



Easter Newsletter 2019

Scoil Chríost an Slánaitheoir, Ballingarry

Welcome to the Easter edition of our school newsletter. This edition includes the many activities and achievements that our pupils and teachers have been involved in since Christmas. Pupils in 2nd class are busy preparing for their First Holy Communion day on Saturday 11th of May. Their First Penance ceremony took place on Monday 11th of March. The 6th class pupils have just closed their very successful Junior Entrepreneur programme selling ‘Super Slime’. All our pupils have taken part in many sporting and curricular activities this term, have a look....

Improvements to the School: New Build in Progress

We are delighted to announce that we will be building a new classroom, a new resource room and staff toilets this year on the Junior side of the school. This will be our seventh mainstream classroom. Our aim is to have it all ready for use by September 2019!! We hope to commence building in the very near future and we will update you on developments. Thank you in advance for your co-operation during the forthcoming building process.



Grandparents Day 2019

As part of Catholic School Week 2019, we invited grandparents to our school to visit the various classroom and talk to the children about what school was like for them growing up. We were delighted with the response, with huge numbers of grandparents showing up on the day! We took many photographs to remember the special day and can be all seen on the school display screen. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and loved every minute of the time spent with their Grandparents. Refreshments were served by members of our wonderful parents’ council on the day.



Friendship Week 2019

We were very busy in school celebrating Friendship Week 2019. This took place from 1st-5th of April. We incorporated our Anti-Bullying Campaign in this special week. Teachers attended a talk by Sean Fallon in Granagh N.S. regarding his work with the anti-bullying campaign. The following are some of the activities we carried out together to celebrate friendship week:

- On Monday each child in the school decorated a flower to symbolise that our friendships are blooming in this school.
- On Tuesday pupils from Junior Infants to 1st class watched friendship and anti-bullying videos online and discuss how to be a good friend. Pupils from 2nd to 6th class carried out a Bullying awareness survey and also watched clips from the anti-bullying campaign website.
- On Wednesday children were encouraged to play friendship games on the yard at break times.
- On Thursday, each child picked a name out of a hat randomly. They had to perform a Random Act of Kindness for that person during the day. We have heard fantastic accounts of children getting other children's coats for them, drawing pictures for them and paying them compliments! We're so lucky to have such kind boys and girls in our school. Children also took part in some 'buddy reading'. Various classes paired off and the older children acted as the teacher or mentor for the younger children. It was a most enjoyable experience.
- On Friday Ms O'Sullivan awarded various children from each class with friendship award certificates. Well done to all pupils.

Ballingarry is lucky to have such friendly boys and girls.



Curricular News

Literacy Lift Off



We have completed the second instalment of Literacy Lift Off with second class this term. It's been another huge success. We are delighted to see how much the children loved it and enjoyed taking part. A big 'thank you' to all the parents for reading each night with your child. We can really see the results in class and are delighted with how well everyone is reading. After Easter we will be doing Literacy Lift Off with Senior Infants!

School Self Evaluation: Everyone gets a say!!



We are working hard to improve English, Irish and Maths in the school as part of our School Self-Evaluation. In the next few weeks, we will be asking parents and pupils to complete a questionnaire based on Maths and English. We would really appreciate your viewpoints to let us know how you think we can improve these areas. We are currently updating our school website and will publish our results on the page. We will let you know when these updates are ready.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

This year 6th class took part in JEP. This programme is designed by business leaders in collaboration with Mary Immaculate College. Its aim is to teach pupils about being an entrepreneur, as well as giving them the chance to develop skills from the curriculum in a practical way. We developed our product 'Super Slime' as part of Junior Entrepreneur. Many thanks to the local business people who gave their time and expertise to the pupils. Many thanks also to all of you for your custom. The money we earned through our business will be used to donate a gift to the school community, a donation to charity, and the remainder will be for 6th class to enjoy as the fruit of their hard work.



Relationships and Sexuality Talk

Parents of 5th and 6th class were invited to a talk about relationships and sexuality. The talk was given by Sarah Sproule, an occupational therapist with expertise in this area. Sarah provides talks to schools, as well as information and support directly for families. Her website, adaptlife.ie, provides information on her services, as well as links to her podcast 'Sitting in a Car' Podcast. It is important that parents are talking to their children from an early age about topics such as puberty, reproduction and relationships. Some resources Sarah recommended are the following books.

