



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Due to 'Storm Emma' and the severe weather conditions we experienced last week, our February Newsletter is being published today, 8th March. The weather made life very difficult for so many people, not least our 5th/6th Class children who had hoped to celebrate their Sacrament of Confirmation on 2nd March ☹️ This Sacrament shall now be held on Wednesday 14th March. Fingers crossed all future events will go to plan ☺️ The retreat to Ballyvaloo Centre shall go ahead on Friday 16th March for our 5th/6th Class children.

Sincere thanks to Michael Fortune, Stephen Cullen, John O'Toole and his colleagues for helping to dig us out of the snow and enable the school to re-open. We are very grateful to them all.

We celebrated Grandparents Day on 25th January. We would like to thank all the Grandparents who came and celebrated with us on this special day. I would also like to thank our wonderful school choir, teacher Ms. Pitt and our amazing PA Committee for all their work on the day. It was a very special experience for both the children and their grandparents.

Pancake Tuesday – the children enjoyed eating their pancakes in school on Tuesday. Huge thanks to our amazing parents who did a lot of hard work in organising this event. There was a lovely community feeling in the school as we all tucked into warm pancakes with Nutella and syrup. Yum Yum ☺️

We are now taking enrolments for Junior Infants – September 2018. If you, or someone you know, has a child to enrol for this coming school year, please contact the office for an application form. This form can be downloaded from our website also. We shall be holding an 'Information Night' for **all** parents on **Wednesday 23rd May** at 7.30pm. Any parent considering sending their child to our school in September 2018 is invited to attend. This is a **parent only** event.

Stay Safe – all classes have commenced their 'stay safe' programme. If you have any questions on this programme, please see the website: <http://www.staysafe.ie/parents.htm>

School Tours 2018 – all classes shall go on their annual school tour in the first three weeks of June. Dates and venues have yet to be confirmed. Please let the office know if your child **will not** be in school between 6th – 22nd June.

First Confessions: CONGRATULATIONS to all our 2nd Class children who made their 'First Confession' on Tuesday 20th February. A sincere THANK YOU to Ms. Chloe Ormonde for doing a fantastic job in preparing the boys and girls for this Sacrament. This was a very special occasion for our 2nd Class children and they were wonderful in their singing and acting out the drama 'The Lost Sheep'.

Easter Raffle: we are holding a raffle on 23rd March to celebrate 'Easter'. Each family has received a raffle card and lines are €5 each. There shall be lots of prizes e.g.

This is completely voluntary, however, all cards must be returned to the school by 23rd March.

Reminder that school shall close on **Wednesday 2nd May** to facilitate whole staff training by DES in the new language programme.

Homework Club – is open to all children from 3rd to 6th. Homework Club runs Monday to Thursday from 3pm to 4pm. Cost €10 per child per week. If you would like to register your child for Homework Club, please contact the office.

Please note that our next Newsletter shall not issue until 26th April.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Maria Brophy
Principal

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ 5th/6th Class Retreat to Ballyvaloo Centre – Friday 16th March.
- ✚ St. Patrick's Weekend 17th – 19th March, 2018 inclusive – school closed on these days
- ✚ Easter Holidays – 26th March to 8th April inclusive. **School shall close at normal time of 2pm/3pm on Friday 23rd March and re-opens on Monday 9th April at 9.20am.**
- ✚ First Holy Communion – Saturday 28th April, 2018 at 11am
- ✚ New Language Curriculum training for entire school staff. This is a requirement from the Dept. of Education and Skills. **School shall be closed on Wednesday 2nd May**
- ✚ May Bank Holiday Break – School closed from Monday 7th to Friday 11th May inclusive.
- ✚ Open Night' for new/prospective parents – 23rd May at 7.30pm in the school.
- ✚ June Bank Holiday – School closed on Friday, 1st, Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th June inclusive.
- ✚ Summer holidays – school **closed** Friday 29th June at 12.30pm for all children.

Parent Info Update

Athletics – all our children shall participate in a six week athletics programme, commencing 11th April. This programme is part of our PE Curriculum. The athletics programme shall be taught by a qualified fitness coach. Each class shall run for one hour weekly. The **cost per child is €6** for the entire programme.

The Importance of Learning Tables –

- Tables are a basic essential for when learning mathematics. Children need to master them.
- Unless they do this, it will be difficult for the children to learn other aspects of maths.
- Addition and Subtraction Tables are taught in 1st and 2nd Class. They are revised in 2nd.
- Multiplication and Division are taught in 3rd and 4th Class.
- Regular revision of tables is part of the 5th and 6th Class curriculum

1st/2nd Class provides 'a window of opportunity' to learn addition/subtraction tables. It is important to master these tables by the end of 2nd because:

- In 3rd and 4th Class the focus changes to multiplication and division.
- If a child knows their simple number facts then **they can give their full attention to methodology when being taught new maths.**

If the children have the answers to the tables at the tip of their tongue then they can concentrate on learning the methodology of new sums. The children who know their number facts speed through the math's worksheet in class.

Teachers can teach the tables, but children really need to **learn them**. Tables are given as **homework**. Sometimes children think that homework of a 'learning off' type is less important than written homework. Learning tables is **very important**.

Learning tables needn't be done at the kitchen table. You can work on them with your child on the journey to and from school or while waiting in the supermarket queue ☺ Knowing tables really helps when children are learning new sums. Children need to be able to rattle off their tables like they know their own name. Otherwise, though they understand how to do a sum, they make mistakes in simple addition or subtraction.

How Parents Can Help Their Child Memorise Their Tables.

