating a committee of teachers to lead this programme and look forward to the new developments.

We love our monthly assemblies. This is a chance for the school community to gather and reflect on our individual and class achievements. We often have a song or a poem at assembly. We reward both the holistic and academic achievements of our students thus giving them their time to shine.

I am grateful to all who make our school such a vibrant and stimulating environment for our students. I would like to thank James Dunne and the members of our board of management for their ongoing support of our school.

Thank you also to the Parents Association and volunteers for all their work over the Summer and the beginning of the school year organising the Book Rental Scheme. Without these wonderful people initiatives such as this and fundraisers, which are vitally needed, would not take place. We are always looking for more volunteers. Many hands make light work.

I hope all families had a fun and safe Hallowe'en break.

Lisa Dempsey, Principal

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 the 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.

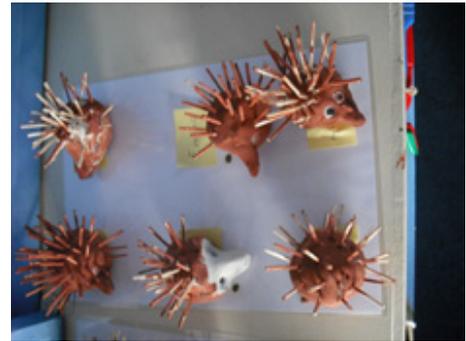
The children have enjoyed Early Mathematical Activities, where we have been learning about shapes, matching, pattern and early number skills. During Maths week we enjoyed lots of activities including a shape hunt.

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 enjoyed dressing up for Halloween and had a well-deserved midterm break.



SENIOR INFANTS

Everyone has settled into Senior Infants and are busy enjoying all the activities Aistear has to offer.

We have gone on Nature Walks between the two buildings to see Autumn in our environment. It has been lots of fun learning about Halloween, making potions and learning songs and poems for when we are Trick or Treating. We hope you like all the Art we have been busy making. Maths Week included a Maths trail completed by all the classes and many children put on their Maths Eyes to find Maths in the environment. Maths for Fun and Literacy Lift Off are being taught in all classes with the help of the SEN team and the lovely books we take home every night are such fun to read.



CLASS NEWS

FIRST CLASS

First 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 hedgehogs. We know that they have prickly spines and if a fox comes near them they roll up into a prickly ball. We also learned that they hunt for food at night and that their babies are called hoglets.

We also 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.

We have been finding out lots of information about Autumn. We painted some beautiful trees showing how the leaves change colours to red, orange, yellow and brown during the Autumn months.



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 timeline on an astronaut called Neil Armstrong.

We are enjoying learning how to play some new musical instruments in our after school Music Club. Some of us are learning how to play the guitar, tin whistle and fiddle. Some of us have also joined the choir. We took part in "The Big Sing". It was an amazing experience!

Finally, we have been taking part in lots of exciting Maths activities. We have been using our "Maths Eyes" and trying to find Maths in our local environment. We also took part in a Maths trail. It was so much fun!



SECOND CLASS

Second Class have had a very busy term!

The classes have been learning about Autumn and some pupils have completed beautiful autumn artwork. Children have been on nature walks around our school and have gathered some autumn leaves and conkers.

Well done to the Second Class pupils who sang at the Big Sing last week! They sounded fantastic and their choir leaders Ms. Griffiths and Ms. Kinsella were very proud.

In preparation for Halloween, some classes have been learning about bats, owls, spiders and the human skeleton. They have enjoyed incorporating these lessons into their artwork too.

Food Dudes has started for Second Class and the children are enjoying tasting lots of delicious fruit and vegetables and earning rewards and prizes.

In Maths the children have learned about Time and look forward to practicing telling the time at home with their families.

In English, everyone has been busy writing lots of lovely stories.

Everyone has worked very hard since we started back and we all enjoyed a safe and fun-filled mid-term break.



CLASS NEWS

ASD CLASSES

Ms. O'Loughlin

The boys in Ms O' Loughlin's class have had a great first few weeks back. They have settled in fantastically and have been working so hard every day.

We have been learning lots about keeping our body fit and healthy and really enjoyed fitness week in school. We have also worked on our diet and have been looking at ways that we can put "good fuel" into our bodies. We learned lots about pumpkins and Halloween traditions before the break. We hope everyone enjoyed their Halloween break!

