

# BURRANE NATIONAL SCHOOL

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

As we approach the Christmas Season, detailed below are a few things we would like to bring to your attention.

### Parent/Teacher Meetings

Thanks very much for taking our phone calls last week for our Parent Teacher Meetings.

### In School Healthy Activities

Both the teachers and pupils are enjoying our health activities. As the weather deteriorates we will include mindfulness activities in our day. This is to give some downtime to the children where they will learn to become aware of how they are feeling.

### Creative School Initiatives!!

There is so much happening in our school that it is hard to keep up. Below are some of the initiatives we are currently engaged in to increase the levels of creativity in our school...

### B.L.A.S.T.

We are delighted to inform you that we have been awarded a fully funded 20-hour BLAST Artist in residency opportunity via the new BLAST Arts in Education Residency Programme 2021/2022. John Lillis is the Artist that we have been partnered with and we look forward to working with him after Christmas.



**Tin Whistle:** This year we have a greater emphasis on teaching the tin whistle in all classes from Infants to -6<sup>th</sup> Class.

**Artist a Month:** Each month we are learning about a new Artist. So far this year we have studied Van Gogh, Piet Mondrian and Picasso

**IPADS:** We have purchased new IPADS for the school and are having great fun using them in both rooms.

**Junior Entrepreneur Programme:** Mini Business initiatives are a passion for our school and this year we have signed up to **The Junior Entrepreneur Programme**. This is a fantastic opportunity that will provide a practical taste of Real World experiences to our Pupils. Together they will choose, invest in and produce their own product or service from scratch. This product will be made available for sale where the profits will be enjoyed



at the end. We can't wait to see what exciting ideas our pupils come up with. See attached flyer for more information.

### School Assembly

We had a whole school assembly last week where we acknowledged our Special Mentions to girls and boys in each class for the many achievements they have achieved since we returned in September.

### Accelerated Reader

There is a phenomenal amount of reading taking place at present! AR is used as a motivational tool to get the children to read independently. Children take quizzes on books they have read and this helps ensure they understand what they are reading while also having a huge positive benefit across the different subjects.

### English Reading

Our English stations continue in both rooms. The children are making huge progress with their reading. As part of this reading intervention, children are reading books in class with their teachers. It is important that parents read these books again each night with pupils in the junior room as this 'familiar reading' really develops the child's reading skills, particularly the skill of Fluency. Pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> should be reading for a minimum of 15 minutes every night. Please ensure that these books do not get misplaced and are returned each day to school.



**Shoe Box Appeal:** A special thanks to our wonderful pupils for participating in this year's annual shoebox appeal. I'm sure there will be many happy children as a result of your kindness and generosity.

### STEM Activities...

**Science Week:** During Science Week we enjoyed experimenting and investigating. We learned a lot about plants, balance, magnetism, materials and change and lots more. Check out our School Facebook page and school Blog to see what we got up to.

Le Meas, Helen Kelly.

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