

PUPIL ATTENDANCE

During our recent WSE, the Inspectors reviewed our pupil attendance records and our practices for recording pupils arriving late or being withdrawn from school early. While all records were found to be maintained accurately, they expressed concerns around a number of children who are missing a significant number of days from school. The Inspectors asked us to remind all parents of the importance of regular attendance at school. A day missed from school is never regained. New material covered today in your child's class may not be revisited in the same depth again. Parents are advised that children should only miss school through illness or exceptional family circumstances. Parents are asked to ensure their children arrive punctually to school and are only withdrawn for appointments which cannot be scheduled outside of school hours. Your continued co-operation with attendance and punctuality is appreciated and is supported by a number of initiatives within individual classrooms to increase pupil awareness and personal self-monitoring.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day took place on Thursday the 3rd of March. All children were invited to dress up as their favourite character on the day. The children also participated in literacy activities based on their favourite books. It was great to see so many children interested in reading! 4th—6th Class will go on a trip to the Edenderry library. This is to celebrate World Book Day and to encourage the children to become members of their local library. Children were asked to bring in €2 per family on this day to support the purchase of books for the library.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair took place in Scoil Bhríde from Monday the 29th of February to Wednesday the 2nd of March. It was fantastic to see so many children at the Book Fair with their parents. We thank you all so much for participating in our Book Fair as this has resulted in our school receiving a much needed supply of books for our library from Scholastic. We would also like to say a special word of thanks to the members of the Parents' Association who helped out with the Book Fair, it would not have been possible to run without this support. Parents are reminded that if they are purchasing books for their children they can do so on the Scholastic website and they can nominate the school to receive a proportion of their purchase price.

AN POST INTO HANDWRITING COMPETITION

Scoil Bhríde pupils are participating in the annual An Post INTO Handwriting Competition. In addition, this year entries received will be entered into a school handwriting competition with certificates for 1st - 3rd place for best handwriting in each class entered. There will be overall prizes for the winners in the Junior and Senior end of the school and within the Special Class category.

SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

Scoil Bhríde held a Spelling Bee on Wednesday the 2nd of March. The event went very well and was a very enjoyable experience for the children involved. The winner of the competition was Holly Meehan. Aisling Pender came in second place. Well done girls!

WRITE-A-BOOK

The Write-a-Book Competition was launched again this year in Scoil Bhríde. All children were invited to make their own book and enter it as part of the competition. This is a great chance for children to portray their creativity in writing. This event has really helped our children to grow as writers over the last number of years and we hope the experience this year will further help the children grow in confidence as writers.

AN CLUB GHAELIGE / IRISH CLUB

The Irish Club took place for 6 weeks for the children in 5th and 6th class. The children had lots of fun doing many different activities through Irish. They did lots of baking and made lots of goodies including mars bar squares, cookies and buns. They also participated in art, games and PE. All pupils made a fantastic effort to speak Irish during the club. Maith sibh!

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

Beidh Seachtain na Gaeilge ar súil ó 7ú – 11ú lá de mhí Márta. Beidh craic agus spraoi againn i rith na seachtaine. Beidh ceol-choirm, tráth na gCeist, cluichí biongó, banna ceol agus a lán rudaí eile ar súil. Beidh an-chraic againn trí mheán na Ghaeilge.

SCIENCE WEEK

Science week in Scoil Bhríde ran from the 22—26 February. We were delighted to welcome teachers and students from St. Mary's Secondary School and Oaklands Community College to our school. They demonstrated a range of experiments for our pupils and encouraged every class to get involved. We concluded Science week with our own Science Exhibition. This gave parents an opportunity to witness some of the experiments being carried out in their child's class on a weekly basis. We wish to thank all the parents who attended the exhibition.

SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Killane, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue No. 22
9th March 2016

Dear Parent(s), / Guardian(s)

Welcome to our third edition of our Newsletter, for this school year. It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of our second term and the Easter Holidays. From the content of the Newsletter you will see it has been a very busy term with a lot happening both from an academic and an extra curricular perspective.

Our new Board of Management has met and is comprised of the following individuals: Mr Niall O'Leary Chairperson and Patron's Nominee, Ms Nichola Hogan and Ms. Patricia Doyle, Community Representatives, Fr PJ McEvoy, Patron's Nominee, Ms Liz Cullinan Teachers' Representative, Mrs Claire Rushe and Mr Anthony Fay, Parents' Representatives and myself. The Board looks forward to working closely with you over the coming years.

I would like to remind everyone that the Sacrament of Penance will take place for the boys and girls in Second Class, on Wednesday 9th March in St Mary's Church at 7pm.

I would also like to remind parents that school will finish at 11:30am on Wednesday March 16th for the Easter Holidays. I wish you all a Happy Easter.

*Is mise le meas,
Caoimhín Ó Dúfaigh (Príomh Oide)*

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NOTES FOR PARENTS

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of Scoil Bhríde Parents' Association will be 16/03/16 in the school.

