



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our school community a very Happy Easter. I hope that you all have an enjoyable break, following what has been an extremely challenging term in our school. Our entire school community has been more impacted by Covid during the period from Christmas to Easter, and I know that a huge number of our pupils, staff and parents have been quite unwell recently. I really hope that as the weather begins to get warmer, we will all have a much nicer time after the Easter break. Despite all of the disruption caused by Covid, we have still had a very busy term in school, and I ask you to please read below and catch up with what we have been upto.

### **Tara Bishop Memorial 5k Fun Run (change of date)**

The annual Tara Bishop Memorial 5k Fun Run, will now take place on Sunday, May 29th, as the previous date clashed with the Wexford versus Kilkenny game in the Leinster Hurling Championship. Wexford. Details regarding registration will be available very soon, and we hope to see a big crowd at what will be our first in person 5k event in over two years!

### **Rackard League Bingo**

The annual Rackard League Bingo event takes place this afternoon and our classes from 3rd-6th participated, playing against pupils from all over the county. Hopefully, by the time you read this, they will have won some prizes!

### **Athletics**

Our Athletics with Sinéad Ronan will commence for all classes on Tuesday, April 26th. A reminder to please ensure payment is made to the office by Friday, April 29th. Thank you.

### **Standardised Testing Dates**

In a previous communication, I sent out dates for Standardised Testing from 1st-6th Class in May. The original dates were on Tuesdays, but as our Athletics programme will now take place on Tuesdays, the testing has been changed to Wednesdays. The new dates are as follows:

Wednesday May 11th: English

Wednesday May 18th: Gaeilge

Wednesday May 25th: Maths

### **Primary Language Curriculum Training**

As you are aware, there are three Primary Language Curriculum training days to be attended by staff this year. The next training day will take place on Wednesday afternoon, May 11th, meaning children will finish school at 12.15pm on that day.

## **Relationships and Sexuality Education**

Teachers will commence the Stay Safe programme with classes after Easter. It is important to read the letter that you have received in relation to this, in order to support any questions your child may have on the programme.

## **Children's Shoes**

A reminder to all parents that children are not permitted to wear shoes with laces to school, unless they are able to tie them themselves. Open shoelaces are a safety hazard when children play outside and we have seen nasty injuries caused in cases where children are unable to tie their shoes. All Infant pupils should wear velcro shoes.

## **Easter Raffle**

Our Parents' Association Easter Raffle takes place at school tomorrow. A huge thank you to all who have supported us by buying tickets and sponsoring prizes, and also to the members of the P.A and Leanna for their efforts to organise this. This fundraiser enables the P.A to fund the lovely events they hold for the children during the year, such as Christmas and First Communion treats, as well as helping to offset the costs of school tours.

## **School Photographs**

School photos were distributed earlier this week. Any parent who wishes to avail of the option to get free delivery of their photos to the school, must have their order in by Friday, April 29th.

## **School Tours**

School Tours will take place on the 13th, 14th and 15th June. Junior Infants, Senior Infants The Crescent Class and 1st Class will visit Woodfield House, Oylegate, 2nd and 3rd Class will go to The Stables, Gorey and 4th-6th Class will go to Clara Lara. Letters with more information will issue after the Easter Break.



## **Rackard League Girls Football**

We are so proud of our Rackard League girls team who won the Wexford District Final last week in a thrilling game against Blackwater. Blackwater had previously beaten them in the group stages, at a time when many of our players were sick, but our girls' fantastic spirit and effort stood to them as they left everything on the field in search of victory.. The girls defeated Rosslare and Scoil Charman on route to the final. Panel members from our school were: Ruby Dempsey, Mollie Doyle-Murphy, Abbie Wade, Michaela Quirke, Jessica Cush, Frankie Canavan, Crystal Connolly, Ciara Redmond, Ashleigh Carroll, Nikki Fortune, Amber O'Connor, May Cummins, Katie Murphy and Emma Cush.

The team now go on play the County Semi-Final on Monday 25th April against Gusserane in Rathangan at 4.30pm. Support for the girls in this game would be much appreciated.

