

NEWS @ ST.COMGALL'S

ISSUE 1: 2018 - 2019



Top School!!

St. Comgall's Scoop National Reading Award!

Top School in Northern Ireland in the Renaissance Awards

St. Comgall's Primary School in Antrim has been honoured with a national award for its commitment to improving and encouraging literacy skills.

The school was ranked as the top performing primary school in Northern Ireland in the 2018 Renaissance Awards.

The awards honour the best performing schools from across the country in terms of their implementation of best practices for reading, and student growth in reading attainment – as measured by Renaissance Star Reading and Renaissance Accelerated Reader. Across the UK and Ireland Renaissance solutions for reading assessment and practice support almost 1.5m students in becoming independent readers. Using AR, students read a suitably-challenging book, take an online quiz, and get immediate feedback. Renaissance spokesman James Bell said: "Good literacy levels are, along with numeracy, the most important skill they can learn at school and will provide the building blocks for success in later life. However, ensuring regular practice takes time and dedication and it is heartening to see St Comgall's Primary School take this so seriously. Renaissance UK is pleased to name them the best performing primary school in Northern Ireland. Well done to all the students and teachers for their outstanding achievement." We are delighted to have won this award! Thanks to Mrs Magee, who is our school improvement leader who manages Accelerated Reading and to all the staff and children who work and read so hard to obtain this brilliant award.





Hope and a Future is a Northern Ireland registered charity which was founded in 2007 in response to seeing first-hand the impoverished lives of many thousands of children in the town of Shashemene, Ethiopia. With many children simply too poor to go to school, and others with mental or physical disabilities languishing in damp, squalid, mud homes, we simply felt we had to do something. As followers of Christ we don't believe Jesus would just have ignored these children and so we've embarked on working with local Ethiopians to help them.

In June 2018, here at St. Comgall's we thought it would be a shame to throw away our old uniform so our teacher, Mr Christie came up with an idea to donate the uniforms to a school in Ethiopia. We received a lovely letter from Kevin Keenan, Chief Executive of Hope and a Future thanking our school for the donations. He told us they support two schools in Ethiopia with 520 children aged 5 years up to 16 years. Many of the children are in the same age range as St. Comgall's pupils and we hope use your donation for their benefit. Mr Christie also went to Zambia with his charity 'Hope Mission' Zambia and donated uniforms to a school there. Thank you!



CROSS COMMUNITY ART

The Mayor, Councillor Paul Michael, unveils the new art installation at Antrim Police Station with Constable Peter Lally, Holly Geddis (Antrim PS) and Matthew Brown (St. Comgall's PS).



As part of our Shared Education Programme, St. Comgall's and Antrim Primary took part in a cross community art project. Artist Janet Crymble worked with children from both schools to create a piece of artwork which shows images of key attractions of Antrim town centre. You can view the artwork on the corner of the police station walls. It brings to life how the children see Antrim, showing its history and heritage.

The Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Paul Michael spoke at the unveiling of the school art project saying, "We hope to draw more people to visit Antrim through this project, help increase a sense of pride in our town and strengthen the sense of community. Everyone can have fun picking out relevant images in the art and visit these places as they make their way around the town."

A small group of our children, Conor, Paul Matthew, Kealan, Clodagh, Molly, Grace and Roisin attended the unveiling on Tuesday 26th June outside Antrim Police Station.



Welcome! Our New P'1s

P.1A Miss McAllister



P.1B Mrs Mullan



P.1C Mrs Ntareme



Safety in the Community

P.3 & 4 had a Visit from the Police

Mark, the policeman, came to visit us yesterday. He showed us his uniform and all his gadgets. He had a baton, handcuffs, a special phone and a walkie-talkie.

Ethan got to try on his police vest, it was very warm and heavy. Caitlin was a volunteer who had to pretend to fight with Mark!

The police help to keep us safe and our community a safe place too.

We got a sticker, a pencil, a colouring book and reflectors.



Stranger Danger

On Friday 21st September, two police officers, Mark and Gerry came to our school to talk about how to keep safe from strangers.

Mark talked to us about strangers with assistance from Gerry. Mark asked for an assistant and Nora from Primary 6 raised her hand. He called her up to the front to demonstrate a scene. He pretended to be a stranger giving her sweets. She declined, saying that he was a stranger and she left.

