St. Michael's & St. Patrick's N.S.,
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06th February 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Midterm: Reminder that the school is closed for the Midterm on Thursday 19th & Friday 20th of February.

Safe routes to School: Thank you for your patience while the works in front of the school have been ongoing. We have been told that the remainder of path will be concreted next week. The new tarmac surface and lining for car parking will be done in the coming months. It's great to see how this project has made it safer for the children coming into school. We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time.

NCSE: The NCSE have been advising and working with us this year with regard to supporting us as a school to ensure we use best practice for all our students including our students with additional needs. Following advice we are adjusting the schedule of our SNAs for the rest of the year, whereby all SNAs will spend time within the Autism Class and the Mainstream Classes.

Stay Safe Programme: As part of the SPHE curriculum the Stay Safe Programme will be taught to all classes this term. If you have any queries on this matter, please contact your class teacher.

Hot School Lunches: The Hot School Lunches have been in the school for past number of weeks. The children are enjoying the meals that have been selected for them. Please remember to place your order before Friday at 12noon each week for delivery the following week. All queries regarding school lunches should be directed to bellzcafeleitrim@gmail.com.

Garda Tanya Duffy: We welcomed Garda Tanya Duffy from the Community Policing Unit at Boyle Garda Station to our school this week. As part of her visit, she spoke to our 3rd- 6th classes about bullying/ cyberbullying. Please find attached some additional information on good parental controls while online.

New School Crest: Students had an opportunity to design a new crest for our school. This project was organised by our wonderful student council and Ms Brennan. The children came up with wonderful, creative ideas and we look forward to seeing the chosen design around the school for years to come. Thank you to our student council and Ms Brennan for all their work in getting this project across the line.

Music Generation: Padraic Collins from Music Generation will continue to teach in all classes on Tuesdays for the rest of the year. We will ask for a contribution of €15 per child towards the cost of these lessons after the midterm break. A link will be sent via Way2Pay.

Basketball: The girls and boys from 6th class will be attending a Basketball Blitz in Castlerea on Tuesday the 10th of March 2026. Wishing everyone all the best of luck.

Chess: Students from the senior classes will be attending a chess tournament in Gaelscoil Liatroma on Wednesday 11th March 2026. Best of luck to all our school representatives.

FAI Schools Primary 5s Competition: Students from 5th and 6th classes will be participating in the upcoming FAI Schools Primary 5s Competition on Friday the 13th of March at Boyle Celtic. Best of Luck to everyone. All students taking part will need to wear football boots and shin guards.

Parents Association: The Parents Association AGM will be held in the next month. We hope as many parents as possible will be able to attend to show their continued support. A big thank you as always to the Parents Association for all they do for our school – it is greatly appreciated.

Soccer: Soccer training with Cathal will continue every **Wednesday** for 4th, 5th and 6th Class for this term.

First Holy Communion: First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 9th May at 12noon in Cootehall Church.**

Confirmation will be held on **Wednesday 15th April at 11.00 a.m. in Croghan Church.**

GAA: GAA coaching will recommence for all classes next month.

Absence Form: If your child is absent from school for any reason all parents/guardians must complete an Absence Form. Click here for the online Absence Form.

Contacting the School and Contact Details: Communication between home and school is done by e mail, text, Aladdin and through our school website. If there is any recent change in your contact details, please let the school know so we can update our data base.

Supervision: Please do not park in front of the school gates for the safety of the children accessing the school. This space is reserved for the school buses only. To ensure the smooth running of this, supervision starts at 9:15 a.m., and finishes at 3:20 p.m. The Board of Management accepts no responsibility for any pupils on the school premises outside of these hours. We ask that all students remain in their cars until a member of staff opens the gate at 9:15 a.m.

If you wish to contact your child's teacher, please email the teacher (or cootehallns@gmail.com), or leave a message on the school phone (071-9667264). We will endeavour to return your email or call as soon as possible.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Cian Duffy
Principal.