

A Thuismitheoirí,

Fáilte chuig Seachtain na Gaeilge! An tseachtain seo, táimid ag ceiliúradh an Ghaeilge, ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr. This week we are celebrating all that makes us proud to be Irish, especially our beautiful rich Celtic language and our culture.



Tá an-iarracht á dhéanamh againn Gaeilge a labhairt go minic agus i ngach áit, sa scoil, sa chlós, sa seomra ranga, mórthimpeall na scoile agus sa bhaile. Everybody is trying to speak the Irish they have as often and in as many places as possible - in school, in the yard and in our activities, outside as well as inside the classroom and of course at home.

Labhair Gaeilge linn! Speak to us in Irish – even if it's half a sentence in English and half a sentence in Irish. Every little counts! Tús maith, leath na hoibre!

Or perhaps your children could be the múinteoirí for Seachtain na Gaeilge and teach Mamaí and Daidí a few words and phrases.

We hope to have great fun with all our Seachtain na Gaeilge activities and a Seisiún mór ceoil will take place on Thursday afternoon where each class will sing a lovely amhrán as Gaeilge. Beidh an-spraoi againn! But Gaeilge is not just for Seachtain na Gaeilge. It's part of our culture and heritage. It's part of what we are!

Bhí an **G-Factor** ar siúl tráthnóna agus bhí sé go hiontach! So... a lán sport agus spraoi as Gaeilge.... The children are so enthusiastic, we invite all parents to use the 'cúpla focal' with the children and with us. Bain triail as! Le gach dea ghuí,

Muireann Máirtín, Príomh Oide

AFTER SCHOOL GRÚPA CEOIL

Ms. O'Regan will be holding an Irish traditional music session in her classroom (Seomra 10) every Monday from 2.30-2.50 p.m. (except 3rd April and 15th May). Any students who have some experience of playing Irish traditional music are welcome to attend. The aim of this traditional music session is to provide children with an opportunity to build a repertoire of tunes as well as practice playing with a group. We also hope that the group will play at future assemblies. It will be an informal group session so you do not need to commit to every Monday afternoon but we'd love to see lots of students coming along. The first session will be on Monday, March 20th. Hope to see you there!



MEITHEAL OIBRE

An Taisce is organising its National Spring Clean from 1st – 30th April, with the aim of combatting the litter problem in our area and of working together to protect our environment. As a community we should be working together and so on Friday week, 24th March, our school community is going to try to improve the grounds of our school. Spearheaded by our progressive 6th class pupils, we will adopt an area and try to improve it. So why not join us at our Meitheal Oibre. How can you help?



- First of all come along for an hour anytime between 9.00a.m. and 2.00p.m.
- Bring along a trowel, a spade, a fork, a rake or a loppers to trim trees.
- Bring litter pickers and black bags if you have them – otherwise we will provide!
- Wear old clothes as it could get mucky!

Míle, míle buíochas!

FEBRUARY CAKE SALE - THANK YOU!

Once again, we say a big THANK YOU to all of you – parents and children – for the wonderful response to our February Cake sale which brought in €2222! This money will be used for the benefit of all pupils! Go raibh maith agaibh!



WORLD BOOK DAY BOOK SALE



To mark world Book Day, Ms. McDonnell organised a Book Swap fundraiser – our first ever – and again the response was superb! We raised €850 which will go directly towards the purchase of exciting new class novels.

6th CLASS CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Last Sunday, our 6th class pupils participated in their Mass of Enrolment and we now look forward to their participation in the You Shall Be My Witnesses programme. After that we'll have the 6th Class Retreat and the Service of Light. We encourage them to keep their commitments now and in the future. May the Holy Spirit be with the children in all their endeavours.



EASTER PARADE

We haven't done Easter Bonnets for many years, but this year we invite all pupils to make an Easter Bonnet, a Mad Hat or Crazy Cap out of recycled materials. We will then hold an Easter Parade in the Halla on Tuesday 4th April. Prizes galore for the best creations in each class. Give it a go! Bain triail as!



DAFFODIL DAY...

Don't forget this year's Daffodil Day in aid of the Irish Cancer Society, which takes place in school on **Friday 24th March**. All flowers and badges cost €3. We'll have a Lá Buí also, where anybody who doesn't want to wear their uniform pays €1 towards the Irish Cancer Society and wear as much yellow as possible. So please support this very worthy cause which affects so many of our families and friends. If you can wear a little bit of yellow on the day, why not?



TRÓCAIRE BOXES



Please remember to keep filling your Trócaire Boxes so that we can help those who are so badly in need of our help throughout the world. Many parents and teachers remember filling those Trócaire boxes when we were at school ourselves and we really can make a difference. So remember -your loose coins are very welcome. Remember that the boxes must be returned to school after the Easter Holidays. Check out Trócaire's website to learn more: www.trocaire.com.

ENROLMENT 2016/2017

The closing date for receipt of applications for enrolment in the Senior School for the academic year 2017/18 has passed and decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management, in accordance with the school's enrolment policy. We now have a waiting list, so if you're moving house and intend to leave the school, we would be very grateful if you could let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer places to those on the waiting list for next year.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS: STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All parents are invited to attend the children's presentation of the Stations of the Cross at 11.00a.m. on Friday 7th April. (School closes at 12 noon.) As the pupils are not in school during Holy Week, we feel this is a fitting way to mark Good Friday – even it is a week early! All welcome! Fáilte!



And then on Good Friday itself, co-ordinated by Ms. Neville, we will have a dramatisation of the story of Jesus Christ's passion and death. This will take place in the Oratory at 7.30p.m. on Friday 14th April and will involve our own pupils, past pupils and young adults with music provided by Joe Dunne and the Folk Group. The parish is looking for children who will not be away on holidays at Eastertime, to volunteer to take part in this drama of Good Friday. Over the past three years, this event has been highly praised and is a great way for your children to understand the Easter story.

DRINK AWARE TALK

The Parents' Association has organised a talk at 7.30p.m. on Wednesday 29th March, on the issue of Drink Awareness. All parents are welcome, although it would be particularly suitable for parents of 5th and 6th class pupils. We look forward to a great turnout.

A FEW IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

PLEASE SLOW DOWN

It has come to our attention that once again, speed seems to be a problem outside the school at arrival and going home times. Several parents have complained that they don't feel their children are safe when crossing from Meadowbrook Swimming Pool to the schools and oratory.



ATTENTION CYCLISTS!

Please SLOW DOWN as you cycle around the school and please dismount and cycle your bike through the yard. Pupils are asked to lock their bikes if they bring them to school as we can accept no responsibility for bikes on the school premises.



PARTY INVITATIONS

As notified to you in September, it is our policy that Party Invitations should not be given out to children in school or on the school premises. As time goes on, it can create numerous problems. We ask for your co-operation on this matter.



SCHOOL CLOSURES

Lá 'le Pádraig – we will close on Friday 17th March to celebrate the feast day of our national saint. We hope the children will have a great day and that it will bring back great memories of this time last year, when we celebrated the story of 1916.

We will close for Easter Holidays at **12 noon on Friday 7th April** and we return to school on **Monday 24th April** for our final school term.

Both Junior and Senior Schools will be closed on Confirmation Day, **Friday 26th May**.