Mark said, "What a great example. Nora was fantastic."

The Police advised that if someone was trying to take you away scream as loud as you can and make a scene. Then Mark asked for us to practice screaming and the whole assembly hall filled with noise! Our eardrums nearly burst. Gerry was the judge of who was louder, Key Stage 1 or 2, but it was so loud he couldn't hear Mark!

Mark also said if someone ever tries to kidnap you kick, hit, punch or bite, do whatever you can to protect yourself.

They then wrapped it up by saying: "Now you know what to do if someone ever tries to kidnap you. Remember to tell your parent or guardian."

Friday 21st September was a very exciting day.

By Ana McClelland and Mitchell Hughes P6C



Last year every child in our school participated in a 'printing' art project in conjunction with the Belfast International Airport. On Wednesday 3rd October 13 year 7s represented the school at a photo launch of two large artworks that have been created from the pupils' work. These artworks were installed in the airport for a few weeks. The children who attended with Mr Matthews were:

Darragh Brennan, Gabriele Bulkaite, Ben McLornan, Fintan Lundy, P. J. Dinsmore, Emily Cosgrove, Nina Nowicka, Sion Jomon, Miki Sury, Sé Mulvenna, Molly McDermott, Tailte Mulholland and Darcey Ruddy.



Under the Hawthorn

On Tuesday 2nd October, all the P6's went on a trip to the Mac Theatre, to watch the musical of "Under The Hawthorn Tree", our class novel. With our snack and a drink, we left the school at a quarter past nine in the morning and we arrived at the Mac for 10am. We were joined by 3 other schools, who had arrived shortly before us. We entered the main theatre area and waited for the show to start. After about 5 minutes of waiting, music started and the stage was covered in fog.

As the fog cleared, the actors and actresses were on the stage. The show itself had little scenery but I think this was a good thing, because it let the audience imagine. We all had an amazing time, and the actors/actresses were brilliant

After the show Primary 6C met the actress who played Eily, and complimented her on her performance. We talked about our favourite scenes, and our least favourite. We all agreed our least favourite was the one where the wolves attacked, and one bit Peggy's arm. All too soon it was time to go. All the P6's clambered onto the bus, and we went back to school just in time for lunch. All in all, it was a great experience, and we all enjoyed our trip very much!

By Ana McClelland P6C



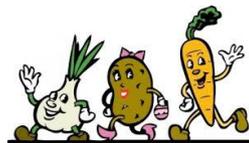
Eco Schools News



Our Vegetable Garden

In September the Eco team worked hard to tidy up our vegetable garden after the summer holidays. The team, along with Mr Henry and Mrs O'Donnell did a great job picking a variety of vegetables, potatoes, turnips, spring onions, onions, tomatoes and carrots.

Our P.3 children took the potatoes to class gave them a good wash the then used them in a counting exercise before bringing them to the Canteen Staff to cook for dinners. Yum yum!!



Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Eco Bus Visit



The Eco Bus from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council visited the school on Tuesday 6th November. Our P.1 and P.6 children received a talk about recycling and take part in various activities.



St. Comgall's Fundraising Group

Winners of Movie Family Pass Muddy Marathon Prize Draw



All children who returned a sponsor sheet to school were entered into a prize draw for a Movie Family Pass. The winners drawn at random from each year group are:

P.7 Sophie Patterson, P.6 Molly McDermott, P.5 Victoria Letters, P.4 Pearse Muldoon,

P.3 Alicja Pawlowska, P.2 James Toney & P.1 Charlie McKeown

Well Done & Thank You!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We would like to thank all the children for their beautiful designs and the Fundraising Group for all their hard work that made this possible.

The profit made was
£296.00



which will go towards much needed school resources.

Asda Bag Pack

On Sunday 30th September, our Fundraising Group held a bag pack at Asda in Junction One. It was a very successful day as the raised **£704.50**. We would like to thank parents/staff and fundraisers for all their help.





