

SS. MICHAEL & PETER JS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hello everyone and welcome back. We have had a busy and exciting first term. I am delighted to see that our new staff and students are settling in so well and all are contributing to the life of our lovely school community. Thanks to all the staff for their commitment and willingness to always go the extra mile to ensure our children benefit from a wide range of initiatives and learning opportunities. Since returning to school we have celebrated Maths Week, continued working towards our Active Flag, engaged in Art, Choir and Yoga lessons and participated in Mobility Week where 1st and 2nd Class students made a huge effort to scoot, cycle and walk to school. At the end of last year we received our Green Flag for all our hard work in reducing waste in the school. We are looking forward to celebrating this and to working towards our next one.

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! Many thanks to Fr. O'Coughlan and Fr. Murtagh for celebrating our special opening of school year blessing and mass. Well done to all our students for their excellent behaviour and for singing their hearts out!

I am a firm believer in the importance of positive communication between school and home. As such, you may follow our activities via our website www.ssmichaelandpeter.ie. We have also upgraded to Aladdin Connect and this is replacing the text alert system previously used. By subscribing to this you have saved the school

a significant amount of money which can be used elsewhere – thank you. After Midterm break we will also be using this app to schedule our parent teacher meetings. If you need any assistance accessing or downloading the app please contact either school office. This newsletter is also a vital form of communication and I thank our newsletter team for their hard work in producing it!

Sensory rooms: Our Sensory and calm rooms have just been completed. We believe that these are a fantastic addition to our school. They will provide a sanctuary to students who need it. The sensory room is a progressive and proactive measure to ensure that school can provide the calmest environment possible for those who may need assistance in this respect. I would like to commend the team effort that has gone into making these rooms happen; especially everyone who contributed to our Pedal Powered Cinema last year. Also, thanks to Arklow Credit Union who have sponsored our Sensory Pathways which will be installed shortly.

I would like to thank the outgoing B.O.M. for all their work over the last four years. They have been a committed and dedicated group of people who have supported the school in every way possible. They have overseen improvements of facilities in terms of buildings and resources and we are very grateful to them. I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Finally well done to our students on a very productive first term. Here's to a great year. I hope everyone enjoys the mid-term break.

Is mise le meas,
Lisa Dempsey, Principal

CLASS NEWS

JUNIOR INFANTS

Ms. Kinsella's, Ms. Rees', Mr. Roche's and Ms. Dillon's Junior Infants are settling in so well during their first term in "big school"! We are so proud of them on the huge progress that they have made!

The children have been working on so many new skills - making friends, playing with their groups and learning to share. Our play has been based around themes like 'Home', 'School' and 'Autumn'! We have done lots of rhyming and other pre-reading skills getting ready to start our first ever book after the Hallowe'en break!

One of our favourite things is 'Ready Set Go Maths' which we do with the SEN teachers twice a week. Here we learn about matching, sorting and even making patterns! We have come on so well and are looking forward to more challenges!

Junior Infants are also earning lots of golden tickets on the yard. There are five ways we can get these: 1. Using kind hands, voice and feet; 2. Telling an adult if something is unsafe; 3. Mind toys and equipment; 4. Include others; 5. Use the Buddy bench. They have been trying so hard!

Junior Infants have worked so hard and have made huge strides. They will definitely earn their midterm break!



SENIOR INFANTS

Everyone has settled into Senior Infants nicely and are busy enjoying all the activities it has to offer. We have been really busy learning about our new Golden Rules on yard and trying our best to put them into practice. During October we had a very special infant blessing in St. Michael's building where we sang songs and came together as an infant group. 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 can't wait for Maths Week when we will put on our Maths Eyes to find Maths in the environment as part of our maths trail. 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. We are really enjoying our time in Senior Infants and we hope you like all the Art we have been busy making.

CLASS NEWS



FIRST CLASS

First Class have had a very busy start to our school year!! We continue to settle into our longer days in school and are learning so much.

We really enjoyed visits from students from St. Mary's who came to join us in some numeracy and literacy station work.

