



## **IMPORTANT DATES WHICH HAD BEEN SET BUT SOME OF WHICH MAY NOW BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020**

School closes at 12noon for Easter Holidays

**April 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**

School re-opens.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020**

First Holy Communion

**May 4<sup>th</sup> 2020**

School closed for May Bank Holiday

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020**

Confirmation

**June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**

School Closed for June Bank Holiday

**June 26<sup>th</sup> 2020**

School closes at 12 noon for summer holidays

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF**

In these uncertain and unprecedented days, we send you our good wishes and hope that everyone is well. We hope that all our pupils are keeping active and helping around the home and are keeping busy with their school work.

Our school motto is "I have come so they may have life and live it to the full" (John 10:10)

We are hoping to return to school sooner rather than later, and that our pupils will return to living their young lives to the full by seeing their friends and getting back to their daily routine. We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school as soon as our country returns to the normality that we all know.

As we come to the end of the season of Lent 2020, we sincerely wish you all a Happy, Holy and most importantly, a Healthy Easter.



## **INTEL MINI-SCIENTIST COMPETITION**

Three Sixth Class students represented the school at the Intel Mini Scientist Grand Final which was held on January 29<sup>th</sup> in Maynooth University.



Clara Powell, Addison O'Loughlin and Freya Starr Amran were awarded a Certificate of Excellence with their project 'Wireless Energy Transfer'. In each round of the competition, Freya, Clara and Addison exhibited their project which included a visual display, a project book and a demonstration of their work for a panel of judges. Well Done to the girls on their great work throughout each of the different stages of the competition.

## **GREEN SCHOOLS**



The Green Schools Committee are continuing their work on the reduction and recycling of waste at school by encouraging pupils and staff to segregate paper, batteries, tetra-pack containers and fruit waste in the correct bins. The committee recently carried out a survey on pupil understanding of Climate

Change and what can be done in order to make a positive impact. Together with the Clarecastle Community Development Project, the committee recently organised a biodiversity outing for Fifth and Sixth Class pupils. The children met with Mary Dillon, archaeologist and heritage expert, who is working in conjunction with the Community Development Group to help develop and improve the diversity of plants and animals in the People's Park. Children were engaged in formulating ideas and plans for improving the park and Mary will communicate the ideas back to the group, with the view to implementing some of these ideas.

## CYCLE TRAINING

The Green Schools Committee recently organised Cycle Training for Fifth Class pupils. This was provided by 'Cycle Right' and is funded by An Taisce, Clare County Council and the Parents Association.



Cycle Right is the National Standard for Cycle Training. It is an inclusive programme and provides practical cycle safety and skills training to promote competent and confident cyclists. Pupils enjoyed cycling their bikes in the school yard on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March which was their first training session. This has proven in past years to be a great opportunity to build cycling confidence in a safe environment and to develop competence in road cycling.

## SCHOOL CHOIR

The school choir had a busy term which began with the Peace Proms concert in Galway on January 25<sup>th</sup>. They performed a variety of songs in a group of about 1,000 children and were accompanied by a full symphony youth orchestra. Well done to all the boys and girls who sang their hearts out and performed wonderfully on the day.



They also deserve great praise for their beautiful singing at the Grandparents Mass in February which was appreciated and applauded by all present. On February 29<sup>th</sup>, they competed in the Limerick Choral Festival where they sang two songs – 'Dry Bones' and 'Thankful'. Yet again, they performed beautifully and did themselves and the school proud. Well done to all! Preparations were underway for another competition in Tipperary which was subsequently cancelled. Keep up the singing boys and girls! We'll be looking forward to hearing all your lovely voices again on our return to school!

## ENGINEERS WEEK

Engineers Week was held from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and proved to be a most enjoyable week of innovation and invention. Children worked in groups and prepared a wonderful variety of interesting projects which were displayed for all to see. These projects included parachutes, post boxes, a tower for Rapunzel's escape, lego bridges

and race tracks and even a spaghetti suspension bridge!



## ENGINEERS WEEK

Many thanks to the parents who volunteered to share their experiences of working in the engineering industry with a number of classes. As always, your giving of your time is much appreciated by both staff and pupils.



## FEILE NA H-INSE

I mbliana, bhí páistí ó Rang 5 agus Rang 6 ag obair go dian ag ullmhú chun páirt a ghlacadh i dTráth na gCeist sa chomórtas Feile na hInse. Maith sibh a phaistí! B'fheidir go mbeidh seans agaibh an chomórtas seo a dhéanamh ag am éigean eile.



