



IMPORTANT DATES

April 12th 2019
School closes at 12noon for Easter Holidays

April 29th 2019
School re-opens.
Parents Week and Technology Week

May 4th 2019
First Holy Communion at 11am

May 6th 2019
Bank Holiday - School Closed

May 20th to 24th 2019
Healthy Eating Week

June 3rd and 4th 2019
School Closed

June 17th to 21st 2019
Active Schools Week

June 28th 2019
School closes at 12 noon for summer holidays

August 29th 2019
School re-opens

NATIONAL AWARD IN INTEL MINI-SCIENTIST COMPETITION

Three Fifth Class students achieved wonderful success at the Intel Mini Scientist Grand Final which was held on Tuesday March 5th in Maynooth University.



Clara Powell, Addison O'Loughlin and Freya Starr Amran were awarded the 'Most Innovative Idea' Award with their project 'The Solar Powered Car'. The girls demonstrated how solar power works by making a solar powered car. They qualified to bring their project to the Grand Final in December. 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 solar powered car for a panel of judges.



The entire school community are very proud of the girls' achievement as almost 8,000

students from 120 schools in 18 counties across Ireland took part in the competition since last September. The Grand Final brought together the top 23 projects from across the country and was filled with innovative and imaginative projects, put together through months of hard work. The judges, after a very difficult task of deliberation, selected the winning projects. The hard work and commitment shown by Addison, Freya and Clara was praised by the judges in each round of the competition and led to their wonderful achievement.

VISIT FROM MINISTER JIM DALY TD

On February 12th, Jim Daly TD and Minister of State at the Department of Health visited the school. He was joined by Mr Joe Carey, TD and by Councillor Paul Murphy.

Having been made aware of the Internet and Technology Agreement, which provides guidelines on best practice on the use of technology by children and gives resources to parents to help monitor and secure their child's use of technology, by his cabinet colleague, Joe Carey TD, he decided to visit the school to further discuss the agreement and to address pupils in the school. He was welcomed to the school by the Student Council. The Trad Group enhanced the welcome with some lovely

tunes. He then proceeded to the School Library where members of the Learning Squads demonstrated some of the technological equipment being used throughout the school. Members of the Board of Management joined parents, staff and children from Third to Sixth Class in the School Hall to hear Minister Daly praise the initiative and the foresightedness of the school and of the Board of Management with the guidance and assistance of Dr Maureen Griffin, Forensic Psychologist and Director of MGMS Training Ltd. in devising the Agreement.



He also sought permission from Mr Moloney to bring the Internet and Technology Use Agreement to the attention of an interdepartmental working group, with the view to implementing similar agreements in schools throughout the country. His visit was completed with a performance by the School Choir. Minister Daly thanked and praised the children for their wonderful performances and for the warm welcome shown to him.

ALADDIN CONNECT

Just over 70% of parents have signed up to Aladdin Connect, an App on your phone through which you receive information about your pupil and the school. School reports will only be circulated by Aladdin Connect this year – they cannot be emailed due to GDPR regulations. If you have not done so, please set up the App on your phones and if you have any difficulty or questions on

how to do so, please contact the school office after Easter.

SURVEY ON LITERACY AND IRISH

A survey for each pupil was sent to parents on Literacy and Irish via SurveyMonkey. The response rate has been excellent and the results will be very useful for the school. The feedback will be analysed after the Easter holiday. If you have not yet completed the survey, we invite you to do so over the holidays. We have decided to leave it open until we return on 29th April. The survey should be in your email Inbox but if you cannot find it, it might have gone into Promotions or Spam.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Sensory Room has been completed and is a most enjoyable and relaxing area for students to visit. Thanks to the continued commitment and fundraising from the Parents Association for all their work in furnishing this valuable and much needed space.



Thanks also to all those who contributed to the recent Cash for Clobber collection. A large collection of ‘clobber’ was gathered which will raise welcome funds for the school.

Please have a look around at home during the Easter break for any school library books which have been read by your child and return them to the library in the new term.



If there are any unwanted children’s books that are in good

condition in your home, it would be greatly appreciated if you would donate them to the school. Before dropping them in, please check on www.arbookfind.co.uk to ensure that they can be added to the stock in the school library. Similarly, if there are school uniforms in good condition that are no longer needed in any household, please drop them into the school.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Clarecastle NS has applied for its sixth Green Schools’ Flag based on the theme ‘Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste’. On March 14th, a visit to the school was conducted by a staff member of the Environmental Department at Clare County Council, on behalf of An Taisce. This visit was part of the assessment process to ascertain if the school should be awarded the flag. Members of the Green Schools Committee guided the visitor around the school. They discussed the work of the committee and shared their knowledge on the various projects that had been completed over the past two years.