We've been working on Length in maths, where we've been measuring everything from a giant's footprint, tables and chairs to the length and width of our classrooms in metres!!!

Some of the first class children enjoyed "Bring your teddy to work/school day". Our special teddy friends had a busy day full of fun,

games and cuddles.

Other activities we celebrated were World animal day, Roald Dahl day, Mobility week and we are really looking forward to Maths week later in October. Our treat for Mobility week was scrumptious!

Autumn has certainly snuck into our work these past few weeks, and some classes have enjoyed nature hunts and autumn walks around the school buildings and our budding artists are creating many works of art based on our autumnal environment.

We cannot wait for Halloween dress up at the end of October, so watch out for some spook-tacular costumes around the playground!



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 also now know a really fun way to remember the 8 planets of our solar system!

Some new playground rules have been introduced in our school. We are doing our very best to follow all the rules so we can get as many golden tickets as possible.

We have all been getting the opportunity to take part in GAA training. It's so much fun and we are learning some fantastic new skills.

We have been finding out all about Autumn. We have learned about the animals getting ready to hibernate and we know lots of interesting facts about migration. In Art we have created lots of beautiful Autumnal pieces and we are very proud of our work.

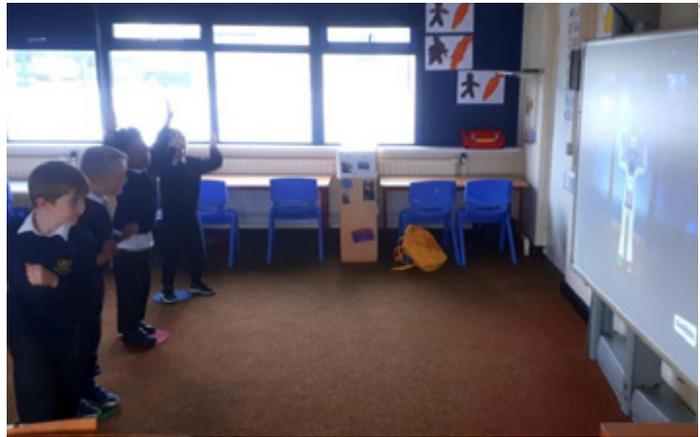
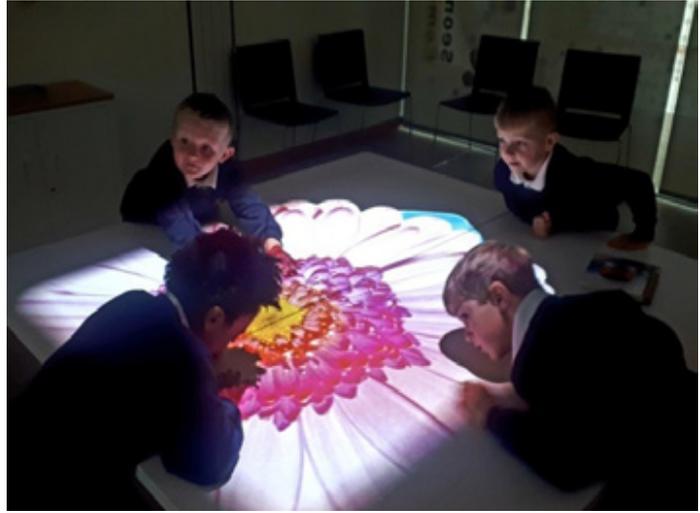


Finally, we have recently celebrated "Bring Your Teddy to School" Day. It was so exciting. Our teddies stayed and learned with us for the day. We also had a little teddy bears picnic!

CLASS NEWS

ASD CLASSES

Our ASD classes have been enjoying their first term back in school. A special welcome to the new boys who have joined the group this year. We are having lots of fun getting to know each other. We like building towers, rockets and houses with our building blocks. We are very active and love going to the movement room. We enjoy doing dance on go noodle and we are great at doing our yoga poses. We like to visit the local library. While there, we like to look at the books and play games on the magic table. It's so much fun!