Age 4 and up: It's NOT the Stork by Robie H. Harris

Age 7 and up: It's So amazing by Robie H. Harris

Age 10 and up: Let's Talk About Sex by Robie H. Harris

Reference Guide for Parents: Breaking the Hush Factor by Dr Karen Rayne

Reference Guide for Parents: S.E.X. by Heather Corinna

Sarah talked to 5th and 6th class pupils about puberty, personal hygiene and reproduction.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge in 3rd and 4th Class. We came up with our own drama sketches which we performed for the class. We used all the Irish we've been learning. B'hi atmaisféar croíúil spraoíúil le brath sa seomra ranga agus bhain chuile dhuine an-chuid taitneamh as!

Ms O'Sullivan appointed Gaeilge monitors on the yard at break time and prizes were awarded to those children who were using their cúpla focail Gaeilge. The children enjoyed using their Gaeilge and many got very competitive as the week went on!!



Mrs O'Neill's 'Sew' Impressive Class

3rd and 4th have been very busy learning to sew and knit this term. Although we found it tricky at times, everybody is now really getting the hang of it. It is very relaxing and enjoyable. Some of our parents and grandparents have been helping us too!!



Projects in Rang a hAon

Over the past few weeks, the first class pupils have been working extremely hard on their first individual project. They each chose a job based on what they aspire to be when they grow up. The children researched the job, finding out facts on what the job entailed. They designed posters using the information they gathered. We had a presentation day in school where the class dressed up or brought in items related to their chosen job. Pupils from the other classes visited their room to looking at the projects. There was a fantastic effort put in by every child. We are very proud of you. Keep up the great work!!!!



Sports News

We are thrilled to welcome Siobhán Enright, from the Granagh Ballingarry GAA club, as our hurling and football coach every Friday here in the school. All children from Junior Infants to 6th Class have a 30 minute session of hurling/football training with Siobhán. All the boys and girls really love getting the opportunity to learn some new hurling and football skills and also they get the chance to practice the skills that they have already learned. We want to thank Siobhan for her expertise, patience and kindness with the children.



Eithne Neville Camogie



Huge congratulations to Eimear O'Kelly and Mai McKenna on making the West team the Eithne Neville School competition. The 6th class girls will play with the West team against the city on May 8th in The Gaelic Grounds. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh cailíní!

Indoor Hurling

On Wednesday 13th of March a group of hurlers from 3rd and 4th class went to the Community Centre in Newcastle West to participate in the West Limerick Primary School's GAA Indoor Hurling blitz. The boys had put in lots of time and effort training after school to prepare for their games and their first opponents on the day were Dromcollogher. The boys started well with some great goals getting past a fantastic opposition keeper. Unfortunately, after leading from the start the boys eventually lost their game 5-4. The boys represented the school very well and were fantastic competitors.



Soccer News

FAI School Soccer Competition

The boys and girls of 5th and 6th took part in the FAI Schools 5-A-Side soccer competition this term. Both teams did extremely well, qualifying for the second round out of a massive 226 teams. We are extremely proud of our talented pupils and the great effort they put in on both days. Thanks to Shane, Paul and Aedin for helping on both days, and to the parents who came to support us.



Active Schools Programme

We are busy working away here in Christ the Saviour N.S. trying to get our Active School Flag.

We decided as a staff that we would explore in more detail the Irish dancing/folk dance area of the dance strand of the PE curriculum. This year we had the assistance of Mrs. Murphy our second class teacher, who has a world of expertise in the area of Irish music and dance. During Seachtain na Gaeilge, we held a 'Ceilí Mór' where each class had the opportunity to showcase the Irish set dances they had learned. It was wonderful to see all the different Irish dances displayed. Children danced 'Shoe the Donkey', 'Siege of Ennis', 'The Walls of Limerick', 'Sweets of May' and some waltzing to finish off the session. This is definitely an activity we hope to try again in Scoil Chríost an Slánaitheoir.



March Marathon Running Initiative

As part of our campaign to achieve the Active School's flag this year, the whole school took part in a 4 week long running initiative. We called it the 'March Marathon'. Every day classes would go outside and run laps around the school basketball court. Each classroom had a chart where we recorded how many laps we ran. Teachers also participated in this challenge. At the end of the four weeks, the whole school went over to our local GAA field where we all ran laps around the field- giving ourselves a greater challenge. Each class was presented with a certificate for participating in the month long programme. First class achieved a prize of extra PE for their outstanding effort during the month. Mrs. O'Neill also received a prize for the best effort by a teacher during the 4 weeks. The results were fantastic. Every child improved their fitness during this 4 week period. We also found that a short 5-10 minute movement break during our school work helped us to concentrate more and work hard. We hope to continue this activity during

the year. A big thank you to our Active school co-ordinators and committee members who have worked very hard this past month organising and monitoring all the progress.



