

# Le Chéile ETNS Newsletter



26/11/21

## Covid Updates

The Department of Education has set out how the new antigen testing scheme will operate in primary schools, with the scheme expected to launch in schools on 29 November.

Free antigen tests will be made available to the children in a primary school pod, where a child in the pod has had a PCR test that detected Covid-19. Where two or more confirmed cases of Covid-19 occur in a class, within a seven-day period, outside of a single pod, antigen testing will be offered to the full class.

The Department has confirmed that the tests will be sent to the children's parents by the HSE.

Parents/guardians of a primary school child, who has been confirmed as having Covid-19 following a PCR test, are asked to inform their school's principal. The school principal will then inform the parents of other children in the pod of a confirmed case. No personal details of the child will be shared. These parents will be provided with the option to receive free antigen tests for their child, which they will be able to order for delivery to their home.

If a child displays any symptoms of Covid-19 they should self-isolate immediately and a parent or guardian should arrange a PCR test. School principals will not be required to gather evidence of participation or of antigen test results.

**PTA Meeting next Tues the  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov at 8pm via Zoom**

**Thank you for the positive feedback we received at parent teacher meetings. We are delighted with the progress of the children and will take your input on board.**

**Reminder to minimise disruption by being punctual in the mornings.  
School starts at 9.20.**

**Thank you**



## Swimming Lessons

3<sup>rd</sup> class Swimming starts in January, links sent on Aladdin

Cost is €50 per child.

### Date for your Diary

**Recording of Winter Concert will take place on Tuesday Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Run through and rehearsal on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**End of Term Half Day Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Term 2 resumes on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

## Irish Exemptions

Since 2019 the granting of Irish exemptions has moved from a diagnostic categorical model to a needs-based model.

Psychological assessments and cognitive ability scores are no longer necessary to process applications for exemption from the study of Irish. Please take a look at Circular 0052/2019, should you require further information. It is best to discuss the need for a psychological report with teachers first, as we can access the services of NEPS through the school and Dr. Pól Bond is our NEPS psychologist.

### Creative Cluster Logos



Self Help Africa, with the support of the INTO, has called on all schools across the island, north and south, to get involved with the ongoing campaign to help tackle climate change by planting one million trees. Every school that participates in the One Million Trees project will receive a free native Irish tree per classroom, along with age-appropriate lesson plans. For every native tree planted through primary schools in Ireland on 3 December, Self Help Africa will plant 10 more in Africa. We have ordered 16 trees, one for each class, so we will be in touch when they arrive for some help!



The **Student Council** would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent survey to increase inclusivity and diversity in our school. We were delighted to see that we have over 31 Nationalities in our school ranging from nearby Wales to faraway New Zealand. Thanks to everyone for your great ideas and we look forward to sharing some of these with you in the future.

## Agreed Statement from the Bord of Management 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2021

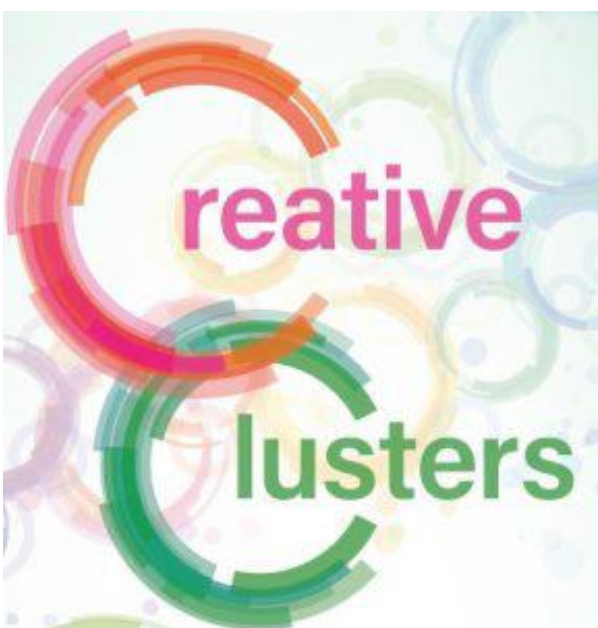
The Board wish to inform the school community that

- an incidental Department of Education inspection took place in the school on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. The inspection involved three areas
  1. Child Protection Level One
  2. Anti-Bullying Procedures
  3. Inspection of 2 class teachers, randomly selected.

All of the checks were deemed to be satisfactory and feedback very positive. Well done to all the staff.

- the school will close for an additional half day on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February for CPD in the area of the Primary Language Curriculum.
- this year's Winter Concert will again be recorded and send a link to the school's youtube channel for viewing until January.
- it supports the One Million Trees initiative
- a policy for rental agreement for the hall has been ratified so that requests for the use of the hall can be considered and the school community can benefit from the use of the hall
- it has agreed a Memorandum of Association with St. Colmcilles GFC for use of their pitches
- despite the pandemic thank the staff have shown commitment and resilience and continued efforts to ensure provide extra curricular events for the children e.g. Spanish, violin, swimming, creative cluster, lunch time activities etc

The Board will meet again on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.



As you may be aware our school is taking part in an exciting Creative Clusters project with two other Drogheda schools - Aston Village E.T.N.S. and Drogheda E.T.S.S. We are delighted to be collaborating with these schools and exploring the theme of our wonderful town Drogheda. We hope to inspire a sense of community and appreciation for our beautiful surroundings. To launch this project, we have created an inter school logo competition. The children have been working hard to create a logo to represent our project. Five entries will be chosen from each school and an independent judge will choose a winner. A winner will be chosen over the next few weeks. The winning logo will be used to represent this project over the next two years. Best of luck to all who entered! As the project progresses, we will be completing more activities including an amateur photography competition in the Spring so stay tuned. **Heather**



**'If you see a bully use your voice for someone else who might not have a choice' - Roisin Burke 6<sup>th</sup> class**

Last week was Anti-Bullying week and we used this opportunity to highlight how to deal with bullying issues. Some students from 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes gave us all some top tips on how to deal with bullying. They explained the 'High 5' and bystander superpowers. There was art, poetry, music and drama competitions.

Everyone worked really hard and we had some fantastic entries.

**Competition Winners:**

- Laura's class – Beth**
- Emma's class – Mahveen**
- Chloe's class – Sadie**
- Julie's class – Layla**
- Clodagh/Treasa class – Maja**
- Claire's class – Rosa**
- David's class – Sonnie**
- Vicki's class – Kaelan**
- Sean's class – Juliette**
- Katie's class – Flora**
- Maureen's class – Charlie**
- Kim's class – Sophie**



Fifth & Sixth classes made dramas and each class will get a night off homework for their super performances. We have shared the videos with teachers so that we can all enjoy them over the next few weeks. Last Wednesday we wore ODD socks to represent individuality and uniqueness and then on Friday we wore **BLUE** to show that we all stand united against bullying. A website parents might find informative is [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk).

Arianna, Anti Bullying Co-ordinator

**Hope families enjoy the Late Late Toy Show tonight. What will Ryan Tubridy wear this year?**