P.2 Nature Trail in Greenmount



I went to Greenmount. I saw apples and pumpkins. I saw pine cones. I saw ducks.
By Scarlett McKeown P.2C



I went to Greenmount. I saw cows. I made a house for a hedgehog. I saw leaves falling of the tree.
By Daniel Posnik P.2C



I went to Greenmount. I saw cows. I saw sheep and ducks. I saw pine cones. I saw apples. My partner was Dacéy.
By Zoe Cabacungan P.2B



I went to Greenmount. I saw apples. I saw pine cones. I saw brussel sprouts
By Jerome Jacob P.2A



I went to Greenmount. I saw some apples and pumpkins. My partner was Joe. I saw a leaf.
By Áine Dobbin P.2B





Shoebox Appeal



Road of Hope was initially set up to bring relief to those in danger and despair during the war in Bosnia and Croatia. Since then Road of Hope has extended the vision and is now regularly helping and supporting other charities and organisations. Road of Hope works in Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Bosnia and some African countries. The wars may be over in some places but the pain and scars of war do not heal quickly. When families have been torn apart and suffered the loss of loved ones, been displaced from their homes, their neighbours and communities, an act of kindness can begin to help heal physical and emotional wounds. Road of Hope looks for opportunities to help others. We will cross dividing lines to help those trapped in conflict, poverty or any other oppression. Here at St. Comgall's we have certainly shown that people do indeed have a kind and generous nature, as the response to the Shoe Box Appeal was amazing. We and the Road of Hope charity would like to thank you all very much for your generosity. This year we collected an amazing:

232 Shoeboxes

Once again thank you, your kindness will make such a difference to someone's life.



Bridges



On 14th October, we had a visit from the Institute of Civil Engineers. They divided us into groups and gave us a task of constructing a bridge that went from one end of the hall to the other. We had to listen carefully to our instructions and each other and work as a team. My favourite part of the lesson was walking across the bridge because all our work paid off.

By Sé Mulvenna P.7A

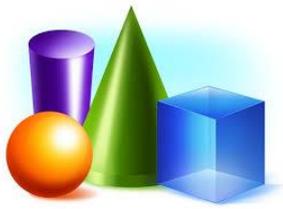


P.2 Harvest Assembly



Primary two worked very hard to prepare for their Yum Yum Yum Harvest Assembly on Thursday 18th October. Every child had a part to play whether it was a farmer, a reader or even a dancer! In our assembly we thanked God for all the fruit, vegetables and bread that we eat by singing songs and saying prayers together. Primary two had so much fun dressing up as a farmer or as part of our dance for the special assembly and we hoped everyone enjoyed our performance. The costumes were amazing and we thank all parents and children for their kind efforts.





Maths Week in October

The 15th – 19th October was Maths week here in St. Comgall's. We were working with the children to develop students' Thinking Skills, Logical Reasoning Skills, Team Skills and Communication Skills. Teachers were given team puzzles and challenges which help to boost the children's confidence and raise their expectations of what they can achieve. Along with special activities that happened in school, we asked parents to spend a little extra time on fun

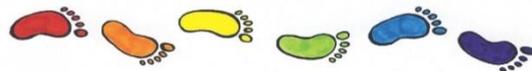


maths with your child that week & go to [Mangahigh.com/Purple Mash](https://www.mangahigh.com/PurpleMash) to compete online.

P7A



Feet First Families



On Friday 19th October our school took part in Sustrans 'Feet First Families' initiative where schools became 'car free zones' for the entire day. We used the car park spaces for fun activities and encouraged children to walk, scoot or cycle to school on this day with NO traffic in our car park. The Eco Team worked with Sustrans, last year, to develop suitable, safe parking locations for 'parking and striding' to school. They suggested you park at the Castle Grounds (6min), Castle Mall (7min), Junction 1 (19min) or Church (4min) carparks and walk the rest of the way. Instead of sitting in traffic for 15 minutes outside school why not try parking and striding, it's healthier and takes less time out of your day. Our Eco Team appreciated all your support for the day of action and the children had so much fun.



P.6 Attend Forest Schools in the Castle Grounds



In the month of October, we walked down to the Castle Grounds to attend Forest Schools with Antrim Primary School. On our first week we made a picture out of sticks, stones and other nature related items. We had to create something that was inspired by nature. We were teamed up in groups of four, 2 from St. Comgall's and 2 from Antrim Primary.

