

## PUPIL ATTENDANCE

Pupil attendance and punctuality in school is very important. A day missed by a child is a day lost forever and they can never get it back. Parents are reminded that children should only miss school through illness or exceptional family circumstances. Parents are also reminded that school commences at 8.50am and children are required to be in their lines for this time. Over recent months we have noted a deterioration in punctuality with a significant number of children being dropped to school after 8.50am. A child arriving to school late begins the day in a stressful state and this can impact their learning. A child arriving 10-20 minutes late each day misses between 50 minutes and 1 hour 40 minutes per week – the equivalent of between 3 and 7 lessons for children in the junior classes and 2 and 4 lessons in the senior classes. This is very significant and can cause them to drop behind in their work. We all like to be on time for things we attend. School starts punctually please ensure your child is on time and help them to have a pleasant start to their day.

## MIDDLETOWN CENTRE FOR AUTISM PARENT AND FAMILY MEMBER TRAINING

The Middletown Centre for Autism will host the following training sessions for parents and family members of children with Autism:

Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30-1:30pm Understanding and Using Visual Strategies to aid Communication

Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:30-1:30pm Promotion of Positive Behaviour

Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup> 11:30-1:30pm Anxiety Management

The training will take place in Scoil Bhríde Primary School. No booking is necessary. All are welcome including parents and family members of children attending other schools.

## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ó 13ú – 17ú lá de mhí Márta. Bhí craic agus spraoi againn i rith na seactaine. Bhí ceolchoirm, tráth na gCeist, cluichí biongó, banna ceol agus a lán rudaí eile ar siúl. Bhí an-chraic againn trí mheán na Ghaeilge.

## FUNOSITY KIDS EASTER CAMP

Funosity Kids Easter Camps will take place in Scoil Bhríde from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

To book a place Contact Camp Co-ordinator on 085 874 3189.

## SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

Well done to Aoibheann Maher who represented Scoil Bhríde in the Offaly Spelling Bee on the 8th of March. We were very proud to be represented by Aoibheann on the county stage.

## WRITE-A-BOOK

We are taking part in the Write-a-Book competition again this year. Well done to all the boys and girls for taking part and to their parents who helped with their entries. There were some entries of real quality this year with a very good effort displayed by the students.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

We were delighted to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March 2017. World Book Day has become firmly established as Ireland's biggest annual event promoting the enjoyment of books and reading. We had a fantastic day in school with children dressing up as their favourite character from their favourite books.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our recent Scholastic Book Fair was a terrific success. Thanks to all parents who came this year. Our Book Fair raised €2,400 worth of books for our library. These funds are much needed and are a huge bonus to our school. We are particularly grateful to the members of our Parents' Association who helped run the Book Fair. They were outstanding in their preparations and without their help the fair would not have been such a success.

## SCIENCE WEEK

We recently celebrated Science Week in Scoil Bhríde. During Science Week we planned various activities to bring Science to life for our students. We had a guest speaker, Sinead Grogan, in to speak about how Science applies to her job as a hospital inspector. Teachers and pupils from St. Mary's Secondary School kindly came in and demonstrated live experiments for all classes. On Friday, each class demonstrated an experiment of their choice in the Halla. Parents and families attended. Many thanks to everyone for making it such an enjoyable week.

## DAFFODIL DAY FUNDRAISER

Thanks to all who donated for our Daffodil Day fundraiser. A total of €760 was raised for this great cause.

# SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Killane, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue No. 26  
6th April 2017

Dear Parent(s), / Guardian(s)

*Welcome to the third edition of our Newsletter, for this school year. It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of our second term already. 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.*

*I would like to thank all the parents and staff for their continued support and effort throughout the many events this term. I would also like to thank all those involved in the Parents' Association. Your hard work and efforts are very much appreciated here in Scoil Bhríde.*

*This term we have been busy developing our school garden. A special thanks to our Garden Committee, Parents' Association and the local tidy towns for their help in this project. Classes were given the opportunity to plant a variety of vegetables and we hope to see a full garden in the near future.*

*We are already looking forward to the final term here in Scoil Bhríde. I would also like to remind parents that school will finish at 11:30am on Friday April 7th 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**

Scoil Bhríde Parents' Association would like to thank all the parents who helped support the recent and very successful Book Fair. Over the last number of months, the Parents' Association have supported a number of initiatives within the school, including:

- The Parents' Association notice board which shows upcoming events
- Subsidising swimming for the special classes
- Funding for the new school gardens
- Linking in with Edenderry Tidy Towns to develop the new gardening & wildlife areas within the school
- In the process of establishing a new garden committee

Again, we would like to thank all parents for their continued support. The Parents' Association can be contacted through our Facebook page: Scoil Bhríde Edenderry Parents Association Events Page.

