



Brannoxtown CNS

Note to Parents: 21st December 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you very well as we approach the holiday. It's been a wonderful first term at Brannoxtown Community National School. This note is to give you a brief update on current and planned developments for your child's learning and for our school in 2019.

Thank you sincerely for your support and generosity of spirit toward our school in 2018. On behalf of Múinteoir Dawn and myself, we wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,



Sarah FitzPatrick, Principal



1. RDS Primary Science Fair

- **Our project title:** Are fruit and vegetable Juices good at cleaning hands?
- **Our presentation date and time:** Thursday, 10th January, 2019, 9:45am to 3:20pm.
- **Venue and information:** RDS, Dublin, www.primaryscience.ie
- **Children's Roles and Responsibilities:** The Primary Science Fair is open to presenters from third class upwards. Our Senior Children will present our research. This involves setting-up their stand (with the slides and items we have prepared) and answering questions about their research (with the notes we have prepared). They will take it in turns to tour the other exhibits in the Fair, with their teacher/a parent. Our Junior Children, who also participated in the research, will tour the exhibits with their teacher. Approximate travel times are provided below for all children. Parents are very welcome to accompany us to the RDS for the event. If you wish to travel with us, please let me know by Monday, January 7th so I can organise a ticket to the RDS for you.
- **Transport to and from the RDS:** We received a small bursary of €100 for travel to the event in the RDS Primary Science Fair. A small balance (approximately €10-15) is payable by each child for return travel from our school to the RDS by minibus. The exact amount will be confirmed in early January.

2. Visit to Mount Lucas Wind Farm

- **Our questions:** What is Kinetic (Wind) Energy? What does it look/sound like? What is a Wind Farm?
- **Our tour date and time:** Thursday, 31st January, 2019, 10:30am to 1:30pm.
- **Venue:** Mount Lucas Mount Lucas Wind Farm, Daingean, Co. Offaly.
- **Children's Roles and Responsibilities:** Children will listen to a presentation about Wind Energy and the Bord na Móna Wind Farm at Mount Lucas. They will visit the interpretive centre on-site and if they wish, experience what a climb to the top of a Wind Turbine is like, using Virtual Reality goggles. Children will look at some real Wind Turbines outside, measuring the circumference at the base and listening to the sounds made by the Turbine, etc.

- **Transport to and from Mount Lucas:** This trip is funded entirely by the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA). A bus will collect children from our school at 9am. To fill the coach (24 seats), we have invited children from Halverstown NS to accompany us. The bus will collect children from Halverstown NS after our school and continue the journey to Mount Lucas, arriving at approximately 10:30am. We expect to leave at approximately 1:30pm and to be back at school for 2:30pm.
 - **More information:** www.bordnamona.ie/corporate-responsibility/amenities/mount-lucas/
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3. Swimming Lessons and Practice for all children

- **Purpose:** Swimming is part of the Aquatics Strand in the Physical Education Curriculum for all children. All recognised primary schools are obliged to organise swimming lessons/practice for children during each of their eight years in primary school. We have contacted several swimming facilities locally to find the best offering for children. The Osprey Hotel has provided the best option: three group levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced) and individual attention for children in a safe and clean environment. The lessons will begin in early February (Tuesday, February 5th or 12th) for five weeks. Children will swim from 12noon to 12:45pm. Transport will be organised (taxi-bus) for children, leaving at approximately 11:30am and returning to the school at approximately 1:15pm.
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4. Enrolment Information Evening

- **Purpose:** To provide information for prospective parents about Brannoxtown CNS. This event is for all parents who wish to know more about the school and to possibly enrol their child in Junior Infants or in another class in September 2019. The closing date for the first round of enrolments at the school is Thursday, February 28th. Although we can still continue to enrol children after this date, the deadline enables us to plan for our classes in September, including applications for support from the Department of Education and Skills, based on our numbers and children's needs.
 - **Date and time:** 13th February 2019, 7-8pm.
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5. Communications

- **Website:** Our website is scheduled for completion by the beginning of February, 2019. Both domain names have been purchased for the school: www.brannoxtowncns.ie and www.brannockstowncns.ie. We will text all parents to confirm when the website is live. We will continue to use our School Facebook page to post weekly updates on our learning journey: Brannoxtown CNS.
- **School Logo:** Following the great work by children to identify symbols to represent the school's culture, history and heritage as well as our values going forward, we have commissioned the next phase of development of our crest. We are scheduled to receive two or three draft designs for our crest by Friday, January 11th. A two-week period is planned to gain feedback from children, parents and community members (11th to 28th January) on the draft designs. We look forward to sharing these designs with you and explaining how you can get involved and have your say. The Crest is scheduled for completion by Wednesday, February 6th.
- **School Facebook Page:** We continue to post a weekly update on children's learning and development at Brannoxtown CNS each Friday and to regularly update our School Display Board.
- **Texts to Parents:** Thank you to all parents for your quick response to text queries concerning your child's learning and development at our school.
- **Bridge Magazine:** We have been invited to submit a 600-word update on our learning journey to the Kilcullen Diary by December 23rd. Children have contributed to this article by sharing their views on what they have enjoyed most about their learning so far at our school. Well done everyone!