The second week/last week this year, we learnt about camouflage. We got split into worms and badgers. The worms got a piece of string, they had to camouflage it. The badgers were only allowed to look when every piece of string was camouflaged. After we swapped places, worms became badgers and badgers became worms. We all continued the process.

Next we were to build a den in groups of four. The den would be for a small animal. All of the dens had to be made from nature related items. We all had lots of fun. Once we were finished we took it down because we have to leave the forest as we found it. The next time we will see Antrim Primary will be February 2019.

By Lauren May Ong P.6A



P.3 AUTUMN SCAVENGER HUNT



On Monday 15th October Primary 3 had their first meet up with the children from Antrim Primary School as part of the Shared Education Programme. The children walked to the Castle Gardens with their friends and took part in an Autumn Scavenger Hunt. They worked together and found lots of autumn materials to tick off their check list. They even had a tour and information session from one of the gardeners who works in the grounds! It was great to meet up with our buddies from Primary 2 and we look forward to seeing them again soon!



P.6 Mission Mass at St. Joseph's

On the 23rd of October we went to St Joseph's Parish centre for a day of prayer for Missions with Living Church. We did all sorts of games, puppet shows and other fun stuff.

First we all went in the back room and took off our coats and put our lunch boxes on the table for St Comgall's. Then, we went to the main hall and had a seat on the floor. Juliann came up on the stage and gave us a talk about special Missionary Rosary beads, how she prays with them and how she remembers which colour is which continent to pray for. Then we had a puppet show! And there were fish puppets and singing ones too!! It was really funny!

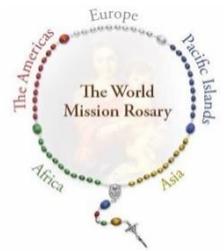
Then Sam came to the stage and told us a story about Peter and Jesus, but he did it with drawing with chalk pastels. Then there was another puppet show after that.

Next we all got split up into groups and one half went into the church to play drums and the other stayed in the main hall to do different dances.

The dancing group started with Irish dancing, which was quite fun, then we did Indian, my personal favourite, and then African. Because African was the most popular we did again at the end. After the dancing the groups swapped activities. My group went to African drumming with Joe from the "Gathering Drum". It was so fun! There were bongo drums and percussion instruments.

Near the end of the day we had a Mass with 2 different priests and 2 deacons, one was the principal of the school in Toome. It was a lovely Mass with singing and guitar playing. That was the end of our Mission day out!! 😊

By Madeleine McCaffrey and Jude Flood P.6C



Travelling Books Fair comes to St. Comgall's

The Travelling Books Fair came to St Comgall's on the 3rd October to 10th October. The book fair is a fantastic way for parents to supplement their child's home reading material. It also helps raise money for books in our school as we can purchase books to a percentage value of all money spent at the fair by parents. This has been a great way in the past of enhancing our school stock. The children were excited to see the book fair in the school foyer and had fun picking a book to buy and bringing it home to read.



This year the school raised
£917.68
Hope everyone enjoyed reading the
books they bought.

Happy Halloween



Bulb & Tree Planting in the Castle Grounds



St. Comgall's were delighted to be invited by the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Mayor's office to mark the Centenary of the end of World War 1. Miss Flanagan's P.4 class were selected and on a wet and windy day, the children went to Antrim Castle Grounds and Clotworthy House to plant 100 bulbs and an oak tree. One bulb for every year since the end of World War 1 and an oak tree that will hopefully grow and see the next 100 years here in Antrim. The children will return in spring to see the bulbs they planted in bloom.

Christmas Hampers for St. Vincent De Paul



Here at St. Comgall's we reached out to our parents and children in an effort to help those families in need in our community. As always your generosity knows no bounds, the response was overwhelming. We and St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank you, our P.5, 6 and 7 parents and children, very much for your donations. The hampers will be greatly appreciated.

Young Entrepreneur Day for P.6 at Mossley Mill

On Monday the 12th of November we went to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Offices in Mossley Mill for a “Junior Entrepreneur” day.