### **5TH & 6TH CLASS FOOTBALL**

With such a successful campaign from our Boys and Girls football teams before Christmas, both teams have recently set about making it two from two and finishing the year off on a high. Many thanks to all parents for their cooperation and support in taking the time out of their day to drop and collect children from the school to go to matches. Without your support the children would not get the opportunity to represent the school in a sport that they clearly enjoy playing!

### **SPECIAL CLASSES SWIMMING LESSONS**

Special classes started swimming lessons at Edenderry swimming pool. Pre-school classes will have 4 lessons and the other classes will have 7 lessons. We are all looking forward to the rest of our upcoming lessons.

### **FOOTBALL FOR ALL**

Football For All Derry Rovers and Acorn club hosted the second annual Seán O'Connor Blitz. Football For All clubs from all over the country attended. Many children from Scoil Bhríde Special Classes took part on the day. A great day was had by all.

### **BASKETBALL**

Basketball training has been going well in the school with many of our 5th and 6th class boys and girls getting involved. On the 8th of March we welcomed Clonbullogue NS and Rhode NS to the school to participate in a coaching tournament with our visiting coach Nico. It was an excellent day and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Training continues after Easter each Friday from 2.30 - to 3.30 for 5th and 6th classes.

### **HURLING TRAINING**

Hurling training will re-commence for boys from 4th-6th class on Wednesday 26th April (2.30-3.30pm). Mr. Winters and Mr. Casey welcome all boys to participate.

### **SOCCER TRAINING**

The school entered several teams into the FAI Schools 5 a side soccer tournament. The competition took place in Tullamore on April 5th. The boys and girls trained very hard with Mr. O'Shea, Ms. Craig and Ms. Hevican for the tournament since January. Congratulations to the Boys A team and the Girls team who won the county qualifiers and will go on to represent Offaly in the Mid-Leinster Finals after Easter.

### **ENTERPRISE DAY**

On Friday 24th of March we enjoyed Enterprise Day here in the school. It was a very successful day which gave great experience in the world of business to the boys and girls involved. The judges found it extremely difficult to try and pick winners from each section. The winners in the Junior section were - 1st- "Bracies Bows and Bracelets"- by Grace Murray and Bria Reilly.

Joint 2nd - " Fairy Neighbourhood" by Jack Hutchinson and "Fairy Doors" by Carla Considine and Eimear Dunne.  
3rd - "Smoothies and Treats"- By Kaelem Bryan and Shane Hickey.

The winners in the Senior section were-  
1st - "Art De Honeya"- by Alesha Raza Butt.  
2nd - "Signz of the Times"- by Sarah Hanlon and Alannah Burke.

Joint 3rd - "Just for Mum" by Tom Bergin and "Elyse's Aprons" - by Elyse Halligan.

Thanks to all involved for making it such a great day!

### **ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMME**

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

### **CREDIT UNION QUIZ**

Scoil Bhríde entered three teams into the Croí Laighean Credit Union Quiz in January. All three teams competed very well with the team of Riona Loughrey, Faye Lynch, Fantasia Mustapha and Jessie Sheridan winning the Under 13 competition. They proceeded to the regional finals in Kildare House in March where the team did extremely well against very tough competition. They just missed out on the prizes on the day and a place in the national finals. We had a phenomenal interest and dedication again this year. Congratulations and thank you to all involved.

### **ENGINEERS WEEK WITH 3RD CLASS**

Engineers Week this year was from the 4th-10th March and gave the children in 3rd Class the opportunity to be an Engineer for the Day! A local engineer, Andy Usher, came in to talk about the life of an engineer, what they do each day and what exactly it is that he does. After a small presentation, the class were set a challenge: to build a bridge that spans across two chairs that would be able to hold a toy car. Although the children found this challenge quite difficult in the beginning, with some help from teachers and Andy himself, we were able to construct some freestanding bridges. Many thanks to Intel for making this day possible and Andy for taking time out of his day to allow the children to be Engineers for the day. The children really enjoyed the week!

### **INTER SCHOOLS SPORTS WITH OAKLAND'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Offaly Sports Partnership and Oaklands Community College organised an inclusive sports programme with Scoil Bhríde this term and last term. Transition year pupils from Oakland's set up the P.E. activities in the Halla. The programme ran over 4 weeks with the last week culminating in an Inter Sports event between both schools hosted in Scoil Bhríde. All pupils who participated and 5th and 6th class helpers were presented with Certificates of Attendance. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved and Scoil Bhríde would like to thank all in Oakland's and Aoife Byrne from Offaly Sports Partnership for this initiative. Photos of the event can be seen on our school website.