Child Protection

All schools in Ireland are currently following the Child Protection Guidelines as issued by the Department of Education. We recently reviewed our Child Protection Safety Statement and Risk Assessment. A copy of these documents is available from the office and copies have also been circulated to our Parents Association. They will also be available on our school website shortly.





New pupil

We would like to welcome a new pupil Alyssa to our school. Alyssa has joined First Class and we hope she has settled in well and made lots of friends. Alyssa and her family moved from South Africa to Ballingarry in January. We are very happy to welcome you into our school community.



Religious News

First Penance Ceremony

The children in 2nd class had their First Penance ceremony on Monday 11th of March in Ballingarry church. The children presented themselves beautifully on the night and received their First Penance from Fr. Lane. When it came to making their First Confession, they each took great care in ensuring everything went according to plan! Each said “sorry” for the times they didn’t live as Jesus had asked them to and were willing to try again.



The children were very well supported by the older children from 3rd to 6th class who turned out in great numbers for the choir. We know the Communion class really appreciated their support on the night. Mrs. Murphy was very proud of all her pupils on the night. A sincere word of thanks to Fr. Lane for making the ceremony so special and making the children feel so comfortable. We wish all the children well as they continue preparing of their First Holy Communion Day on the 11th of May.



Green Schools News!

Planting In Junior Infants



During March and April the Junior Infants were learning all about plants. They know the parts of a plant, how to look after a plant and even set up a Garden Centre in their classroom. The children planted sunflowers at school and they have been very successful. They will take them home at Easter and continue to look after them at home.



Outdoor Planting

The Junior Infants were very busy in the outdoor garden during April. They got to weed and prepare the soil on their raised bed and they planted “Seed Bombs”. The seed bombs are a collection of native Irish wildflower seeds that take 10 – 12 weeks to flower. We will check our raised bed regularly to see the progress. We hope that these wildflowers will attract lots of bees to our area and help enrich our environment.



Mother's Day Celebrations

3rd and 4th Class have been very busy making Mother's Day cards for all their wonderful mammy's. Everyone came up with their own design and fashioned unique 3D cards, from a variety of fabrics. Look at some of our beautiful creations.



Easter Preparation

Ms Tangney's boys and girls were busy in the kitchen this week making Easter treats to eat. They made tasty Easter nests using cornflakes, chocolate, mini eggs and little chick decorations. The smell from the staffroom kitchen was delicious.



Parent's Council News

(From Claire Gilbourne)

As Easter 2019 approaches we would like to update you on some items we have been working on since the start of 2019:

Grandparents Day was on in the school on Wednesday 6th February 2019. It was very successful and members of the Parents council kindly helped out with serving teas and coffees to all those that attended.

A meeting was held in the school on Thursday 28th March 2019 to discuss upcoming fundraising ideas and different requirements the school have for funds. This was a very beneficial meeting with lots of ideas discussed.

The Parents Council would also like to advise all parents that the Child Protection and Safeguarding document is available for all parents to read. A copy of this document is available from current committee members including Aisling Frawley, Louise Kelly or Claire Gilbourne. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us, if any of you would like to obtain a copy of this document to read.

A Clothes Drive, is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th May 2019. We'd greatly appreciate all your support so please mark these dates in your calendar and we'll gladly accept your donations.

We are currently looking at organising some evening courses for parents to attend, topics we are looking at include the following, Supporting parents to support their children's mental health and wellbeing, Internet Safety Training and Anti Bullying Training for Parents. We will follow up with dates and times for these information sessions.

We also hope to organise some new events in 2019 and some of these are in progress. However any feedback or suggestions for events is always welcome.

Thank you all once again for your continued support.

Claire Gilbourne

Secretary





**THE EASTER BUNNY
WOULD LIKE TO WISH
ALL THE BOYS AND GIRLS
A VERY HAPPY EASTER!!!**



***Our school motto is ‘Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí’ –
Praise the young and they will flourish. We certainly
have much to celebrate in Scoil Chríost an
Slánaitheoir.***

***The Board of Management and staff would like to
wish all families a happy Easter.***

***School will close on April 12th at 12p.m. and will re-
open on Monday 29th April at 9a.m.***