

MAY 2020

www.millquarterps.com

Term 3.2 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin by commending each and every one of you on all your efforts during these extraordinary times. The past nine weeks have been incredibly challenging for us all as we come to terms with the reality of living through a pandemic and the very real worries that this brings for ourselves, our families and our community. Despite this, we have made the transition to remote learning and are working together to ensure our children continue to learn. We fully appreciate that personal circumstances and home environments differ and therefore have, from the outset of school closure, urged you to do what is manageable for you and your family.

We like to hear from you so that we know how the children are doing and that everyone is safe and well. Please continue sending in pictures of your children at work or play so that we can share these and ensure that no child feels completely detached from school. If you have not been in contact with us I would urge you to send a simple message to your class teacher letting us know how you are getting on and anything we can support you with. This is purely in a pastoral capacity and not to check on the completion of home learning.

As always we continue to send our good wishes to you all. Take good care and stay safe.

Mrs McNamee

First Communion

Last week was a particularly poignant one given our Primary Four children should have received the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The delay of such an important event really brings home the incredible impact that the current situation is having and will continue to have on the lives of our young people. We are acutely aware of the milestones, rites of passage and life experiences that our children are missing out on. Please know that we will do everything in our power, when the situation allows, to try in some way to compensate for these lost experiences.

May Altars

Virtual Sports Day

Millquarter has been registered for the 'virtual sports day' being hosted by Healthy Kidz in conjunction with Eurospar NI. If you have not registered there is still time. To qualify for the 20 days continuous activity Friday 22nd May at 6pm is the deadline. If you are registered remember to log your activity everyday (including weekends) on the app. We will post details of the activities on our Facebook page every week and would love to see some photos of your efforts. Registration can be completed by visiting <http://healthy-kidz.com/hk-virtual-sports-day/> Good luck!

We have loved seeing the great efforts the children have gone to creating May Altars at home. Ordinarily every classroom would have had a May Altar created by the children and we would be praying the rosary.

We hope creating your own sacred prayer space at home brings some comfort during these uncertain times and serves as a strong reminder of the place of faith in our lives.

Please continue to pray for baby Caden McFall as he recovers from surgery. We believe that the prayers of children are very powerful and we often pray for special intentions during assemblies in school.

P7 Admission Letters

The parents of our P7 pupils should receive their post-primary placement letters from the Education Authority on Thursday 4th June. If you require any additional information the Admissions Helpdesk operates Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm and can be reached on 02895985595

Contact Details

We hope to use email as an addition means of communicating with parents in the run up to schools reopening again. To this end, please email info@millquarterps.antrim.ni.sch.uk with a contact email for yourself and include your child's name and class.

Free School Meals

The pandemic and subsequent lockdown has massively impacted employment and therefore family finances. If you find yourself in this position please know that you are not alone and support can be accessed by applying online at eani.org.uk/getfsm

Thank you

Mrs Kearney is returning from maternity leave after the holidays and we extend our thanks to Miss Downey for all the hard work with our Primary Six class this year. I am sure you will join me in extending our best wishes to Miss Downey.

GAA Coaching

Beginning this week, the Ulster GAA coaches have put together a series of coaching videos aimed at KS1 and KS2 children to keep them upskilled during this time. Over the next 5 weeks they will be releasing the videos on the Ulster GAA Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEZ-mTwXmv8> we encourage you to have a look and try the sessions at home.

Facebook

There are regular posts put up on our Facebook page and website. Please ensure you check these regularly for updates.

Millquarter Superheros

We would like to acknowledge our key workers and the fantastic work they are doing. If you know someone (it could be a member of your family, a past pupil/s or a local person or business) who is working hard to keep us safe, email us a short video/photo and we will post it online. The email address is info@millquarterps.antrim.ni.sch.uk

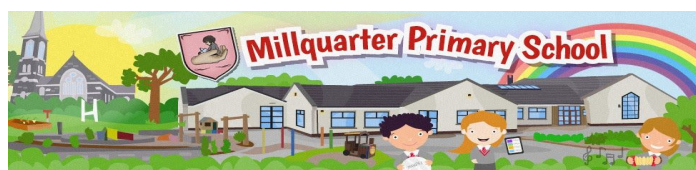
Competition Time

See below for an exciting opportunity to use your creativity skills.

Check out www.ttrockstasrs.com to attempt to win the Guinness World Record title of the 'Highest score achieved on Times Table Rock Stars in a minute.

Reminder

Remember to adhere to the PublicHealth Agency advice in relation to social distancing and remain safely at home as much as you can. Once we get back to school again the staff will make sure all the children get back on track with their learning. In the meantime tell the boys and girls to keep up the hard work, find a reason to smile everyday, remember to say your prayers and help each other at home. We hope to see you all safe and sound sometime soon.



Activate Your Curiosity

Win the chance to have your life-improving design made by a local company!

We are asking pupils to 'Activate your Curiosity' by designing an innovative idea that could improve our lives for the future. There are fantastic prizes on offer and the winning design will be made into a prototype by one of our local manufacturing companies!



WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Tell us about your innovative idea that could improve our lives for the future. Provide a detailed sketch of the design and an explanation outlining:

- What is your idea?
- What or who inspired you?
- Who would benefit from your idea?
- How would it work?
- Why would it activate the curiosity of other people?

HOW DO I ENTER?

1. Students must be under 18 years of age and attend a school in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area.
2. Pupils should complete the entry form and upload their design at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/curiosity
3. The closing date for entries is 12 Noon on Friday 12 June 2020. The winners will be notified by Friday 19 June 2020.

WHAT CAN I WIN?

- All entrants will receive a Certificate of participation and pencil. Prizes are available for the winners of KS1 - KS4 as well as an overall winning design.
- The overall winning design will be made into a prototype by one of our local manufacturing companies.
- The best ideas will be included in the Gallery of First Attempts in the Brail Museum, Ballymena to coincide with the Science Summer School NI hosted by Professor Brian Cox OBE in November 2020.

