



Nature Trek Memo- Monday 10th October 2022

Dear Parents,

- Our Nature Trek is almost upon us and preparations are ongoing. We are hoping that weather will not act against us and that we can enjoy our annual walk in the lovely Regional Park this **Friday, 14th October.**
- This year, **John Dwyer**, who has been coming to our school for many years to teach GAA skills will open our Nature Trek officially. The school has a long history of inviting very interesting and appropriate guests to 'cut the ribbon' and do the 'honours' on the day. John has been coaching GAA skills to our pupils for a number of years now. He has a great rapport with the children and, through his own passion and commitment to Gaelic games, and to sport in general, the children have a very positive experience of sport. He will be a very positive speaker for the children on the day, relaying messages such as respect, fairness, hard work, commitment to training, and persevering in the face adversity such as losing a match or not always getting onto the pitch to play the match on the day. He will emphasise that being part of a team, training hard together and supporting each other is the essence of being involved in sport, at this age especially.
- Children wear their **tracksuits and polo shirts** on the day with a raincoat. There is no longer a need to bring wellington boots as we did in the past, as the walk will take place entirely on a footpath. **However, raincoats are essential as we will go ahead unless it is very wet.**
- *****Pupils go home at the usual times.**
- *****School Bags must be brought to school on Friday morning.**
- We will have our usual **post-trek party on Friday** (even if the walk doesn't go ahead!): Please give your child some treats for the party which can be shared among their classmates on their return to the classroom. The children all have their own water bottles at this stage, so please ensure that your child has their water bottle filled with water coming to school as a drink.
- Thank you for your continued efforts with the fundraising. **Please return the Sponsorship Card to school on/before Friday 28th October**, even if it was not used. It is a legal requirement that all Sponsorship Cards are returned, even if they are empty.
- If you are making a contribution electronically through Databiz, there are three options of payment: €10, €20 and €50. **The facility to contribute electronically will also expire on 28th October**, so please remember to do so before that date if this is your preferred mode of contribution.

- As mentioned in the previous memo, the funds from this year's trek will go towards **the purchase of new interactive whiteboards** as a lot of the original boards, at this stage, need replacing.

We are really looking forward to our trek this year. The route is very safe with a footpath in use for the entire trek. We have Support Teachers and Special Needs Assistants accompanying each class along with the Class Teacher, and each class will have another class directly ahead of, and behind, them to keep everyone on track! As we have plenty of extra help with staff members and the route is entirely on a footpath this year, we are not asking parents to help along the trek as we did in the past. In this way it is easier for the class teacher to see and keep track of their own pupils and keep them together.

Kind regards,

Karen O'Sullivan and Orla Lande