### **Rackard League Boys Football**

Our boys were defeated by Blackwater in their Rackard League quarter final, and then went on to represent the school at a Rising Stars blitz in Hollymount last Friday afternoon, where they defeated both Blackwater and Shelmaliers. Panel members were: Jamie Whelan, Noah Botha, Charlie McNicholas, Chulainn McGrane, A.J. Walsh, Harrison Kavanagh, Riain Redmond and Cillian Byrne. The boys now look forward to commencing their hurling campaign after Easter.

### **Pancake Tuesday**

A huge thank you to the members of the Parent's Association who kindly gave their time to spend the day cooking pancakes for our whole school community. Thank you also to all the families who sent donations of toppings. Everyone agreed that the pancakes were yummy! A total of €205 was raised which will go towards replenishing our stock of sports equipment.

### **Sponsorship**

A huge thank you to Mairéad and Michael Cummings, of Cummins Scaffolding Ltd, for choosing our school as one of the local organisations to benefit from their Christmas donations. Your support is very much appreciated.

### **Absences**

Please remember to fill in our return to school form if your child has been absent from school. This is not just a school policy, all schools are obliged to record reasons for pupil absences on the official roll. You will find the form at the link below.

As always, we must remind parents that we are also obliged by law to report instances where children have been absent for a cumulative total of twenty days or more during the school year to Tusla- We do realise that many more families than usual will fall within this category this year due to Covid related absences, but our reporting obligations remain the same. Please talk to us if you have any concerns in relation to this.

### **Hurling 365**

Hurling 365 takes every Tuesday morning for Senior Infants-2nd Class from 8.30am -9.10am, and on Thursday morning for 3rd-6th class. The children are really enjoying this initiative and we are very thankful to all the volunteers who make this happen. If your child has an interest in GAA but has yet to get involved, please consider bringing them along.

**Garda Vetting** - It is a legal requirement that any parents who wish to be involved in school activities e.g. Rackard League, Hurling 365 etc., must be Garda vetted through the school. We realise

that many parents are already Garda vetted through the G.A.A and other organisations, but unfortunately, everybody still needs to go through the school vetting process. If you would like to become involved and have not been vetted previously, please contact the school office for a form. This also applies if you are giving a lift to another child to matches.

**Parking-** Please remember to park with care on the street outside the school. Do not double park or block access to staff cars. The car park spaces provided are for staff use and the school bus only. We also ask that people please do not park directly opposite the school, as our bus for pupils with Special Educational Needs parks there. Please do not park in these spaces when dropping off or collecting your child from school. Please be conscious of how/where you park, taking the children's safety into account at all times.

**Communication** - Parents are reminded that if you have a concern/issue which you would like to raise with the school; you must make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher, through the school office. These appointments will take place over the phone wherever possible. Emails can be sent directly to the class teacher, but if a message is time sensitive, it is best to email it to the office, and Leanna can ensure the teacher gets the message, as a class teacher may not see a direct email in time.

Le gach dea ghúí,

**Emer O'Gorman**  
**Príomhoide**

#### Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Midterm Break: School closed from February 21st-25th inclusive
- Easter Holidays: School closes on Friday, April 8th at 12,15pm and reopens on Monday, April 25th at 9.20am
- May Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday, May 2nd
- Primary Language Curriculum Inservice Training: School closes for pupils on Wednesday, May 11th at 12.15pm
- Standardised testing: May 11th/18th/ 25th
- Confirmation: Friday May 6th at 11am
- Retreat for Confirmation Classes: Monday May 9th in Ballyvaloo
- First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 14th at 11am.
- Tara Bishop Memorial 5k Fun Run: Sunday May 29th
- June Bank Holiday Weekend: School closed on Thursday, June 2nd Friday June 3rd and Monday June 6th
- School Tours: June 13th/14th/15th (see details above)
- Sports Day: June 21st (weather permitting)
- Sixth Class Graduation: Thursday, June 23rd at 7pm

# Class Reports

## **Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class**

The Crescent Class have enjoyed yet another month full of integration, reverse integration and fun with their friends in their mainstream classes. One of our pupils made his first confession with his 2nd class peers and he made us all in the Crescent Class proud. We are looking forward to supporting him on his big day in May. Our infants have been continuing to engage in play and sensory activities with Ms.O'Gorman's class weekly and the pupils are working hard on their social skills alongside their friends. One of our pupils has started learning how to code using the programme 'scratch.' He is amazingly talented with technology and we hope that he will be able to teach some of his friends how to use this programme in the coming months.

