



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our February Newsletter. We have had a quiet month activity wise, due to our recent mid-term break, however, March will bring lots of action. There is Pancake Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Seachtaine na Gaeilge and St. Patrick's Day to look forward to.

Pancake Tuesday - all the children will hopefully enjoy eating their pancakes in school next Tuesday 5th March. They can bring in a donation of their choosing and the funds raised will go towards basketball hoops for the junior yard, a Bluetooth speaker for fitness bleep tests and towards funding a bus for a walking tour of Enniscorthy for 5th and 6th class. Parents are requested to donate pancake batter to the school on the morning of 5th March. Huge thanks to our amazing Parents Association for their hard work in organising this event. Photos will be on our Facebook page for you to see.

Easter Raffle: Our Parents Association are holding a raffle on 12th April to celebrate 'Easter'. Each family will receive a raffle card on Friday 15th March. Lines are €5 each. This will be the Parents Associations only fundraiser this year. There shall be lots of prizes and details will be send home by e-mail in the coming weeks. This is completely voluntary, however, all cards must be returned to the school by 8th April.

PRE-SCHOOL 2019 - we are delighted to announce the opening of 'Bloomfield Pre-School' in September 2019. The pre-school will be situated in our school and is open to any child who is 3 years old on or by 1st September. The children shall be taught the full ECCE curriculum, including 'Aistear' and 'Síolta'. An information meeting shall be held on **Tuesday 12th March at 9.30am**. For further information, please call Paula on 087-6631288 or Caroline on 087-1231227 or email bloomfieldbaypreschool@gmail.com

Enrolment 2019 - we now taking enrolments for September 2019. If you, or someone you know, has a child to enrol for this coming school year, please contact the office for an application form. We shall be holding an 'Information Night' for **all** parents on **Wednesday 1st May** at 7.30pm. Any parent considering sending their child to our school in September 2019 is invited to attend. This is a **parent only** event.

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

School Tours 2019:

1. 1st - 6th Class

Date - Tuesday 11th June

Venue - WIT Arena Waterford

2. Junior/Senior Infants

Date - Thursday 6th June

Venue - Bricks for Kidz & Playzone Wexford

If your child is **NOT** going to be taking part in their class tour, please inform the office immediately. We need to confirm numbers in order to finalise costings. Thank you.

Homework Club – is open to all children from 3rd to 6th. Homework Club runs Monday to Thursday from 3pm to 3.45pm. Cost €10 per child per week. If you would like to register your child for Homework Club, please contact the school office.

Voluntary Contribution – If you chose to pay the voluntary contribution in two equal payments of €50 the 2nd instalment is now due to be paid to the school office. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Le gach dea ghúí,

Maria Brophy
Principal

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ St. Patrick's Holiday 18th March - school closed
- ✚ School Closure at 12.30pm on Wednesday 27th March for all pupils to facilitate staff meeting.
- ✚ Easter Holidays - 15th to 26th April inclusive. **School shall close at 12pm for all children on Friday 12th April and re-opens on Monday 29th April at 9.20am.**
- ✚ May Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May. School closed.
- ✚ Oral Language Staff Training Day - Tuesday 7th May. School closed.
- ✚ 'Open Night' for new/prospective parents - Wednesday 1st May at 7.30pm in the school.
- ✚ First Holy Communion - Saturday 18th May at 11am
- ✚ June Bank Holiday weekend - May 30th and 31st to 3rd June inclusive. School closed on these days and re-opens on Tuesday 4th.

Parent Info Update

Athletics – all our children shall participate in a six week athletics programme, commencing 1st May. The athletics programme shall be taught by a qualified fitness coach. Each class shall run for one hour weekly. The entire cost per child shall be €6.

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 February Aistear theme was 'The Rainforest'. The children have been busy learning all about the different animals found there and other wild animals too! Thanks to all the children who brought their animals teddies in to school to make our rainforest a lot of fun to play in.

The children have been explorers and have been busy making huts, animals, trees, vines with the plasticine. In art they made a clay snake which will be painted next week. They also made a very colourful parrot. In science we did many fun experiments such as making a rainforest in a bottle. It is raining in our bottles at the moment which is helping the trees to grow! We also did an experiment to show that plant drink water through their stems.

Many thanks again to Dave Cummins for bringing us in some creatures from the rainforest! The children always learn so much from our classroom visitors.