Classes were also visited as part of the assessment and pupils were questioned on associated project work and on their knowledge of the theme. Fifth Class enjoyed performing their ‘Green Schools Bop’ which was written by Thehan Jayasinghe..



The work, knowledge and interest shown by the children on the Green Schools Committee was commended on the day, as was the amount of projects completed and the interest and knowledge of the pupils throughout the school.

Members of the Green Schools Committee are: Darragh O’Callaghan, Lauren Cusack, Lee Moloney, Caoimhe Parry, Molly Potter, Liam Lynch, Marcus Sheahan, Cathal Murphy, Carly McDonagh, Keeva Moloney, Elliot Madden, Robyn Tuohy and Harry Morrisroe.

The school motto for this green flag is:

***Pollution! Pollution!
Let’s find a solution!***

CYCLE TRAINING

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



Pupils had the pleasure of taking to their bikes in the school yard on Thursdays for four weeks. The final session involved a supervised cycle whereby groups left the school grounds via the People’s Park and came back to school on the road.

It was a great opportunity to build cycling confidence in a safe environment and to develop competence in road cycling.

POLLINATOR WORKSHOP

Fifth Class pupils also had the pleasure of attending a Pollinator Workshop in the school grounds. This was organised by the Green Schools Committee and was provided by Irish Seed Savers Association.



They learned all about the importance of pollination in the lifecycle of plants. They observed a map of the school grounds and discussed areas within the school grounds where additional plants could be sown to aid pollination.

The Green Schools Committee travelled to Irish Seed Savers in Scariff on April 4th. They had the opportunity to see the organic seed gardens and the heritage orchards. Activities on the day included seed sowing, a treasure and plant hunt, plant identification and a woodland trail. A most enjoyable time was had by all.

INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

The Green Schools Committee registered the school for the Agri Aware Incredible Edibles initiative. This is a healthy eating programme for Primary School pupils and encourages schools across the country to get busy growing carrots, lettuce, potatoes, strawberries, turnips, spinach and herbs.



Schools are supplied with a grow pack which contains everything necessary to grow a feast of healthy foods.

Third Class will focus on the initiative and have visited the Community Garden to sow a variety of vegetables. They will be caring for the food produce in the coming months. Children in Senior Infants and First Class have also been busy sowing fruit and vegetables recently. All children will have the chance to observe these fruits and vegetables growing in the coming months. There might even be a chance for them to

cook and taste the fruits of the work!



COICÍS NA GAELIGE

Bhí Coicís na Gaeilge ar siúl ón 1-17ú Márta. Bhí a lán imeachtaí ar siúl sa scoil i rith na coicise chun na páistí a spreagadh chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid go minic agus go nádúrtha. Bhí “Taispeántas” ar siúl sa halla ar an 15ú Márta. Bhí gach rang ag canadh, ag déanamh ceoil, ag déanamh aithriseoireacht nó ag déanamh dráma. Bhí Tráth na gCeist ar siúl freisin do na ranganna sinsearacha i rith na seachtaine. Bronnadh duaiseanna ar na páistí a bhí ag déanamh sár-iarracht ag an nGaeilge.

Ná déan dearmad cúpla focal a úsáid sa bhaile chomh minic agus is féidir. “Beatha an teanga í a labhairt.”



A fortnight of Irish took place in the school from 1st to 17th March 2019. There were many events in the school to encourage the children to use Irish frequently and naturally. A “Taispeántas” took place on March 15th in the school hall. Each class sang, played music,

recited a poem or performed a drama. There was also a Table Quiz for senior classes during the week. Prizes were awarded to the children who made an excellent contribution to the Irish language. Don't forget to use a few Irish words at home as often as possible.

FEILE NA H-INSE

I mbliana, ghlac páistí ó Rang 5 agus Rang 6 páirt sa chomórtas Feile na hInse san aithriseoireacht agus i dTráth na gCeist. D'eirigh go maith leo.



This year, children from 5th and 6th class took part in recitation and in the quiz at the Féile na hInse Competition. Well done to the pupils who represented the school.

SCHOOL CHOIR

The school choir have been very busy learning new songs in the past two months. They performed for Junior Minister Jim Daly and also sang at the Grandparents' Mass in early March.