Ms. Crowley

Ms. Crowley's class have been busy in their first term back in school. A special welcome to the new boys who have joined our class this year. We check our schedules in the mornings to see what fun things are planned for us each day. We love playing with different toys, and we do our learning activities at our work stations daily. We are very active and love movement breaks where we can ride on the tractor and bikes. We are also very musical. We've enjoyed making music using the bells and the maracas. We painted autumn trees and we had great fun playing in the autumn leaves!

Ms. Ireson

Ms. Ireson's class have settled in very well to their new school. We have enjoyed learning all about our new school and the rules. We learned lots of new songs and have painted our hands and made hedgehogs who are getting ready for their big sleep!

We enjoyed dressing up for Halloween and our mid-term break because we had worked so hard.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GREEN SCHOOLS

The Green Schools Committee have been continuing their hard work with some new committee members joining the team. Our new committee includes;

Senior Infants

Molly Burke	Ms Coates
Seán Doyle	Ms Prendergast
Obi Nworji	Ms Carey
Naoise Hudson	Ms Lee

First Class

Tyler Douglas	Ms. White
John Sweeney	Ms. Kennedy
Hannah O'Brien	Ms. Kissane
Amy Malone	Ms. Hempenstall

Second Class

Christopher Neary	Ms. Redmond
Issie Watters	Ms. Griffith
Amelia Lonergan	Ms. Hogan
Leah Judge	Ms. Nolan
Eoghan Giles	Ms. O'Loughlin

The committee have already had their first meeting where they discussed all the things that are working well so far and anything else they can do.

- Some of the positive things include making sure every class is recycling as much as possible.
- All waste paper is being reused in the classes and the children are bringing home any waste they bring into school with their lunches and they are sorting this at home.
- We have litter wardens on duty in each yard at lunch time and their findings are recorded on our Green Schools Noticeboard.
- We also have a green school teddy called 'Froggy' who likes to spend time in classes that are working on the topic of recycling and reducing waste. The committee help decide where 'Froggy' goes each month. The whole school knows Our Green School Code and we say this regularly. Check it out below.
- We are giving our battery boxes to every class so all old batteries can be recycled here. If you have any at home send them into school to be recycled.

The committee are almost ready to put in their application this month and fingers crossed we are on our way to receiving our first Green School Flag!

Don't forget our **Green School Code**



*'Don't be skunk
And recycle your junk.
Let's go Green
To keep our school clean.
Reduce, Reuse & Recycle!*

ACTIVE SCHOOL

Ss. Michael and Peter celebrated National Fitness Week in September.



All classes took part in a week of fun activities aimed at encouraging fitness and healthy lifestyle. From Junior Infants to 2nd Class we had a week full of exciting events that the class teachers organised in their rooms. We had Movement Monday; classes took part in extra movement breaks during the day. On Tranquil Tuesday, we exercised our minds as well as our bodies. Walk on Wednesday classes enjoyed the beautiful weather and went on nature walks. We had Triple Thursday and ended our week with Fun Friday that lined up with our non-uniform day.

On Thursday we celebrated National Fitness Day, starting with Line Up Mash Up out on both yards in the St. Michaels building and the St. Peters yard. We did burpees, mountain climbers, jogging on the spot and many more fun movements. Some classes did 10 @ 10 and at half 12, we had Drop Everything And Dance. Our Active School Committee ran through the halls ringing bells to let everyone know it was time to DANCE! We loved dancing to the Cha Cha Slide! In the afternoon we all enjoyed some calm quiet time and did AWESOME AUTUMN yoga poses. We felt really relaxed after a full day of fun. During the week, the older classes kept a journal of the week in our Fitness Diaries. We loved National Fitness Week and National Fitness Day!



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

FOOD DUDES

We are delighted to have had Food Dudes running in the school over the last few weeks. The Junior Classes received fruit and vegetables for 16 days and the 2nd Class received theirs for 8 days.

The pupils tasted a variety of fruit and vegetables including grapes, bananas, oranges, apples, mangetout, peppers, carrots and cucumbers. Everyone enjoyed watching the Food Dudes DVD episodes, reading letters from the Food Dudes gang and receiving their rewards which included stickers, pencil cases, bottles, rulers, pedometers and lunch boxes.

Well done to everyone for making a great effort throughout the programme. We look forward to seeing lots of healthy fruit and vegetables arriving in from home for lunch!

MATHS WEEK

Maths Week was held between the 13th and 21st of October. The whole school were involved in various activities during the week.

This year we focused on using our 'Maths Eyes' and encouraged the pupils to find maths in our environment. Thank you to parents for the huge effort they made. We were sent in great photos and the pupils enjoyed looking at the display all week. We are going to keep our 'Maths Eyes' working so please feel free to send in photos anytime to add to our already extensive display.

