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Dear Parents,

As we begin another school term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy new year. 2026 promises to be another enjoyable year in Anglesboro N.S. with a number of activities organised for the term ahead.

Swimming lessons are provisionally booked again this year for children from 1st -6th class. Lessons are due to begin on Thursday March 19th and run every Thursday for 6 weeks (2 weeks before Easter and 4 weeks after Easter). The cost of this activity over the 6 weeks with pool rental, swimming instructors and bus costs included is €2,400. We have provisionally booked an additional 6th week of swimming this year as opposed to the 5 weeks as is normally the case due to requests from parents. This will depend on the success of our St Brigids crosses fundraiser. Money raised from this fundraiser each year goes towards subsidising bus costs for swimming as well as subsidising costs for school tours to make them affordable for families. We would not be able to go ahead with swimming lessons without this fundraiser. We hope that as many parents as possible will help out again this year in cutting rushes and making crosses. Our Parents Association will hold a meeting next Tuesday 13th January at 8pm to make arrangements for this.

2nd – 6th class look forward to visiting the CBS in Mitchelstown next Wednesday 14th for Popstars the Musical. The bus will leave at 9:30am sharp. There is a €5 charge to attend this. A payment link will be sent for this today.

Memory Lane photography will visit the school on Tuesday 20th January. Please ensure your child is wearing their full school uniform on the day. Parents will be provided with proofs of the photos and can decide afterwards if they would like to make an order.

Sonas & Spraoi will visit Liskennett this Friday. The bus will leave school at 10:45am and will be back to Anglesboro at approximately 2:15pm.

We are looking forward to hosting A Night of Pastries and Chocolate with Norma Kelly on February 28th. There will be a Cheese & Wine reception on the night followed by music by Paul Frewen. Tickets are €30 and can be bought online at <https://bit.ly/4p5p9YP> or by contacting Michelle O'Brien on 089-4639326, Michelle Fox on 086-3642732, Joan O'Connor on 087-9713913, or by contacting the school office. This is our main fundraiser this year and your continued support is much appreciated. This fundraiser will help repay the €30,000 loan the school withdrew from the Credit Union recently to help with the completion of our Astroturf.

We are starting the Weaving Wellbeing programme this week. This is a 10 week programme which we will be working on every Thursday. This is part of our School Self Evaluation initiative where we are working on improving pupil wellbeing in school. The programme teaches children evidence-based skills and strategies to develop positive mental health and wellbeing. There is a pull-out Parent Guide at the centre of each Pupil Book. Each lesson has a homework activity

designed to encourage parental involvement and help to embed the concepts in the children's daily lives. After the 10 lessons have been completed, parents should encourage their children to use the skills and strategies wherever possible. Children will have no English homework on Thursday nights over the next 10 weeks as we will be working on our Weaving Wellbeing books. If you have any questions on the programme, please contact your child's teacher via email.

Thank you to all parents who are sending absence emails when their child is absent from school. A reminder a feature has been set up on Aladdin where parents will receive an automatic text message from Aladdin when their child misses 10, 15, and 20 school days. Automatic text messages will also be sent where a number of unexplained absences have been recorded on Aladdin, reminding parents to send an email explaining the reason for their child's absence. Once again, children who are sick should not be sent to school. It is important that a record of absences is kept, and for that the reason we ask that you email the school email address AND your child's teachers email address when your child is absent from school.

As you are aware, in Anglesboro N.S. like the majority of schools, we run a voluntary contribution scheme to assist us in meeting the shortfall between departmental grants and the running costs of the school. Money raised is used for photocopying costs, art supplies, PE equipment, etc. Usually, the voluntary contribution is €15 per child per term, however any donation is always greatly appreciated. A payment option for this will also be sent to all parents today. Thank you for your continued support.

A reminder, we are also collecting bottles in our Return bin which is located at the front of the school.

Tara Quirke will begin Teaching Practice in the senior room next week. Ms Quirke will complete 1 week of observation and 4 weeks of teaching.

The next mass for 2nd class pupils making their First Communion this year takes place on Saturday 17th January at 8pm. There is also a mass on Saturday 14th February at 8pm.

Reminder, school is closed on Wednesday 25th February for a staff training day. School will also be closed on Friday 6th March for Confirmation.

Unfortunately, we have had no progress with our school extension since our last update to you in August. Our Stage 2B report was submitted almost 21 weeks ago on 14th August. We are still awaiting approval from the Department to proceed to tender. These delays have proven extremely frustrating for our Board of Management who have done everything possible to ensure this project begins as soon as possible. The delays are completely outside the control of the Board of Management and the control of our Design Team. We have been in regular contact with the Building Section of the Department since our Stage 2B report was submitted. We have also been in contact with Minister Niall Collins and Minister Patrick O'Donovan requesting an update and seeking help in pushing the project forward. Patrick O'Donovan is due to visit the school in the coming weeks. The delays with the project have been blamed on the Department of Education's National Development Plan being announced later than expected which was partly due to a new Minister of Education being appointed. We are hopeful we will have an update in the coming weeks and will be in touch once we do.

Is mise le meas,

Seán Kearney