We are looking forward to celebrating Autism Acceptance and Appreciation week with the entire school on our first week back after the Easter break. We have lots of fun activities planned for the whole school.

**Have a lovely Easter break everyone, Ms. Ormonde.**

## **Ms. O'Gorman's Junior and Senior Infant Report 😊**

Junior and Senior Infants have been so busy during February and March. All class members have made amazing progress with reading and writing, and the number of books that each child has been able to read is amazing. They have definitely been working hard practising their reading at home too, which I'd love to see them continue. Our Aistear themes over the past two months have been 'The Farm', 'The Vet', and 'The Garden Centre', and our classroom has been transformed into all of these places. We've learned lots and lots about animals and plants, as well as about the work of the vet. The boys and girls had great fun during March with Ms. Byrne who completed her placement with us. The theme of the placement was the Garden Centre, which linked in really well with our outdoor planting that we did with Charlie earlier in the month. We are looking forward to watching our strawberries, onions and potatoes grow. We also planted lovely sunflowers, that the boys and girls will bring home after Easter to grow in their gardens. We really enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge, where we celebrated all things Irish, and learned about St. Patrick's Day traditions in Ireland. In Maths, we've covered the topics of Time and Money, and we made great progress with our English reading.

We've had a super time doing GAA coaching for P.E and also enjoyed some brilliant Irish dancing sessions too. This week we did some very cool Easter webinars, where we made a hatching chick and an Easter bunny. At Aistear time, we had great fun in our classroom garden centre, and also had really nice activities with the boys and girls in the Crescent Class. We are all greatly looking forward to the summer term in Infants.

## **Ms.Kehoe's 1st and 2nd Class Report 😊**

It has been a very busy two months in 1st and 2nd class. Back in February we looked at different festivals. We looked at the story of St. Brigid. The Children wrote about her life and coloured a picture of her and her cloak. We also looked at the Lunar New Year/Chinese New Year and the traditions they experience. The children made Chinese dragon puppets in art. In Irish we also looked

at a different dragon in a short story called 'Fionn agus an Dragún'. In Irish we have also looked at topics of weather, the cinema and shopping. Both classes now have an Irish reader for homework each night and their reading is progressing brilliantly. We were also busy with Seachtaine na Gaeilge. The children learned new phrases, played games, sang songs and Ms. Ormonde taught them some Irish dancing and a dance called the bridge of Athlone which was great fun!

While the Winter Olympics were on we looked at some of the different sports involved in the snow. The children participated in a science STEM challenge where they designed their own Winter Olympics Skier models using tin foil, lollipop sticks and string. We had ski races once the models were finished which was very competitive and fun!

In English we have been looking at Information reports. We have explored reports on various animals around the world and wrote about them. The children are continuing their joint writing and continuing work in their Joly Phonics.

In music we looked at the composer Mozart. We learned about his life and listened to some of his music. The children did some listening and responding activities on Mozart's music. In Art last week we explored and reflected on a Pointillism artist, Georges Seurat. The children created beautiful spring sunsets using the Pointillism technique which was inspired by Seurat.

The children have loved having GAA back on a Thursday morning. The coaches play fun and active games with them weekly.

It has also been busy preparing 2nd class for Communion. We had their first Confessions last week which went very well. Everyone did fantastic and we look forward to the special day in May.

### **Mrs. Brophy's 3rd Class Report 😊**

#### **3rd Class Report**

We have been very industrious in 3rd Class this month as we work our way through the curriculum. In Maths we covered the topics of Area, Number Patterns and Sequences. The children have been very busy learning their multiplication tables also and performing brilliantly in their weekly tests.