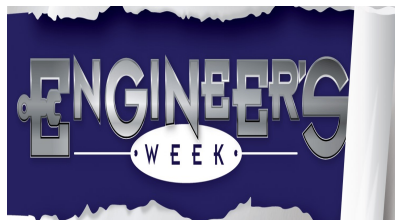


They are currently undertaking their biggest challenge yet - they are learning a four part piece which will be performed as part of their repertoire at Féile an tSamhraidh choral competition in Midleton, Co. Cork in May. The choir will also be

participating in a unique choral event which will be held in Limerick and will see a number of schools join together for a fun, non-competitive choral workshop day. They are looking forward to these upcoming events.

ENGINEERS WEEK

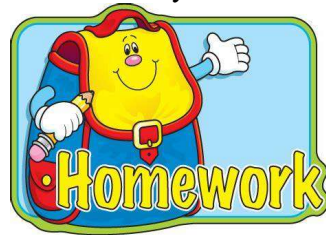
Engineers Week was held from March 11th to 15th. Classes prepared a variety of interesting projects which were displayed for all to see. Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to visit classes and to share their expertise, knowledge and advice about working in the engineering industry.



STUDENT COUNCIL

The Students Council have created a rota for the use of hula-hoops in the yard at lunchtime. They also make sure that all the basketballs and footballs are pumped.

A suggestion was made by the council to have learning homework only on Thursdays. This was accepted by all teachers and is currently being implemented on a trial basis. Teachers will review this after the Easter holidays.



Consultation took place with the Student Council regarding the Internet and Technology Agreement and school policies,

and their opinions were greatly valued.



They are now part of the Busy Bee Squads where they will research topics that they would like to learn about and report their findings to their classes. Some topics that were suggested were sports, World War II and even chocolate! They have researched chocolate and will visit classes to share a few interesting facts and reward each class with an Easter egg to raffle.

They are also busy deciding on their summer fundraiser which will take place in June. Last year's Crazy Hair Day was a great success and the proceeds paid for a tasty visit from an ice cream truck and K-nex.

STEAM

Thanks to the generosity and support of Roche Ireland, the school has been in the position to purchase another bank of iPads. There are now 34 iPads available for pupil use and each mainstream teacher has been allocated their own class iPad. Knockanean National School have teamed up with us, which provides the opportunity to visit and share ideas during the school year.



Micro:bits have also been purchased and the learning squads are beginning to explore these with the view to showing classes how they work.

PARENTS WEEK

Parents Week will be held from April 29th to May 3rd. Parents working in a variety of different enterprises have volunteered to come and talk to different classes about their particular career. National Technology Week will also be marked during that week.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

Active Schools Week will be held from June 17th to June 21st. Children will be given the opportunity to take part in a variety of physical activities while having fun. Sports Day will be held on Friday, June 21st.



STUDENT WELLBEING

Healthy Eating Week will be held from May 20th to May 24th. Children will be encouraged to bring healthy lunches to school and the emphasis will be on eating fruit, vegetables and healthy sandwiches. Healthy foods should be part of every child's daily diet as it promotes wellbeing and enhances a child's ability to concentrate at school.



A School Support Team has recently been established. This team is available to children who wish to talk to an adult about any worries they might have.

MARION KEANE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The girls and boys in Sixth Class participated in the Marion Keane Basketball Tournament in Ennis National School in February.



They played Ennis National School, Holy Family National School and Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg. The boys had a good win against the Holy Family. Well Done to all who played on the day!

CUMANN NA MBUNSCOIL

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class boys and Fifth and Sixth Class girls participated in the Mini Sevens in Gurteen on March 26th and on April 1st. Third and Fourth Class boys attended a schools blitz in January in Gurteen.

Well Done to all students involved!

SCHOOLS SOCCER

Four teams entered the Clare Schools soccer competition this week. Two girls' teams and two boys' teams travelled to Lees Road and had a most enjoyable day. Two teams won their matches and are through to the next round in early May. Well done to all and wishing the winning teams the best of luck in the next round!



CONFIRMATION

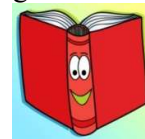
Congratulations to the pupils in Sixth class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on February 15th. They were a credit to their families on the day and were complimented by Bishop Fintan Monahan.



Many thanks to the parents who gave their time to prepare and provide the very welcome refreshments in the School Hall after the ceremony.

ACCELERATED READER

Since September, pupils from First to Sixth Class have read 9,246 books and approximately 85 million words. It is possible that last June's record of 10,500 books will be broken this June!! Continue to remind your child to read during the Easter holidays.



HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

Mr Moloney and all the staff in the school wish you all a very Happy Easter. Enjoy the break and we'll see you all again on April 29th.