This year, children from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class were preparing to take part in a table quiz at the Féile na hInse Competition. Well done to those pupils for volunteering. There might be a chance at another time to take part in this competition.

## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ón 9-13ú Márta. Bhí a lán imeachtaí ar siúl sa scoil i rith na seachtaine chun na páistí a spreagadh chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid go minic agus go nádúrtha. Bhí Tráth na gCeist ar siúl sa halla do na ranganna sinsearacha ar an 12ú Márta. Bronnadh duaiseanna ar na páistí a bhuaigh na comórtais seo.



Freisin, thug grúpaí páistí ó ranganna sinsearacha cuairt ar ranganna sóisearacha chun scéalta as Gaeilge a léamh. Bhain na páistí óga an-taitneamh as an ócáid seo chun bheith ag éisteacht le scéalta dheasa á léamh ag na daltaí sinsearacha. Bhí a lán cleachtadh ar siúl i rith na seachtaine agus roimhe sin i gcomhair 'An Taispeántas Scoile' a bhí eagraithe chun bheith ar siúl ar an Aoine 13ú Márta. Bhí amhráin, dánta agus dramaí le cloisint go forleathan timpeall na scoile. Beidh lá eile againn chun glacadh páirt ann gan dabht agus beimid ag tnúth le sin! Leanaigí ar aghaidh leis an gcleachtadh agus an dea-óibre a pháistí! Maith sibh!

Ná dean dearmad an Ghaeilge a labhairt sa bhaile chomh minic agus is féidir!



SEACHTAIN  
NA GAEILGE

A week of Irish took place in the school from the 9th to 13th March. There were many events held in the school to encourage the children to use Irish frequently and naturally. A Table Quiz was held for the senior classes on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Prizes were awarded to the children whose teams won.

Pupils from some senior classes also visited junior classes to read a story in Irish to them. The younger children really enjoyed this occasion to hear an enjoyable story, read to them by the senior pupils.

Classes spent a lot of time during the week and beforehand practising for our 'Taispeántas Gaeilge' which was scheduled for Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals of songs, poems and dramas could be heard throughout the school. There will, no doubt, be another chance to take part in this performance and we will be looking forward to it. Keep up the practise and the great work! Well done!

Don't forget to use a few Irish words at home as often as possible!



## INDOOR HURLING

Third and Fourth Class boys attended a schools blitz in January in Gurteen where they played very well. Well done to all students involved!



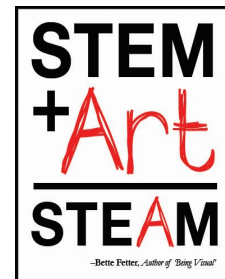
## STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council have created a rota for Peer Mediation in the School Yard. This initiative, which has been very beneficial to both Council members and pupils, is being extended so that more pupils can join with the Student Council members and be available to resolve any minor issues that may occur while children are playing in the school yard.



Well done to all members of the student council who work really well together and are great at helping in the school yard.

## STEAM



All the boys and girls who have been trained as members of the school Learning Squads deserve great praise for their work. Opportunities will be provided in the coming months for more pupils to be trained.

Well done also the boys and girls who have been trained on using the 'Book Creator' app on the iPads. Their visit to classes on March 12<sup>th</sup> proved to be a most enjoyable and informative experience for all involved.

## INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

The Green Schools Committee registered the school for the Agri Aware Incredible Edibles initiative. This programme encourages schools across the country to sow and grow carrots, lettuce, potatoes, strawberries, turnips, spinach and herbs. Third Class hope to continue to focus on the initiative and sowed their strawberries which are already looking very promising!



## FIRST PENANCE

Congratulations to the boys and girls in Second Class who recently received the Sacrament of First Penance. Well done to all on a very meaningful and beautiful ceremony.

## MARION KEANE

### BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The boys and girls from Sixth Class enjoyed a wonderful day out at the Marion Keane Basketball Tournament in Ballyea National School. They all performed brilliantly.



The boys reached the final but were beaten by Ballyea NS. Well done to all who played on the day!

## TRAD GROUP

The Trad Group provided lovely accompaniment at the Grandparents Mass and added greatly to the occasion. They were also busy rehearsing with the band from Cloughleigh National School in Ennis. This was in preparation for their performance at the Annual Conference for the School Inspectorate at the Radisson Hotel, Limerick on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Well done boys and girls! Yet again, you all gave a wonderful performance!