In English we have continued to work on the genre of Report Writing and we also covered the topic of Poetry. We learnt how to write many different styles of poetry e.g. Acrostic, Limericks, Cinquains, Calligrams and Haiku. We read many different poems this month on our learning journey.

Gaeilge theme for March was Éadaí. We read lots of stories describing clothes and shopping and the children worked with Ms. Dempsey on learning 'An Clog' and engaging in oral activities and games through Irish. I must also compliment the children on how well they are progressing with our Irish reading scheme, Sona ag Léamh. They are all growing in confidence and fluency through their practice at home and in class.

In SESE we examined rocks and soil, the Bronze Age and sound. We went on a 'sound walk' and recorded the various noises we could hear from birds to tractors. Last Friday we went to the Heritage Park. This was our first excursion in three years and we were very excited about it. We had a wonderful day learning about our ancestors and how they lived. Some of the children dressed up as Vikings and a Norman soldier. You can see photographs of our trip on the school Facebook page.

We also completed our Stay Safe programme this month. We studied and talked about five different topics: Feelings, Bullying, Touches, Secrets and Strangers. The children had lots of thoughts and ideas to share with each other and they all took several worksheets home to share with their parents.

In Art we painted spring theme pictures, cherry blossom trees and constructed our own Bronze Age villages. We shall be moving on to the theme of 'clay' in April.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Kellyanne Dempsey for all her hard work and dedication in teaching our class for the past three weeks. We have thoroughly enjoyed her lessons and enthusiasm for learning. We wish her all the best going forward.

Have a lovely Easter break and enjoy whatever the Easter bunny brings!

### **Ms. Lawlor's 4th/5th Class Report 😊**

Over the past few weeks in English, the children have been working on narrative writing. They learned about the different characteristics of story writing. They worked on expanding their sentences and using interesting words and imagery in their stories. They have all been following the process to write their own imaginative story; some are now on display in our classroom. We definitely have some very imaginative writers in our class! We also finished the David Walliam's novel Bad Dad, which the children really enjoyed.

In Maths we've been learning about fractions, percentages money and time. The children also learned a new card game called Rummy. They are also developing their maths skills by using the Mangahigh and Xtramath programmes on our tablets and laptops.

In art we are focusing on construction. The children made some lovely animal portraits using egg carton boxes to create a 3D effect. We have also been working on drawing and print over the past few weeks. We had planned to start learning the recorder in Term 2 but unfortunately with all the illness we decided to wait. We will look forward to learning it during the last term.

Have a lovely Easter everyone and we will have lots to look forward to when we come back after the holidays!

### **Ms. Morrissey's 5th/6<sup>th</sup> Class Report 😊**

March has been a very fun and engaging month upstairs in 5th and 6th class!

In English we have been extremely hard on our sentence writing, with a focus on simple, compound and complex sentences. We are continuing to delve deeper into our novel study of the book Wonder by R.J Palacio which has been thoroughly enjoyed by all. We have done a lot of work on the importance of different perspectives and how important it can be to see all sides of the story before making any decisions. We had fun with some engaging videos on the idea of perspective, which also led us into some creative writing!

In Maths we have been very busy covering lots of topics such as the circle, how to use percentages in many different word problems, weight and number rules. We are also continuing our weekly puzzle challenges, dingbats and number games. Keep up the hard work.

Stay Safe - We have been covering the Stay Safe Programme in 5th and 6th the last number of weeks and have been enjoying a lot of interesting conversation around some very important topics.

Religion - We have been extremely busy preparing for our Confirmation this month, and have been learning loads about what it means to receive the Holy Spirit. We have looked at how this can be seen in our day to day lives and how we can help by using kind words and actions as much as possible.

We finished our Arts- In- Residency Programme earlier this month and the children completed some gorgeous print based art work. In music we have been exploring rhythms and looking at simple notation such as crotchets, quavers, semi quavers and minims. It has been great fun exploring different rhythmic patterns in class.