We also learned a lot about each other during Maths Week, as each class created a data

chart on which they recorded a variety of their favourite things, these included toys, fruit, shapes, Halloween characters and many other topics.

Other activities included putting their problem solving caps on each day to solve the 'Problem of the Day', using their estimation skills to guess the amount of 'Pastas in the Jar', as well as going on a Maths Hunt around the school.

It was great to see such interest and enthusiasm with regard to maths. Let's keep our Maths Eyes open and remember that maths is everywhere.



LITERACY

Thank you to all the families who have contributed to our Supplementary Readers fund this year. Over the Midterm break we purchased €4,000 worth of additional books for our reading groups. We hope you and your child enjoy reading them over the coming year.

We look forward to your continued support and we intend to invest in more books again next year.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE - FAMILY MASS

Just a reminder that the Family Mass is every Saturday 6.30pm in Sts. Mary and Peter.

Suitable for all the family with a focus on children. Processions, Gospel plays, interactive media.

SS MICHAEL & PETER JS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The children had great fun in October, designing and colouring their very own Christmas cards. The order forms for these have now been collected and the cards have been posted to the North Pole where Santa's elves are busy adding a touch of sparkle and magic to them before they are returned to the children in November.

Watch out for some fun and colourful planters that will make an appearance in the playgrounds in the coming weeks. Thank you to Inver Bathroom Designs for sponsoring the planters and to Bolands for sponsoring the flowers. We can't wait to see what the children think of them.

At the end of November, we will be hosting our first FUN DAY – a drum workshop with DrumNature!!! Different drums and percussion instruments from around the world will be used and the emphasis will be on listening, creativity, teamwork and fun 😊.

We are currently organising the School photos for early 2019. More details will be available closer to the date.

Thank you for your continued support, without which, we would not be able to host such events.

If you want to keep up with our activities, events and news, please drop a mail to pa@ssmichaelandpeter.ie and ask to be added to our distribution list, or join our Facebook group *Parents Association Ss. Michael and Peters JNS, Arklow*

REMINDERS

Access and Parking

In the interests of health and safety there is no vehicular entry/parking or drop off facility available on the school grounds for either the St. Michael or St. Peter Building. Parking in the staff carparks is strictly prohibited. All pedestrians must use the pedestrian gate to access either school grounds, not the car park gates. The school is not liable for any loss or injury that may occur as a result of people not following these guidelines. They are for you and your child's safety.

Contact Details

Please inform the school immediately if there is any change of collection or emergency contact details etc.

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 9.15 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 9.25 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. There is no supervision outside of these times.

Nut and Sesame Seed Free School

A reminder that SS Michael and Peter is a nut and sesame seed free school. This ban refers to all nut and sesame seed. The use of Nutella can be extremely dangerous for children with an anaphylaxis allergy, chocolate and chocolate products are not allowed in the school.

Attendance

SS Michael and Peter Junior School encourage regular and punctual attendance. Parents/Guardians are asked to notify the school in writing if their children cannot attend for any reason. Under the law, every child must attend school up to sixteen year of age or complete

at least three years post primary education whichever comes later. Your cooperation in this regard is welcomed.

Punctuality

Punctuality is important for both dropping and collecting your child from school. Lateness will be recorded and dealt with seriously. In relation to children being collected late a new system is now in operation to deal with this. If you are late to collect your child you will be asked to sign a notebook acknowledging this. If this is repeated you will be requested to meet with the principal to discuss it. In extreme cases a meeting with the principal will be required immediately. Repeated or gross lateness may result in a referral to the Education Welfare and/or Túsla.

Communications with the school

Breda takes her lunch from 12-12.30 each day. Try not to call the school phone or leave messages at this time as the office is unmanned. Also if you need to collect your child around this time please try to do so outside of this window where possible.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on November 20th and 21st for 1st and 2nd classes. Parent/Teacher Meetings for Infants will take place on the 12th and 13th February. The school will close at 2.55 p.m. in St. Michael's building and 2.45 p.m. in St. Peter's building on Tuesday November 20th to facilitate the Parent/Teacher meetings.

Toys for Aistear

Here in SS Michael and Peter Junior School we are always trying to add to and enhance our Aistear Resources. As you prepare for Christmas in your home if you have any old toys which are in reasonable condition that you wish to donate to the school we would greatly appreciate them. The Infant teachers will send you more details regarding collection dates and type of toys wanted shortly.