CLASS NEWS

SEN

A huge hello from the Willow SEN Team. We have been really busy since the beginning of September putting all our learning interventions in place. It has been wonderful getting to know all our new pupils in Junior Infants during our Ready Set Go Maths sessions each week. The pupils have been working on their Early Maths Skills, learning to sort random collections, sort by colour, shape, size and thickness, match a variety of items from lids and containers to sorting socks, make patterns and talk about what they are doing in small groups. They have all learned so much maths language already.

The Senior Infants are also enjoying their Ready Set Go Maths sessions and their Literacy Lift Off

sessions each week. In maths they are learning all about the number 6 and are enjoying using Cuisenaire rods and playing games to consolidate their learning. Literacy Lift Off is also busy with everyone working on reading, sight words and learning skills such as rhyming and dictation.

First Class are also working so hard, all enjoying the SEN team going into their classrooms for Literacy and numeracy. Pupils are enjoying a variety of reading initiatives such as paired reading, guided reading and we are all looking forward to working on novels and Connector books in small groups later in the school year.

Have a look at some of the photos to see all the fun your children are having learning in school.



Greetings from the SEN team in the Sycamore building. We've had a very busy start to the new school year but are happily settled into our new routines now. We've begun our maths attack work in the classrooms. Literacy lift off is also underway while we have started a new initiative called Paired Reading in 2nd class. The pupils are really enjoying working with friends while improving their reading skills. In other news some lucky pupils are taking part in a nurture group where we're developing our social and emotional skills. We're looking forward to a well-deserved break for midterm. Happy Halloween!!



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

As we commence another year and look forward to the mid-term break I would like to extend a welcome to all our pupils as we embark on another academic year. I extend a special welcome to the junior infants and any new pupils who joined our school. I also welcome our new members of staff and trust you will enjoy your time in St Michaels and Peters Junior School.

During the summer holidays the new roof on the St Michaels section of the school was completed and I'm sure you will agree it is an excellent job and has improved the visual impact of the building and also the comfort for both the pupils and staff. We also had some upgrades with I.T. It is the wish of the Board of management to continue this new system to all class rooms as finance allows. The new security barrier should be in operation shortly this development was necessary to ensure the safety of the children within the school perimeters. Also since we returned to school at the end of August pupils have participated in

a wide range of extracurricular activities that have complemented the teaching and learning experience in our school. Under the leadership of Ms Lisa Dempsey and Vice Principal Patricia Stokes along with a dedicated teaching staff our school continues to hold a special place in the town's education system.

The current school board finishes their term in November .A new Board will be appointed for the next four years. On behalf of the outgoing Board of Management I thank all the staff along with the parents and guardians of the children for the support they extended to the many decisions the Board made over the years. I also extend my sincere thanks to the parents committee for their loyalty and interest in the well-being of the school. On a personal note I thank everyone for the courtesy you extend to me as Chairperson and I wish the school and staff every success into the future.

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James Dunne / Chairman

OTHER NEWS



National Mobility Week

During the month of September, 1st and 2nd class participated in Arklow Town Councils Get to school actively week. Pupils who walked, scooted or biked to school received stickers on a weekly record card and a certificate of participation. At the end of the week pupils were treated to 99's courtesy of the town council to thank them for their participation.

The Big Sing

On Friday 11th October our school choir attended the Big Sing in Arklow Bay Hotel. The pupils had great fun and the melody of the music could be heard throughout the town. Well done to all the pupils involved.



AGB

Our whole school was delighted to don our green and blue to support our local GAA team Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney in their final on Sunday 13th October.

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 1st 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. You can also enter the reason via the Aladdin Connect app. 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. 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

Valerie takes her lunch from 12.30-1 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. Danielle is available in the St. Peter office between 9.20 a.m. and 1.45 p.m.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place the week of the 18th November for 1st and 2nd classes. Parent/Teacher Meetings for Infants will take place the week of the 3rd of 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 19th to facilitate the Parent/Teacher meetings.

School Closures

The school will also be closed to pupils on Monday November 25th to facilitate training for staff in relation to the Primary Language Curriculum. This is a national training programme.

