



Welcome to the second edition of the Piercestown Post for the new school year 2019-2020! For those who are new to the school, our monthly newsletter gives an opportunity for you to get a glimpse of just some of our learning and activities over the past month. Each newsletter finishes up with 'flagging' or reminder of any upcoming events we may have scheduled. So, grab a cuppa and sit back for five minutes and catch up with what takes place in Piercestown N.S.

Rugby World Cup Fever

Rugby World cup fever is well under way with all of the group games having kicked off in the last two weeks. Many thanks to 6th class who are keeping us up to speed with our own country (and any other countries we are keeping a close eye on!) with the results on the noticeboard outside 5th class. With the disappointment of Saturday and the defeat to Japan, all eyes will focus on Thursday when Ireland take on Russia! Some classes have been overheard singing their rendition of Ireland's call in the pre match preparation! **Fun Fact! Did you know?????** The same whistle is blown for the opening game of every Rugby World Cup tournament. It was first used in 1905 by a Welsh referee during a game between England and New Zealand.

GOAL Jersey day October 11th 2019

Speaking of rugby fever, GOAL jersey day, will take place on October 11th next week. This is where, we as a school community, give a little something back by raising much needed funds for this worthwhile charity. Pupils and staff can play their part in fighting global hunger by wearing their favourite jersey, be it a rugby jersey, Martin's jersey, Wexford jersey (in celebration of Davy Fitz recent announcement), soccer jerseys, or any jersey of your choice, on 11th October and bringing in €2. All proceeds will go directly to GOAL's work in the developing world.

Beginning of Year Mass – 10th October 2019 11.30am

With our children well settled back, we would be delighted to invite you to our 'Beginning of Year' mass. This is scheduled to take place on 10th October at 11.30am in St. Martin's Church. This is an opportunity for us to take time out of our hectic school day and reflect on the last few weeks and the importance of our school lives and families. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sing out Loud - I love it!!!!

2019 sees Piercestown N.S. return to the stage of the National Opera House with their participation in 'Sing Out Loud' – we love it! Miss Sinnott and Miss Farrell have been flat out in rehearsals already putting the children not only through their singing paces but also through their dance moves. As the newsletter was about to go to press, we just received confirmation of our 'date' of performance. Mark Thursday 21st of November in the diary! Info to follow!

Maths Week – Ready, steady, go!

One of our much-loved annual events in Piercestown N.S is that of Maths Week. Each year, it goes from strength to strength. There are competitions, fun events, digital technology activities and much more! So, get practising the tables for the tables bee competition or the countdown competition! Maths Week will be celebrated nationally from the 12th – 20th October 2019. For further information go to www.mathsweek.ie Watch this space!

Morning Lines – Senior Infants to join the 'lining up' routine

Ms. Rea has decided that Senior Infants have become so independent in the last month that they will give 'lining up' a go as part of their morning routine. This means that from **Monday 7th October**, Senior infants will line up in the yard when the 9.20am bell goes and wait for Ms. Rea, just like all the other classes from 1st-6th class. But don't worry, if you need a quick chat with the teacher, this will still be possible, with Ms. Rea being on hand as she arrives to collect her line. Ms. Rea will assess how comfortable senior infants are with this new practice and will update you if there are any changes.

Garda vetting for parents - Appeal

At Piercestown N.S. we pride ourselves with providing the children with as many opportunities as possible. In accordance with circular 31/2016, we HAVE to get any parent volunteers garda vetted to utilise your skills and support in any way, be it accompanying us swimming, on school tours, listening to the children read, etc. If you have a few spare minutes, please call into the office to complete the garda vetting procedure so we can add you to our MUCH NEEDED garda vetted parents list! Once garda vetted with us, you will be able to help at some stage over your

child's primary school career, even if this year doesn't suit! If you have any questions, please call the office on 0539158854.

NEW E-payments launched for 2019 – 2020 ****

Our much awaited e-payments have finally been launched. Despite a few technical glitches in the first day or two, things appear to be going smoothly, and we have experienced much positive parental feedback. If you haven't yet given it a go, why not try?! If you need our assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us on 0539158854 and Siobhán will be only too happy to help! "We are changing the world with technology". (Bill Gates)

Health Promoting School

As we eagerly await the result of our Health Promoting School application, I would like to thank Ms. Cooney, Mrs. Newport and the committee members to date for all their help. A special word of thanks to one of our new parents, Jennifer McDonagh, who kindly offered her services in the design and upgrade of our Health Promoting noticeboard for 2019. It is a work of art. So, if you are making your way down the corridor, take a mindful moment to stop and enjoy it and maybe take one or two of the ideas on board! Jennifer, many many thanks!

Active School and Sports Round Up

Mini 7's and Rackard League

As the saying goes, 'time waits for no man' and in our case neither does 'Mini 7's or Rackard League'. The girls got their football season off to a flying start in the Mini 7's competition. They overcame tough challenges in Round 1 where they defeated Castlebridge and The Faythe to book their place in the next round of this much loved competition. In Rackard League, their opposition was a very talented Kilmore team, where after playing against a strong wind in the first half they were losing by a scoreline of 3-6 to 0-1. The girls showed immense determination and no lack of skill in the second half to secure a well-deserved draw. Our boys also returned to the GAA pitch this month with the Rackard League and Mini 7's football competitions beginning. Huge interest of over 25 boys saw us take to the field during and after school. In the first round of the Mini 7's we progressed past the hosts Barntown and the Mercy school. The boys showed great ability in dispatching both teams and moving on to the next round. In Rackard League and Rising Stars we played Rathangan in the Martin's GAA complex. In two games of great intensity and skill we came away with two more wins. The games will be coming fast and furious in the next few weeks as well as continued lunchtime league exploits in the school.

