



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This newsletter provides a snapshot of what has been going on in our school this month, during what has been a very busy time as we prepare to welcome Bishop Brennan to Ballymurn for Confirmation next week. We also look forward to the resumption of some competitive sporting activity, as the Rackard League and Mini-7s competitions kick off in the next few weeks, as well as our national celebrations, where we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Seachtain na Gaeilge before the Easter break.

### **Confirmation**

5th and 6th Class will be confirmed by Bishop Denis Brennan in the Church of the Assumption on Tuesday next, March 3rd at 11am. This is a big celebration for our school and the children have worked very hard in preparation for this special day. We hope that all children and their families have a wonderful, happy day of celebration.

**Pancake Tuesday** - On Tuesday last, we celebrated Pancake Tuesday in school. This event was organised by our very capable Student Council, who decided that they wanted to fundraise for sports equipment for the yard. The pancakes were really yummy and a great time was had by all. Huge thanks to Séidhlin, Sinéad, Leanna and Monica for all their help in running this event and to all parents who donated the toppings. Thank you to Samantha and Donal Dooley who donated the gas and a gas cooker for use on the day. A total of €195 was raised and the Student Council will give us further details on their purchases in the near future.

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Lá Glas:**

We will celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge on the week of March 9th-13th with various events in school and then the week will culminate on Friday with a 'Lá Glas', where we encourage everybody to wear green to celebrate our national heritage. We will have a céilí on the day also.

**Easter Raffle:** Our Parents Association are holding an Easter raffle fundraiser. This will take place on Tuesday 31st March, so that prizes can be collected by winners before the Easter break. Each family will receive a raffle card on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Lines are €5 each. This will be the Parents Association's only fundraiser this year. There will 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 Friday 27th March.

### **School Calendar 2020/2021**

The school calendar for the next academic year will be finalised by the Board of Management in the next couple of weeks. I will post it on the website and inform parents as soon as it is confirmed.

**Enrolment 2020** - We are now taking enrolments for September for all classes. If you, or someone you know, has a child to enrol for this coming school year, please contact the office for an application form. An 'Information Night' for all new parents/guardians will take place on Wednesday 3rd June at

7pm. Any parent considering sending their child to our school in September 2020 is invited to attend. This meeting will be for parents, and our new Junior Infants will then come in for an afternoon induction session the following week.

**Athletics** - A six week Athletics programme, taught by a qualified coach will run at the beginning of the summer term, where all classes will partake in a one hour slot per week. The price of the programme is €6 for the six weeks.

**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>

**Homework Club** - is open to all children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment is now due to be paid to the school office. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

### **Hurling365 and Peil4All**

We actively encourage our pupils to participate in these initiatives that take place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week, with thanks to our fantastic volunteer base. Exercise is so important, and this is a great chance for the boys and girls to get active before school. It is especially important that Rackard League hurling and camogie team members try to be there every Thursday morning, in preparation for their competitions that begin the week after next.

Le gach dea ghuí,

**Emer O'Gorman**  
**Principal**

### **Dates / Upcoming Events:**

- School Closure at 12.15pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March for all pupils to facilitate staff training the new Primary Language Curriculum.
- St. Patrick's Holiday 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March. School closed.
- First Confession: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm in Ballymurn Church
- Easter Holidays: School closes at 12.15pm for all children on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and re-opens on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 9.20am.
- May Bank Holiday: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May. School closed.
- First Holy Communion - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 11am
- June Bank Holiday weekend - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. School closed.
- Information Night for new/prospective parents - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7pm in the school.
- Standardised Testing Dates: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

# Class Reports

## **Ms. Lawlor's Junior/Senior Infant Class Report**

During our Aistear playtime the Infants have been learning all about their teeth. The role-play area was transformed in to a busy dental surgery where the children played in role as the dentist, receptionist, patient and dental nurse. In the role-play area, they practised writing, counting, reading and taking turns. At the water station the children tested out different materials to investigate if they would make a good roof for a dental surgery. They then used different materials at the Junk art station to make a creation of their own. We are running low on toilet roll cylinders for junk art so please feel free to send in some more to school in the coming weeks and we'll put them to good use!

We have been discussing different ways to stay safe when the children find themselves in situations such as getting lost, crossing the road or when somebody is mean to them.

During maths and literacy stations the children have really enjoyed using the new tablets. They are a lot of fun!

The children really enjoyed having pancakes in school on Pancake Tuesday. Thank you for all the donations!

## **Ms. Ormonde's 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class Report**

First and second class have been as busy as ever this February. Our theme for the month has been the restaurant and we have been in role as chefs, waiters/waitresses, customers and managers throughout the month. I was very impressed with the children's oral language this month. They were very capable of asking for a table, ordering food & taking orders themselves. We had a lot of fun. We also started to learn about spring this month. The kids did a jigsaw activity where they each learned about one aspect of spring and then had to teach the rest of their group about what they learned. I was very impressed by their teaching skills.

Second class has started preparation for their first confession this month. We have started to learn prayers and songs and we have been busy decorating our first Holy Communion scrapbook. We recently learned the story 'The Lost Sheep' which the kids really enjoyed.

