



JACK AND JILL FOUNDATION

*“Ten tiny little fingers that always want to play that never stop exploring the wonder of today.
 Ten tiny little fingers that from the very start will reach out for tomorrow yet always hold your heart.”*



The Jack & Jill Children's Foundation (www.jackandjill.ie) is an Irish charity that supports the families of babies who are born with or develop brain damage and who suffer severe intellectual and physical developmental delay as a result. These are children who, as a result of their condition, require intensive home nursing care. Like the nursery rhyme, where Jack and Jill climb up a hill, families of a sick child can often feel like they too are climbing up a hill because life can be very difficult at times. The Foundation makes the lives of a Jack and Jill baby that bit easier and gives the families the Gift of Time, time to do the things that we so often take for granted like shopping, taking their other children to the park, a night's sleep etc. The service includes home visits, advice, information, funding, lobbying and bereavement support and now more than ever they need our support. Jack and Jill have helped over 1,100 babies in the last 12 years and with everyone's help will continue to provide assistance for many more years to come. Today it provides home nursing care to 300 families in Ireland and the recycling of mobile phones is its main source of funding, with 250 mobiles providing home nursing care for a sick child for one month. Jack and Jill needs to raise over €3 million per year to provide their services so they rely on innovative fundraising campaigns to reach the target.



PHONES FOR BOARDS CAMPAIGN



Portumna Community School would like to ask for your support in a mobile phone recycling initiative 'Phones for Boards' which will provide our school with a Promethean interactive white board, free of charge, while also raising money for the Jack & Jill Foundation when we collect 300 old mobile phones. We are encouraging everyone in the school community and general locality to collect as many old phones as possible – you will also be helping the environment by keeping old phones out of landfills. The target of 300 old mobile phones (in any condition) is certainly achievable as most households have a few old mobile phones in drawers, cupboards etc. So please round them up and hand them into the school – we have a collection box in the Social Area. Students can see for themselves that helping a charity, need not always involve donating money. They learn a valuable lesson that real generosity is when we help someone who may never get the chance to thank us. Thank you in advance for your help - Your phones can make a real difference!

NON UNIFORM DAY

Friday next, 26th March, will be a non-uniform day to raise funds to send a student from our school as a helper on the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in August.

If you would like to take part in the non-uniform day please bring your €2 to Tutor class on Tuesday (23rd). So far seven students have submitted their names and Friday is the closing date for same. The lucky student will be drawn from the hat after Easter break.

EASTER LITURGIES

Our Easter Liturgies will commence for the whole school next week beginning on Monday. They will take place in Suaimhneas during R.E. classes throughout the week.

TROCAIRE 24 HR FAST

*Last week we were close to the €2,000 mark. This week we have passed the **€2,500** mark and climbing! Many thanks to all who have already returned cards and sponsorship. For those of you that have not done so yet please note that **all** cards **must** be returned by **Friday, 26th March** whether you collected sponsorship or not.*

Fr. Abe

Countdown to the **Leaving** & **Junior Cert** State Exams: only **44** school days left!



SOCIAL AREA COMPUTER

The computer in the social area is proving to be of great benefit to many students. In particular it has helped with research, using the school's high speed broadband network, in a manner that may be otherwise difficult or indeed impossible.

A reminder, however, that use of this facility must be in keeping with the strict policy already outlined and clearly visible on the notice board at the computer.

Permission for use **must** be got from a staff member each time you wish to use the PC – the form on the notice board must also be signed, indicating both your own name and the staff member who granted permission.

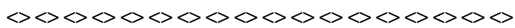


SIGN OUT YOUTH PROJECT are holding their second **U18 5-A-SIDE SOCCER TOURNAMENT** on Friday, 9th April, kick off 2pm. Entries to Gary, Paul, Oisín or Mark. Latest date for entries is 5th April. €35 per team. Great Prizes.

Sign Out All Weather Pitch is open 7 days a week and is available to all students @ €30 per hour.

For further information or to book pitch phone 086 2051346.

SIGN OUT YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING this Friday 19th March @ 7pm sharp. Agenda to include Soccer Tournament and Table Quiz. New members always welcome. Apologies to 087 6779267.

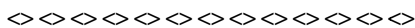


LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION?

Exam students are advised that both the **IRISH INDEPENDENT** and **IRISH TIMES** carry very useful weekly Education Supplements, which are well worth a look, and the bonus is you don't even have to go out and buy the newspaper as they are available on line!

Keep an eye on:

www.independent.ie/education and www.irishtimes.com/society/education/



Events Diary: (20th – 26th March)

- Mon. 22nd – Fri. 26th : Class based Assessments.
- Tues. 23rd : Talk on Islam – Ms. Harty & Ms. Burke's 3rd Year R.E. Classes @ 12.30.
- Tues. 23rd : Ryan Cup Senior Hurling vs Gort C.S. in Mullagh @ 1pm. Bus leaving @ 11am.
- Tues. 23rd : Mental Health Public Speaking All-Ireland Semi Final in Moate @ 1pm.
- Tues. 23rd March @ 8pm : Parents of 3rd yrs & TYs re subjects & courses for next year.
- Fri. 26th : Non-Uniform Day – €2 to participate.
- Mon. 29th Mar. – Fri. 9th April (incl.) : Easter Holidays. Mon. 12th April : Back to school.



SEISIÚN MÓR



Today (Fri.) at break time in the Social Area a '**Seisiún Mór**' took place as part of **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Transition Year and Fifth year students, on an array of instruments, accompanied by Ms. Kelleher on Fiddle, Ms. O'Sullivan on Harp and Mr. Molamphy on Bodhrán, performed a repertoire of traditional Irish tunes.



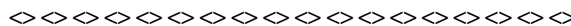
We had been hard at work preparing for the session over the past few weeks. Many thanks to all the teachers and students involved. The First Years also took part in a **Ceili** this morning which was enjoyed by all. They had been learning and practicing the dances over the last few weeks.

Thanks to Mrs. Burke and Ms. Connolly for all their work organising the Ceili.

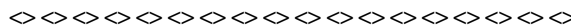


Thanks also to Daniel Eames, Eimear Finnegan, Mark Walsh and Pdraig Breheny who decorated the school for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Sarah Larkin, Niamh Bergin & Fiona Hyland

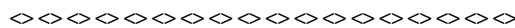


GOOD LUCK to the TY students (Mary Cleary, Ciara Kennedy & Niall O'Meara) who will be taking part in the All-Ireland Semi Finals of the Mental Health Public Speaking competition on Tuesday, 23rd March, at 1pm in Moate.



JUNIOR & LEAVING CERT. EXAM DATES IN APRIL:

- Tues. 13th : LC French Oral begins.
- Wed. 14th : LC German Oral.
- Thurs. 15th : Junior Cert Music Practicals.
- Tues. 20th : Leaving Cert Music Practicals.
- Wed. 21st : Leaving Cert Oral Irish begins.
- Fri. 23rd : Leaving Cert Russian Oral.



"One of the most important lessons we will ever learn in life is learning how to help others"