Chairperson: Nathalie Leeper Murphy

Secretary: Carol Corri Meehan

Treasurer: Sorcha Maher

Committee members: Jackie Bryan, Gillian Sweeney Noonan, Michelle Murphy, Nicola Kenna, Paula Hickey, Fiona Hutchinson, Caroline O'Neill, Briain Reilly and Nuala Kelly.

Parent Nominees to the Board of Management are Claire Rushe and Anthony Fay.

ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMME

Our Anti-Bullying Programme continues to be rolled out across the school with every class completing lessons and activities aimed at raising pupil awareness to avoid hurtful behaviours.

FOOTBALL TRAINING

Senior Infants, 1st Class and 2nd Class boys and girls completed 6 weeks of after school football. Training will continue on Mondays for 5th and 6th Class boys after Easter. Football for Senior Infants to Second Class girls will resume on Wednesdays after Easter for 6 weeks.

TULLAMORE FOOTBALL BLITZ

The boy's and girl's football teams participated in a blitz in Tullamore on the 24th Feb. The boys entered both a 5th and 6th class team. Both teams won 2 out of their 4 matches and were unlucky not to make the final. The girls put in a very spirited performance and won 2 games. Well done to all involved.

FOOTBALL FOR ALL

Football for All is a programme set up by the FAI to encourage inclusion for all children. It provides children, with specific and additional needs, the opportunities to be part of a team and club. The children attending our Special Classes are participating in a 6 week programme on Thursdays in school. The club meets every Sunday at 10 am @ The Youth Cafe. For more information contact Ms Craig.

BASKETBALL

The girl's basketball team have had a busy few weeks with games held every Thursday after school. The team competed well against St Philomena's of Tullamore, Clara, Ballinagar. The boy's and girl's teams also played the Gaelscoil in Tullamore and did us very proud. Thanks to all those involved!

HURLING TRAINING

Since Christmas 1st—3rd Class have had hurling training. 4th—6th Class will take part in training every Wednesday after Easter with Mr. Casey and Mr. Winters.

DANCE CLASSES

This year children in 1st Class enjoyed extra-curricular dance classes in the hall. The children had great fun. As it was such a hit with the children, we will hopefully continue the classes, perhaps giving a different class a chance.

CREDIT UNION QUIZ

Well done to all the children who were involved in the Credit Union quiz this year. The first round of the quiz took place in St. Mary's Secondary School on Saturday the 30th of January. We entered three teams, and each team won a prize. We won First prize in the Junior section and won two prizes, First and Third prize in the Senior Quiz. The second round took place in Toughers in Naas on Saturday, the 27th of February. The children performed very well on the night, unfortunately we did not get through to the next round. Well done again to all children involved!

ENTERPRISE DAY

Enterprise Day will take place on Friday 11th of March this year for 3rd - 6th class pupils. All students who are presenting a business idea on the day need to have a business plan. This plan should be simple but should detail all of the important information in relation to the business (e.g. name of business, product, raw materials / ingredients, cost, profit etc). Simple business plans can be found online. There should be no more than two per group and the children are allowed to keep their profits or donate it to the school for sports equipment.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS FLAG

Well done to all the boys and girls in 5th and 6th class who competed in the lunch time basketball leagues. Lunch time leagues will continue between now and June as part of Scoil Bhríde's Active School Programme. A big thank you to Frank Kilrane who has been coaching all the 5th and 6th class students in 'Sportshall Athletics'.

GREEN SCHOOLS ENERGY ASSESSMENT

Orla Fogarty from Offaly County Council visited the school on Wednesday the 24th of February to assess the school's work in saving energy as part of achieving our second Green-Schools Flag. She met with the pupils on the committee and visited some classrooms to appraise all the hard work done by the children. The Green Schools Committee were delighted with her assessment and are looking forward to raising a new flag soon!

PROCLAMATION DAY

Proclamation Day will take place on March 16th. This day will be used to commemorate the 1916 Rising. Every school in the country will be having a ceremony to celebrate this day. In this ceremony the Proclamation will be read, followed by a new proclamation which will be written by the pupils from 4th - 6th classes. The flag that we received on the 9th November will be raised. To celebrate this event Special Classes, Junior Infants and Senior Infants will have coloured in Irish flags to wave while the flag is raised. Special Classes, 1st—3rd classes will have drawn images from the 1916 Rising and will be displayed in the reception area of the school. To conclude the ceremony the song 'Grace' will be sung and the school band will play Amhrán na bhFiann.

BODHRÁNS

A set of 30 bodhráns were borrowed from Kildare Education Centre from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th February. A number of classes got to explore the bodhrán, experience how to play a reel and observe the bodhrán being played by a member of staff. Great fun was had by those involved!

RAINBOWS PROGRAMME

The Rainbows Programme will commence after Easter in Scoil Bhríde for 6 weeks. The co-ordinator is Mr. Carney.

FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENT SKILLS

A big thank you to Patsy Gorman and Leinster Rugby for hosting a workshop for teachers on 'Teaching Fundamental Movement Skills Through Tag Rugby' recently in Scoil Bhríde. Well done to all the teachers who took part.