## **Ms. Boggan's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class Report**

This month we have been very busy practising for the choir for the upcoming Confirmation; our class have been joined by the children from 2<sup>nd</sup> class and Ms. O'Gorman's 4<sup>th</sup> Class to practise some

beautiful hymns. The children are very excited to have the special job of being in the choir for the Confirmation.

This month we have been finishing our work on narrative writing in English. The children have written some great narrative stories. They have been using a template to aid their writing which helps them to plan their narrative stories in stages: orientation, complication, series of events and resolution. We have also been learning about the use of speech marks which has enabled the children to add speech to their narrative stories, which gives a greater sense of what the characters are like in their stories.

In maths we have been learning about weight this month. We did lots of estimating and weighing activities, measuring weight in Kg and g. We also learned about 2D shapes, we had great fun creating the shapes with the lollipop sticks and playing games to describe their properties. The children learned about the number of sides, types of angles, tessellations, symmetry, parallel lines and curved lines. We also spent time on problem solving this month, we have been using the UPSC method to solve the questions; Understand, Plan, Solve, Check. This enables the children to identify the information given, what is being asked and how to solve it. This week we have begun work on patterns and sequences, the children are enjoying recognising the number and shape patterns and continuing the sequences. Please encourage them to continue to work on 'Mangahigh' at home as it has lots of fun maths activities relating to what we are learning in class.

### **Ms. O' Gorman's 4th/5th Class Report**

In February, we have gotten a lot of work done in class. We completed our work on Narrative Writing and published our favourite piece. In Gaeilge, we placed a particular focus on the theme An Aimsir and for homework have been focusing on our oral work, so that we can undertake an oral Irish test next month.

In P.E, we completed our gymnastics module and have also had great fun learning about Fundamental Movement Skills with Murt.

All members of our class have Mangahigh maths homework to complete each night, and some people have been working particularly hard at this. We have really enjoyed using the new tablets in school to develop our ICT skills.

We are really busy also preparing for Confirmation, and 5th class really enjoyed their retreat in Ballyvaloo. We have prepared beautiful artwork for the church. 4th class have also been really busy preparing for this special day, and those who are members of the choir have been practising hard at their tin whistle and singing, whilst the other members of the class will serve at the Confirmation mass.

Over the last two weeks, Ms. Maloney has been working with us, on topics such as World War 2 and environmental awareness. She will continue this work with us for the next two weeks.

### **Mrs. Brophy's 6<sup>th</sup> Class Report**

February was a busy month in Rang a Sé. In English we continued reading our novel 'The Goldfish Boy' and began to look at different types of poetry such as 'Haiku', 'Kennings' and 'Cinquain's'. We also wrote several narratives as we study that genre in our writing. In Maths we covered 'Time' and 'Percentages' and we are currently learning about 'Money' and in particular how interest is calculated by the financial institutions.

In History we covered 'The French Revolution' and 'Daniel O'Connell', while in Gaeilge our theme has been 'Éadaí'. We have also been learning a number of Irish and English poems. We are working on a variety of Gaeilge comprehensions also to improve our 'Q&A' techniques.

We celebrated 'Pancake Tuesday' with yummy pancakes ☺ and began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. Our Confirmation Retreat took place at the beginning of the month in Ballyvaloo (Blackwater). The children had a fantastic day working with the Diocesan team learning about Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

We are also preparing in class for our upcoming Confirmation which shall be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We wish all the boys and girls making their Confirmation the very best of luck and hope that they have a lovely day celebrating with their families. Thank you to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class children who will be singing as the choir on the day.

## 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**

### School Hours

Monday to Friday ----- 9.20am to 3.00pm

Infants (Junior & Senior) ----- 9.20am to 2.00pm

**The yard is supervised for ten minutes before school begins each day. On wet mornings, children who have been dropped to school early should use the yard shelter to keep dry.**

**Pupils are not supervised on the school premises before 9.10am or after 3.00pm.**

## **Notices**

### **Bloomfield Breakfast Club/After School Club:**

Free places available, for breakfast club and after school.

Dear Parents,

Please be aware that many families may be entitled to FREE breakfast and After school services.

If you are a low- income family, have a medical card, doing a fis course, are receiving a social welfare benefit you are entitled to a Free childcare place.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to give me a call, or drop into Annmarie in the after school room.

We are here to facilitate the needs of the parents in the school, and appreciate the feedback from you.

Kindest regards,

Caroline Kidd

Parents wishing to enrol their child in either club should contact Caroline on 087 1231227. Breakfast club runs from 8am in the morning and after school child care is provided up to 6.15pm daily.

## **Notice from Crossabeg N.S:**

*Crossabeg National School will be issuing a tender via O'Leary Sludds Architects, for an Emergency Works Project at the school. If there are any contractors interested in being considered for this tender, please contact the school or Tracey Sludds on [tracey@olsarchitects.ie](mailto:tracey@olsarchitects.ie), on or before Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020.*

*Works will consist of Accessible Shower Facility, External Door Replacement, Independent Access and associated site works at St. Patrick's NS, Sion, Crossabeg, Co. Wexford. Ph: 053 9159035.*