Lunchtime League

Lunchtime League sees approximately 60 girls and boys, from seasoned footballers to beginners participating in our lunchtime football competition. This competition is open to all from 4th to 6th class. With Round 1 completed it is still a wide-open competition with all teams hoping to secure a place in the knock-out stages, where the winners will go on to represent our school against lunchtime league winners from other schools. Many thanks to Ms. Hearne and Mr. Murphy who give up their time so willingly to train the children and enable them to compete in all competitions. Thanks to the parents who drive to the matches, without our drivers our participation simply would not be possible.

Skippy John

And it's not just for the footballing fanatics, as part of our responsibility in being an Active School, there must be something for everyone. So 19th September 2019, saw the return of 'Skippy John' on a beautiful sunny day. Skippy John got every single child (and some teachers) skipping to their hearts content by the end of the day. There was simple skipping, partner skipping, group skipping and even 'pretzel skipping'. With all classes taking part on the timetable the day finished off with a skipping display to be enjoyed by the whole school. In the words of our active motto "Walk, run, jump or skip, Come on Piercestown, Let's get fit!". Keep an eye out on the school blog for a video clip.

Upcoming Parents' Association Meeting – Roll up, roll up tonight 7pm in the PE hall

Tonight will see the Parents' Association AGM take place at 7pm in the school hall. Come along to hear what activities and events Parents' Association were involved in over the last year and how fundraised monies were spent. We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you tonight!

i-Pad order underway – thank you for your fundraising in 2018

The hugely successful readathon, as part of World Book Day 2018, saw over €3000 being raised. This money was ringfenced for the upgrade of our half set of iPads. We hope to have our new technology arrive before the mid term break! Who knew that reading, could raise so much money and enhance our educational resources so well!

Agreed report from the Board of Management

A Board of Management meeting was held on Tuesday 24th September and the agreed report was as follows:

- The Annual review of the Child Safeguarding Statement took place on Tuesday 24th Sept 2019
- The Board formally adopted without modification the 'Child Protection procedures for Primary and Post primary 2017'
- Piercestown N.S. were successful in their application for the 'Creative Cluster' – Miss Lorna Farrell will lead this project
- The Board of Management welcomes the opening of the special class for children with ASD
- E-payments have gone live
- The Board of Management officially welcomes, Shelly Roche, Niamh Whelan and Teresa Roche Murphy to the staff in their roles as special needs assistants
- The Board would like to thank Claire Frayne for her work and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours
- Election procedures for the incoming Board of Management will be issued shortly
- The Board of Management were thanked for their Trojan efforts over the last four years as the Board of Management 2015-2019

Procedures for new Board of Management Elections

New procedures for the election of members for the next Board of Management will be issued this week. The current Board of Management expires on November 30th, with the new Board being in situ by 1st December 2019 for the next four year period. A HUGE thanks to the Board from 2015-2019, who have been instrumental in so much of our school life and development. In volunteering your time so generously, our school has seen many positive changes and grown in so many ways. Thank you from all of us! Take a bow!

Our Road to further Inclusivity

As you will all be aware, Piercestown N.S. has further increased its level of inclusivity in our school by opening our doors to enable more children with special educational needs to join us. Miss Sinnott and Bryan and Fiona have spent the last few weeks settling in our newest members and educating our current classes on how we as a school community can be more inclusive. Over the next few weeks, you will see our top tips for being an 'Autism Friendly School' designed personally for the community of Piercestown N.S. in the corridors. You may already have noticed our 'Lámh' noticeboard at the top of the corridor when you enter the school or experienced some of your children teaching you some sign language. With Fiona Roche on hand, as our in school expert tutor, we are delighted to improve our own skills of communication and learn yet ANOTHER language. Furthermore, we look forward to naming Miss Sinnott's class in the coming weeks also. Already, we can say that the atmosphere in our school has been further enhanced and we are a richer community for opening our doors to more people.

Freaky Friday – Friday 25th October

Calling all ghouls and goblins, ghosts and witches, zombies and werewolves, vampires and wizards! Dress up for Hallowe'en and walk down to school from St. Martin's Centre on 25th October. More info to follow closer to the ghastly event! Prize given for the best costume in each class. Good luck everyone!

Dust off the Chess Boards

It is time to dust off the chess boards. Over the coming weeks, the Piercestown 'Master Chess Plan' will be unveiled to staff to ensure that our tradition and culture of chess prowess continues to flourish.

A Word from the Principal

And in the blink of an eye it was October! Piercestown N.S. was a hive of activity for September with many firsts taking place throughout the building, the first day of a new school, the first day of a new class, the first day with a new teacher, the first day as the 6th class role models, to name but a few. But testament to the hard work of our entire school community, we have all settled comfortably into our new school year. With the upcoming Parents'

Association AGM and the election of new officers and the election of new Board of Management, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered and worked for our school over the past year and in the case of our Board of Management, the last four years. School life would simply not flourish without your support, encouragement and guidance. So from me as the principal and on behalf of our entire school community, míle buíochas! To quote Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much!".

Dates for your diaries so far this year:

- Beginning of School Year Mass **10th October 11.30am**
- GOAL jersey Day October 11th – **wear a jersey and bring €2 to school**
- Primary Language Curriculum Day 16th October – **school closed**
- Maths Week **12th – 20th October 2019**
- Sing Out Loud – **Thursday 21st November 2019**
- Freaky Friday Walk – **Friday 25th October**
- School closed for Halloween mid term break **28th October – 1st November 201. School reopens Mon 4th November 2019**