The Deputy Mayor was there. He was called John Smith and he spoke about how we could be the next business men and women. We next took part in a lot of fun activities all linked to being a successful entrepreneur.

- **Supply Chain-** We learned about something called a supply chain which explained all the steps involved in how to make apple juice and where to buy it.
- **Packaging -** we played the “Higher and Lower Game” where we had to use higher or lower boxes and guess the price based on the popularity or packaging used.
- **Designing our own packaging -** Next we had the chance to design our own juice carton of any flavour for example, some people did combinations of watermelon /mango/orange juice.
- **Gifts-** We were all given a pen with way too much fluffy hair!

Both Shea and I agree the best part of the day was designing our own packaging for a carton of juice.

By: Mia McShane and Shea Noade P6C



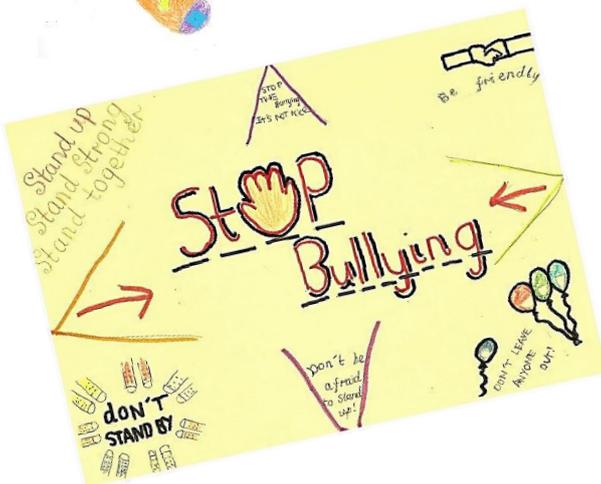
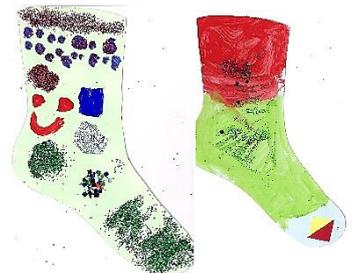
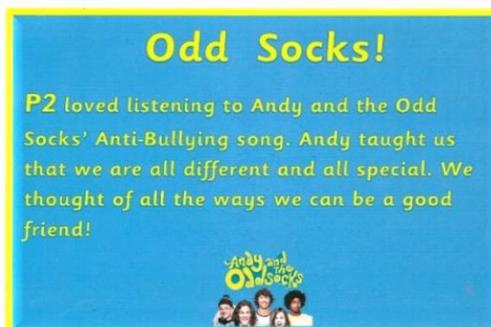
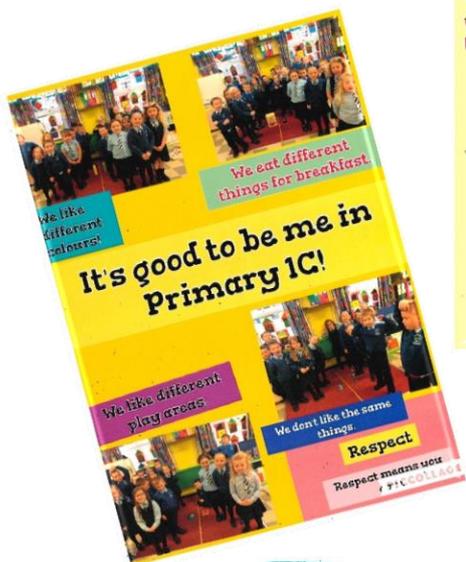
Anti-Bullying Week

RESPECT

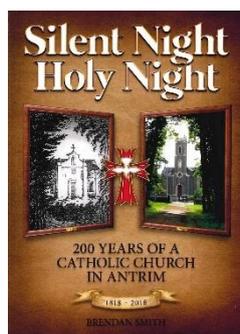


“Respect” - was the theme for this year’s anti bullying week in Northern Ireland. Under this theme we encouraged children to think about what respect means to them, what it feels like to be respected and how they show respect to others.

Anti-Bullying Week 2018 was from Monday 12th November to Friday 16th November. The children took part in various activities in their classrooms. They also had a special assembly presented by Women’s Aid on the topic of Anti-Bullying and Respect. The children wore odd socks to school on the last day of Anti-Bullying Week to show respect for difference.