- In 1st and 2nd Class we practice tables, in a concrete way, using lollipop sticks and unifix cubes. We also use the table book.
- In class we say 'one plus zero is one', 'one plus one is two' or 'six minus one is five', 'ten minus three is seven'
- Children learn in different ways. Many respond to working with concrete objects such as lollipop sticks, cubes, smarties.
- Some children learn best by singing or chanting their tables.
- For some, keeping track of their tables on their fingers (a kinaesthetic approach) helps.
- Let your children see, that you place value on learning tables and that you think tables are important.
- Show your child how quickly an answer should be arrived at by modelling your own mathematical knowledge.
- Find out what your child already knows.

Ms. Lawlor's Junior/Senior Infant Class Report

Our Aistear theme for February was People at work, with a focus on our school. The children learned all about the different jobs that people do in our school. The role-play area was transformed into a school. The children particularly enjoyed being the secretary in the office!

Our caretaker Charlie visited our classroom and told the children lots of stories about school in the olden days. The children asked him very interesting questions too! In Irish we did the story The Gingerbread Man, An Buachaillín Sinséir. The children loved acting it out in small groups. They are becoming more confident at speaking Irish now! Pancake Tuesday was great fun too. We read a story called Mr Wolf's Pancakes and enjoyed the delicious pancakes provided by the Parents' Association.

Ms. Ormonde's 1st/2nd Class Report

This month 2nd Class made their first confession. They put so much work into their first confession and they were brilliant on the night. Well done 2nd Class. 1st Class were a great help with the preparations also.

We read some stories about Saint Brigid this month learning about her multi-coloured cloak and also her story about butter. We then made our own butter which was so much fun and we even got to taste the butter on some crackers. We all loved it.

We talked a lot about lent and we made our Lenten promises which are on display in our classroom now. We have also been learning about the weather. We have a thermometer in our classroom which we use to measure the temperature outside each day. We even became weather forecasters and presented our own weather forecast in class.

Ms. Pitt's 3rd/4th Class Report

This month we have been busy learning about Germany. We learned about famous landmarks, German food, different cities, school life there and some German vocabulary. The children are busy working on their individual projects at the moment; I look forward to seeing their finished projects. They will also present their projects to the class which will enable them to learn some interesting facts from each other.

In Science we have been learning about magnetism. We learned about the north and south poles of the magnets. We also did different experiments about magnetism; testing which materials are attracted to the magnets, which magnet were the strongest and what materials the magnets pull through. For each of the experiments we made our predictions first, then carried out our experiment and finally recorded our results and came up with a conclusion based on our findings.

In maths we have been recently learning about 2D shapes. We learned about their properties; how many sides, angles and types of angles they have. We also did some hands-on work tessellating shapes and using the tangrams, the children had great fun trying to figure out how to create the tangrams.

Mrs. Brophy's 5th/6th Class Report

We have had a busy month in our class. We spent a lot of time preparing for our Sacrament of Confirmation, which was scheduled for 2nd March. Unfortunately, due to 'Storm Emma' we have had to postpone our celebration until 14th March. In English we began reading our second novel 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne. We are really enjoying the story of the lovely friendship between Bruno and Shmuel set against a very dark time in history. We hope to watch the film based on this novel over the next Thursday.

In Maths we have looked at Area, Percentages, Ratio and 3-D Shapes. We are moving on to Money and The Circle this month. The children are working very well in this subject.

We finished our study of WW2 in February and the children worked very hard on this topic. They shall begin work on their next project, which shall be based on what they have learnt in WW2. They successfully completed their first Science project in 5th/6th. Their project was about 'Sound' and how it moves, works and allows us to hear.

PE saw us complete our six week Gymnastic programme. The children performed brilliantly whilst doing handstands, crabs, tumbles and rolls. We are looking forward to beginning our Athletics programme after Easter.

100 Days School Attendance

Well done to all the children who were awarded a certificate for successfully completing our 100 days school attendance challenge. It is extremely encouraging to see so many children achieve this goal.

Congratulations to:

Ellie Sheehan, Caoimhe Walsh, Lily Copeland, Jayden Sludds, Ciara Redmond, Ashleigh Carroll, Riain Redmond, Amber O'Connor, Eimear Devlin, Abbie Wade, Keira Carroll, Katie Aav, Pádraig Byrne, Muireann McDonald, Laureann McDonald, Darragh Lawler, Lucy Sludds, Evan O'Leary, Kelly Dooley, Emma Lawler, Tara Bishop and Niamh Walsh.

Spirituality and Personal Development

A Message from Fr. Finn

Stop This World I Want to get off!

This phrase was very familiar in the early 1970's. It was an expression of the pressures that were beginning to be experienced by people as the world continued to move on. If there had been somebody then who could have read the future, they might have said 'You Ain't seen Nothing Yet'.

Today, with the rapid motion of responsibilities, work, commitment, paying mortgages and rearing families, stress is becoming an everyday experience. The experience of trying to meet deadlines in work, in school, in sport can prevent us from having a quality experience in our life and in our relationships.

There has to be a place which is a resource and that gives meaning and purpose to our activities, a centre from which we can draw to enable us to be more focused, more ordered, and this place is the celebration of Easter.

Easter is the highest celebration of the Churches calendar, (not Christmas). To pay attention to, to hear and to participate in the Easter story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, centres us in a way in which nothing else does. Lent is just a preparation for that celebration.

Let us then realise-

(a) There is a centre from which we can order our life and thereby make more sense of our daily living, which is Easter.

(b) Let us use the time of Lent of trying to discover ourselves and our life so that we can be ready for what Easter and beyond had to offer.

SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises

Monday to Friday -----9.10am to 3.10pm

Infants (Junior & Senior) ----- 9.10am to 2.00pm

Outside of these times there is no supervision for children on the school premises.