



## Newsletter 21<sup>st</sup> February



**Sion Mills PTFA AGM**  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
7pm in the Staffroom

As part of the AGM we will be inviting nominations onto the committee and sharing details of our fundraising achievements over the past year as well as discussing priorities and plans for the rest of this year.

Everyone is welcome to join us for the brief meeting and to meet members for a chat over a cup of tea.

Please come along to support our new committee.

**WE NEED YOU**

Dates for your Diary February – March 2020	
PTFA Annual General Meeting	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 7pm
Ditch the Stabilisers	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February
School Photographer	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March
World Book Day	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
St Patrick's weekend	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> & Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2020

### Milk Money

**£10.60** Milk Money for April, May & June is now due. As this needs to be ordered in advance, thank you.



### Mathletics

Congratulations to Kaden Li P2, Maya Catterson P3K, Harry Adams P3K, Tily Mae Stewart P6C, Lucas Williamson P6McN and Katie McCrea P6McN who achieved a GOLD award this week.

### World Book Day



Our school is very excited about celebrating World Book Day which happens on 5<sup>th</sup> March. We will mark the day by having a launch assembly on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, where we will share this year's theme of "Share a Million Stories". This will be an opportunity for children coming together to appreciate reading.

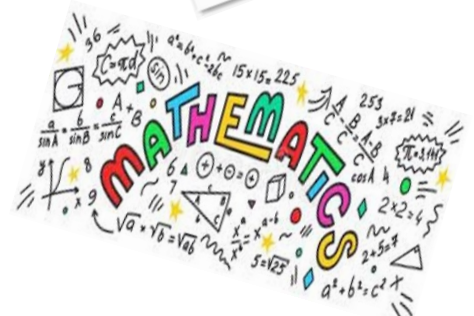
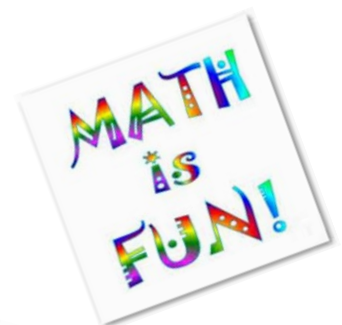
Every month we have our Accelerated Reading assembly where we celebrate our children's successes in reading. We will mark World Book Day with an even bigger celebration where we will be launching our energetic catchy Reading Song which will become our new signature song for reading.

REMINDER: For our next Accelerated Reading Assembly – boys and girls Keep Reading

### Maths Week

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

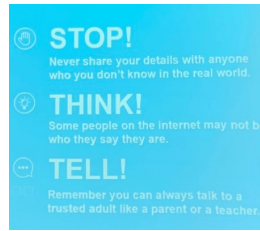
During Maths Week all classes will be engaging in activities that make us think more about Maths in a fun or real life way. As part of the Week we will be having a **Numeracy Fancy Dress Day in school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**. Costumes/clothes with a link to any aspect of Maths may be worn – number, shape, symmetry, as long as a mathematical link can be explained, it will be acceptable. While this is not a competition, as an encouragement, every pupil who participates will receive a small prize. It is also **NOT** a fundraiser.



To mark **Internet Safety Day** pupils had opportunities to discuss the important subject of internet safety. Classes talked about different scenarios and how they should react and also actions we need to remember to keep safe online.



P3K using some cards to encourage discussion



All State staff addressing Cyber-Safety with P5K and P5/6C. Delivering the message of '**STOP, THINK AND TELL**'

## Not So Serious Burns

Through Derry & Strabane District Council's Primary School Cultural Awareness Initiative P5C and P6/7McN learned about Robbie Burns. Robbie Burns was a famous and influential eighteenth century Scottish poet and songwriter. They enjoyed listening to his poetry, joining in with at least one of his world famous songs - Auld Lang Sang. They played the bagpipes, Scottish dancing and tasted some haggis. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about cultures and traditions in an experiential way. We are very grateful to the council for providing this to schools.



## Extended Schools – Paverpol Sculpting

What an brilliant assembly we had this morning! A lucky six girls from Primary 6 won the opportunity to work with a relative in the annual Intergenerational Paverpol Project with Gloria Perry. All six girls showed their fantastic creations to the whole school this morning and shared their thoughts on the experience.



## Families First NI Education Awards

We were delighted to accompany Laura to the awards ceremony in Belfast on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Unfortunately, she didn't win the plaque but we are all agreed that her certificate and the nomination are equally as important to her. A huge thank you to everyone, far and wide, parents, past and present, who took the time to email a comment. These have been collated and made into a commemorative booklet to be presented to Laura. We also really appreciate the comments about the school in the 'Best School' category and these have been printed for sharing with staff and governors.



## Right of the Month for February is

### Article 14

Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give their children information about this right.





## NI Science Week 2020

This year's Science Festival commenced on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Throughout the week (or thereabouts) each class participated in a wide range of science, technology or engineering interactive activities.



**P1S and P2H** enjoyed a range of experiments related to their Polar Lands theme, including how they could free frozen arctic animals.

**Miss Walsh's class** experimented with skittles, making mini volcanoes and floating eggs. Very visually stimulating and plenty of new vocabulary developed.

**P3K & McS** travelled to Armagh to participate in a STEM workshop, where they visited Northern Ireland's oldest library and did some investigations through the theme of The Three Little Pigs story.

**P4McS** enjoyed a range of experiments on Floating and Sinking, linked to their TITANIC topic.

**P5K** enjoyed a day in the North West Regional College, visiting the chemistry, biology and physics laboratories looking like and carrying out experiments like real life scientists.

**P5/6C** are looking forward to March 5<sup>th</sup> when the Science Dome from W5 in Belfast will be erected in the Boghall for their Science Day.

**P6/7McN** did some Valentine's Day Baking as well as an experiment called "Elephant's Toothpaste"! Following true science procedures, it didn't go to plan, so the class have reviewed their original plan, thought about the learning from what didn't work and are trying again. REAL scientists always say this is how they work all the time.

**P7McG** travelled to the Lough's Agency Open Day to learn about the science behind the conservation, protection and restoration of the Atlantic Salmon. They developed some conservation skills and knowledge through environmental workshops.

**Check out the website for lots of photographs from the classes:**

**[www.sionmillsps.com](http://www.sionmillsps.com)**