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

February has been a fun month in 1st and 2nd Class. Our Aistear theme this month was 'Magic.' We wrote up a magic potion and we then used the materials to make this potion. There were lots of explosions happening and we really enjoyed mixing the ingredients. We have been learning to perform a variety of magic tricks and have been working on projecting our voices for an audience. We loved performing our magic show to the other classes and we are so looking forward to performing for our parents on Friday.

In maths we have learned a lot about fractions. We were working on halves and quarters in particular. This week we have started learning about capacity. The kids are really excited to be measuring with water and real life containers.

In English, we listened to the story 'Leon and the Place Between.' We used all of our comprehension strategies before, during and after reading. We were predicting, questioning, making connections and summarising. The kids are encouraged to use these strategies in their own reading as well.

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

This month we have begun learning about the theme of 'An Teilifís' in Irish. The children have been learning lots of new vocabulary about the different types of TV programmes and phrases associated with the theme. We have been learning a poem 'An Teilifís' and the songs 'Óró 'Sé do Bheatha Bhaile' and TG Lurgan's song 'Abair Leat'.

In English we have been focusing on the genre of explanation writing. We looked at examples about 'How Rainbows are Formed', 'The Lifecycle of a Butterfly' and 'How Paper is Recycled'. We learned about how to structure a piece of explanation using a title, identifying statement, explanation sequence and summary statement. We also wrote explanation pieces together and individually.

In history we have been learning about 'The Incas'. The children learned about where they lived, the different groups in society, what they worked at and some of their inventions. The children worked together in groups to create a group project poster to display the information that they have learned about 'The Incas'. They found this era in history very interesting.

In maths we have been learning about 2D shapes, sequences and patterns, and symmetry. We learned how to identify and describe the characteristics of various 2D shapes such as their angles, sides, curved or straight lines, parallel lines and tessellation. In patterns and sequences the children learned how to recognise and continue various different sequences. In the topic of symmetry we created symmetry pictures, completed symmetrical flags and recognised if the shapes had horizontal, vertical or diagonal lines of symmetry.

Ms. Morrissey's 5th Class Report

We have been very busy this month and it really has flown by. In English we have been continuing to read and analyse the novel *Goodnight Mister Tom*. We covered some very exciting chapters before the break and the children are very keen to finish it to see how it ends.

We have also been revising recount writing and the children were excited to write all about their week off adventures.

In Maths we have been estimating and measuring lines and angles. We got to get out and about to find all sorts of angles around our school. Children were getting used to using protractors for the first time also. We had also been doing a lot of work on problem solving strategies and length!

In Music children are in groups composing a piece of music to a given theme or mood. This is what we will be focusing and working on over the next number of weeks! This will teach the children about tempo, dynamics, pitch and so on.

The children have finished off their 6 week gymnastics programme in P.E. The children really did show a lot of progress in this short time which was great to see! Well done everyone.

Mrs. Brophy's 6th Class Report

February saw 6th Class cover a variety of topics across the curriculum. We are still reading our novel 'Goodnight Mr. Tom' and are thoroughly enjoying it. Although the story is very sad in parts, the relationship between Willie and Mr. Tom is beautiful. In Maths we studied 'area' and 'the circle'. We learnt about 'Pi π ' and all the different parts of a circle. In History we read about the 'Qing Dynasty' in China and heard about the 'Opium Wars' between England and China.

In Art we painted pictures of a battle in response to music and sketched our favourite scene from the novel. We also painted pictures from an atmospheric perspective. We are looking forward to an action packed month in March.



Mini 7s - Before the break the girls were very unlucky against a strong Glynn and Oylegate team. We were very proud of their fight and effort!

The boy's team travelled to Hollymount and had a very successful day! Beating both teams (Castlebridge and the Faythe) in a fine display of hurling. They now go through to the second round in Barntown this Friday 1st March to take on Barntown NS and Clongeen NS. We wish them the very best of luck!

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: Amelia Doyle, Robbie Murphy, Anna Lawler, Améila Kavanagh, Caoimhe Walsh, Gary Dooley, Róisín Farrell, Jayden Sludds, Ronan Devlin, Cillian Byrne, Amber O'Connor, Abby Dooley, Pádraig Byrne, Lucy Sludds, Isabel Creane, Muireann McDonald, Jamie Kehoe and Kelly Dooley.

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.