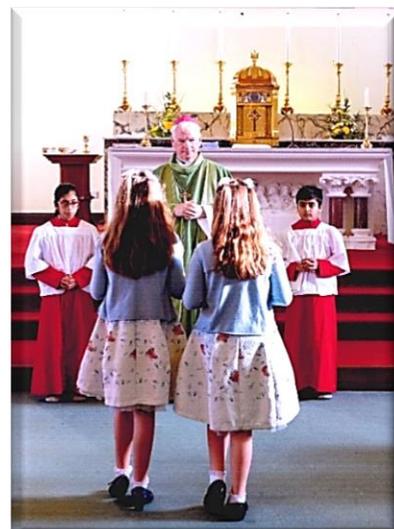
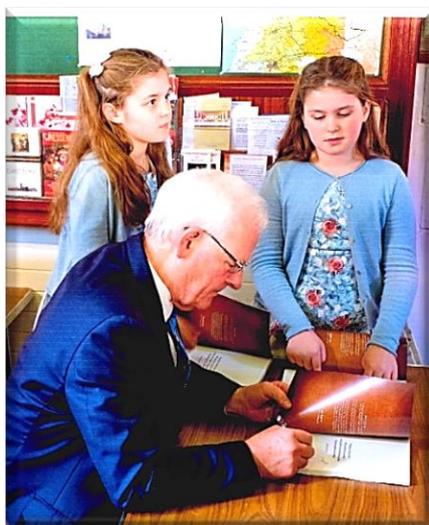
CHRISTMAS DINNER



“Silent Night, Holy Night” by Brendan Smith

On Sunday 18th November 2018 we celebrated a very special occasion for St. Comgall's Parish, Antrim. Our Sacristan, Brendan, who looks after the church, has written a book about the history of St. Comgall's called “Silent Night, Holy Night”. Bishop Noel Treanor came to say Mass and we were chosen to take part in the Offertory Procession. Caitlin and I brought the gifts to the altar and had our photographs taken. It was a great celebration and we enjoyed taking part in the Mass. Brendan donated a signed copy as a keepsake for the school.

By Caitlin & Erin-Rose McNeilly P.5B





P.1 Buddy Up



This term our P.1 children took part in 'Buddy Up' as part of Shared Education. Our school work alongside Antrim primary School, our Shared Education Partner.

During the project, children from both schools had reciprocal visits to learn and play together.

We explored, 'friendship', 'respect' and 'similarities and differences' as we got to know people from another school. Every child who took part had a 'buddy' from the other school. They were also placed into a team with several children in a mixed group. They did some activities with their buddy and some activities in a larger group. There were lots of opportunities to take part in games, songs, discussions and art activities.

Antrim Area Flahavan's Primary School Cross Country League



Our Cross Country Team took part in the Antrim Area Flahavan's Primary School Cross Country League. They have attended 2 events this term, one in Antrim Forum and the other in Lisnagarvey High School near Lisburn and thoroughly enjoyed taking part. The league continues next term.



DAIRY COUNCIL VISIT P.5



The Dairy Council for Northern Ireland visited our P.5 children this term. They were here to talk to the children about Food and Fitness. The aim of this programme to help pupils explore the concept of balance within their diet based on eating a variety of foods from the five food groups and balance within their lifestyle focusing on the importance of being active. The children had fun and enjoyed the taking part in the activities and learning about the different dairy foods.





Fire Safety



On Thursday 22nd November P.5 took part in a fire safety talk in the assembly hall. Four firefighters came from Antrim Fire Station to talk about Fire Safety at home. We learned about the hazards in our homes and how we need to follow a Bedtime Routine and plan an escape route from our homes. The firefighters told us a very important message to remember if there's a fire in our house.

GET OUT, STAY OUT, DIAL 999!

We all received fire safety packs to work on at home and a fire safety check sheet to complete. The firefighters asked us questions at the end and were really pleased that we knew all the answers!



Information & Reminders

Names on Uniforms

Please remember to clearly label all items of your child's school uniform, especially jumpers, cardigans and coats.



Absence Letters

If your child is absent from school, please inform the teacher in writing of the reason for the absence.

