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Hope all is well with you this Lenten season, just a few matters for your attention:

At our school assembly during the week I spoke to the classes about the work that **Trócaire** does in helping those less fortunate. Each classroom has a Trócaire box in the sacred space. Children are invited to donate some loose change which will be counted each week. Hopefully at the end of Lent we will have raised some money for Trócaire. The focus of this activity is to instill in the children the importance of giving and to foster a sense of gratitude for all that they have.

A word of thanks to Ms. Sheila Byrne (HSCL) for organising an **attendance drive** for our school. This is in an effort to encourage the children to be in every day, unless of course they are unwell. The following information from TESS (Tusla Education Support Service) details how you can help your daughter-

**How Parents Can Help Make Every School Day Count:**

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note / email when your child returns to school.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homework).
- Attend parent activities and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

**Creative Schools:** We were delighted to welcome Aideen back to our school during the week. Along with her colleague, she will be working with the children over the coming weeks as they produce a film! This promises to be very enjoyable, more details to follow. A word of thanks to Ms. Pearson for successfully entering our

school into the Creative Schools Scheme last year, thanks to Ms. Kilmartin for taking over while Ms. Pearson is on maternity leave.

Tomorrow is **Ireland Reads Day** - 24th of February. This is a national celebration of reading, an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. All you have to do is encourage your daughter to read for as long or as short a time as she can and enjoy the benefits of relaxation and immersion into another world.

Maybe you could take some time to read together with her or visit the library in the coming days. See attached information.

Furthermore, the **book fair** is scheduled to come to the school on Wednesday, 28th February, more details to follow on Monday.

A reminder that the **children do not have any school this coming Tuesday, 27th February**, to facilitate teacher training on the Primary Maths Curriculum.

Hope you all have a lovely weekend,

M Rohan.