

St. Felim's N.S., Leiter, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan Principal: Mrs. C. Molloy Phone: 042-9665605 E-mail: the valens@outlook.ie Website: www.thevalens.com

Parents' Association Christmas Draw

The Parents' Association Annual Draw took place in the school on Tuesday 18th December.

Congratulations to all the winners, who are as follows:-

1st Prize: €500 - Bertie Murtagh Galbolie

2nd Prize: €250 - Rían, Odhrán & Laoise Kearney Monaghanoose

3rd Prize: €150 - Leah Fry Monaghanoose

4th Prize: Meal Voucher for 2 - Shannon Smith Galbolie

5th Prize: Turkey or Ham - Eugene Lennon, Market Street Cootehill

6th Prize: A bottle of Whiskey - Pamela, Steven & Louise Byrne Leiter The Vale

On behalf of myself and the staff of the school, we would like to thank all those who

supported the draw once again this year, as it provides funding for very necessary

resources for the children and the school.

Christmas Masses

The pupils from 2nd class are to take part in the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass in St. Anne's Church.

The pupils from 6th class are to take part in the 10 a.m. Christmas Day Mass in St. Anne's Church

It would be appreciated if the children could be at the Church at least 15 mins before Mass begins.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd February 2019 Mid-term break:

2nd Class Swim: Begins Thursday 10th January 2019 for 6 weeks

Tuesday 26th February 2019 School Photos:

Saturday 16th March 2019 at 12 noon Confirmation: Saturday 4th May 2018 at 11.00 a.m. Communion:

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

Many thanks to all the children in the school who contributed to this appeal for a Christmas box for the Dublin Inner City Helping Homeless appeal. We collected a fantastic total of 65 shoe boxes which were collected by local volunteer Gabriel O'Neill, on Tuesday 18th December.







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MS Readathon 2018

A huge thank you to all the children from 1^{st} to 6^{th} classes who participated in this year's Readathon in aid of MS Ireland. We raised over €1700 for this very worthy cause and, at the same time, work towards fostering a love of books with the children. Well done children!



GREEN SCHOOLS CHRISTMAS RECYCLED DECORATION COMPETITION

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" for the Green Team as we have spent the last few weeks getting back on track in the litter and waste department. Our fantastic committee has come up with super ideas to make our school a greener place to be. Some of these projects will be up and running by Spring 2019, while others are ongoing, such as our homemade Christmas

decoration exhibition.

We have had an amazing response from all classes, with beautiful homemade creations displayed in the hall in the school. We have also had a clean-up Christmas week, with members of our Litter Squad (from 2^{nd} and 3^{rd} classes) litter picking over lunchtimes.

We have been awarded some energy saving kits from SEAI and 5^{th} and 6^{th} classes will be treated to some energy saving workshops in the New Year.

Our theme this year will be 'Travel' and, as our road is too busy to walk on, we have linked up with 'Active Schools' to promote walking as a mode of travel, where possible. With a wonderful new committee and a busy schedule ahead of us, we will have an exciting year ahead.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanking you all for your continued support.

THE GREEN TEAM



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Boy's Gaelic football team

Well done to the boy's school football team who reached the semi-final in November. They worked extremely hard both during trainings and matches. They should be very proud of themselves and their success. A huge thank you to Michael Kearney and Joe Monaghan for all of their help.



Active Schools

We are currently working towards renewing our 'Active School Flag'. Everyone is working extremely hard to keep active in 'The Vale' on a daily basis. Last Friday, the junior part of the school took part in an enjoyable skipping morning held by the second class students. This

week the entire school are aiming to walk to 'Lapland'. Did you know that Lapland is 2,328km away from our school? At the Vale we are counting every 10 minutes walked as 60km. Therefore, if each class walks 10 minutes each day, they will have walked 300km by Friday. In total, the whole school will have walked 2,400km by Friday! Active children are happy children!!

Board of Management Update

New Build:

We are delighted to announce that our new classroom will be ready for use in January. We are hoping to have it up and running by the end of that month. It will become home for our First Class pupils, with Senior Infants moving back into their old classroom, which First Class will have vacated.

Enrolment:

Applications for enrolment for the new Junior Infant Class of 2019-2020 will take place in January. There will be a new 'Application for Enrolment' form and it and the Enrolment Policy will be available to view/download from our school website from the 14th January 2019 at www.thevalens.com. The closing date for receipt of applications for the 2019-2020 year will be Friday 1st of February 2019.

<u>Plant A Tree Fundraiser:</u> As part of our school fundraiser for our playground, we are planting some hedging, trees, shrubs and bulbs around the school premises. This planting is underway and will continue into the New Year.



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Memory Garden: Our 'Memory Garden' has been planted and is a very special place in our school to remember our loved ones who have passed away. Thank you to the Parents' Assocation and Colin Cooney, of Urcher Garden Centre, for their work on this garden.

Staff Changes

A reminder that upon our return on Monday 7^{th} January 2019, the following staff changes are taking place:-

Principal, Mrs. Molloy will be on maternity leave, Mrs. Keegan will be acting Principal and Mrs. O'Connor will be acting Deputy Principal.

Mrs. Kelly will be the new 4th Class teacher until the end of the school year.

The new Senior Infant teacher will be Mr. Jude Collins.

The new Fifth Class teacher will be Mr. Paul Gilsenan.

We congratulate Mrs. Lisa Sharkey on the recent birth of her new baby daughter, Amy Kate and wish Mrs. Cathriona Molloy and Mrs. Katie Roache a safe delivery of their expected bundles of joy!





CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND RE-OPENING DATE

Our Christmas holidays begin on Friday 21st December at 12 noon and school re-opens on Monday 7th January 2019

On behalf of the Principal and Staff at the school we would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hope Santa is good to one and all!



Make sure to look on the school's website <u>www.thevalens.com</u> for more photos and updates on activities (under classes and general gallery)