Children coming to School Early:

Children should not be on the school grounds before 8.45am unless they are attending breakfast club. There is no supervision for children before this time.

BREAKFAST CLUB: from 8.10am - 8.45am Cost £1.50 Main School Hall.

Tuck and dinner money

Please ensure your child has the money to pay for tuck and dinners if they use it. It becomes very difficult to manage for our teaching and canteen staff if money becomes "owed." Again, thank you in anticipation for your help with this.



School Dinner Price
School dinners costs **£2.60**

Passports

Any Passport Forms requiring signature from a member of staff costs a nominal fee of £5.00, which will go towards school funds.

Emails:

Would all parents who completed a form requesting letters and information to be sent to them by email, please remember to check your emails regularly so you will not miss any important news, letters, dates and general information.



Classes	Pick Up Points During Building Works
P.1	No Change to pick-up point at 1.45pm although only access is around the Senior Building.
P.2A & P.2B	Dismissal is from the black gate at back of the school (At Mrs McIntyre's Office)
P.2C	Same dismissal point (centre doors at Junior Building). Access only by going around the Senior Building.
P.3A	Dismissal will now be from the black gate at the back of the school – near Mrs McIntyre's Office.
P.3C	No change to dismissal point (centre doors Junior Building). Access only by going around the Senior Building.
P.3B	No change to dismissal point. Access only by going around the Senior Building.
P.4A & P.4C	Dismissal will now be from the black gate at the back of the school – near Mrs McIntyre's Office.
P.4B	No change to current pick up point, although, walkers may have to walk around the building to get to back car park.
P.5A/B/C	No change to current pick up point, although, walkers may have to walk around the building to get to back car park.
P.6A/B/C	No change to current pick up point, although, walkers may have to walk around the building to get to back car park.
P.7A/B/C	No change to current pick up point, although, walkers may have to walk around the building to get to back car park.

School Uniform Supplier

Thousand Stitches Ltd
Antrim Arcade
18 High Street
Antrim BT41 2AN

Telephone: 07580 136883

E-mail: info@thousandstitches.com

Web: www.thousandstitches.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thousandstitches/



ELECTION OF NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

Many thanks to the parents who stepped forward for the election of new parent Governor, your commitment to help our school is so appreciated. Many thanks also to the parents who voted in the election.

The newly elected Governor is Mrs Marian Ong. We welcome her and the expertise she will bring to our Governing Body in the future.

2nd Term Holidays

SPRING MID TERM BREAK

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February (inclusive)



EASTER – close half day on 29th March

Friday 19th April – Friday 26th April (inclusive)



ATTENTION CHILDREN, PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN CROSSING THE ROAD ON FOOT, ON A BICYCLE OR A SCOOTER.....



Find the safest place to cross then stop.
Stand on the pavement near the kerb or the edge if there is no kerb.



Give yourself lots of time to have a good look all around.
Make sure you can see if anything is coming and drivers can see you.



Listen carefully because you can sometimes hear traffic before you can see it.
Never cross the road whilst chatting to people, listening to your iPod or talking on your mobile phone.

BE AWARE EVEN WHEN YOU ARE IN SCHOOL GROUNDS OR CAR PARKS

SCHOOL WEBSITE!

Please take some time to visit our school website! There you will find all the information you need about school. You can meet the classes and learn about the interesting events happening in school. There is a translate engine, so the website can be viewed in other languages. Please select a language of your choice from the drop down list on our homepage. In addition, there is, a 'scrolling announcements sections' on the top of the homepage – this will draw your attention to any current activity in the school.



stcomgalls.co.uk

Christmas Holiday Dates and Arrangements

The school will close for Christmas Holidays on Friday 21st December at 12noon for all pupils. This is a **NON** uniform day. **There will be NO Breakfast Club and NO Tuck or Lunches on Friday 21st. THERE WILL BE BUSES AT 12NOON ON FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER!** As normal, additional parking for collection on this day will be provided in the front playground of the school. *Please follow the direction of the staff. School will re-open on Monday 7th January.

**The Board of Governors, Principal & Staff
Wish you all a Happy & Peaceful Christmas,
see you in 2019.**

