



St. Mary's Primary School

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Dear parents and guardians,

We are delighted to inform you that our 'Witches and Wizards Walk' raised €3,550 for our Parents' Association. This money will be used to support various activities for pupils in the school. A huge thank you to our Parents' Association for organising the event and to all those that made such generous donations.

Míle buíochas libh go léir.

Niall Spain and Staff



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Beidh an scoil ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge an tseachtain seo chugainn agus tá na daltaí ag cleachtadh gach lá. Tá go leor amhráin, dánta agus féadóg stáin le cloistéail i ngach seomra agus ar na dorchla. Maith thú gach duine!

The school will be celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge next week and the pupils are practising every day. Songs, poems and the tin whistle can be heard in every classroom and on the corridors. Well done everyone!

Dates for the Diary

- Thursday March 27th Half Day closure for Bí Cineálta training
- Monday April 7th Full Day closure for Primary Maths Curriculum training
- Saturday 10th May 2nd class Communion
- Saturday 7th June 6th class Confirmation

Junior Infants

Well done to our two Junior Infant classes who performed 'The Nativity' for their parents and families in December. The children spent a great deal of time rehearsing their lines and songs, and we are very proud of them. We have some future stars of the stage in the making!

The children have been learning GAA skills with Cian Farrell as part of PE and have enjoyed their sessions with him every week. Thank you, Cian, from all in Junior Infants.

Fighting Words

Offaly Fighting Words facilitated writing workshops for our 6th class pupils. The students engaged in a story writing session focusing on creativity and imagination. Ms O'Connor's class collectively wrote Danny and the Magic Cat, which was published on the Fighting Words website. Mr Carey's class wrote a chapter which was included in a published book, along with chapters written by 6th class students in other schools in Edenderry. The students received copies of the book, and some copies were also added to the 6th class library. It was an enjoyable experience for all involved. Fourth class will be working with the Fighting Words team in March. A big thank you to Anne and her team from Fighting Words for all their hard work with our senior classes.

Realtaí Beaga

The children in Réaltaí Beaga have been very busy this term. The boys and girls in Ms Carty's room have loved learning all about Spring! They went on a lovely nature walk to find some signs of Spring. The children found lovely daffodils and lots of new shoots in their sensory garden. We look forward to making some Spring crafts based on what we found on our walk. Similarly in McDonnell's room the children were investigating the insects that appear in Springtime, through a wide variety of toy mini beasts, magnifying glasses and jumbo tweezers. The children collected leaves and twigs outside to use as homes for the insects to hide under and further explored insects and animals in the garden in the stories "Superworm" and "Frog's Day Out".



Hurling & camogie

The boys and girls from 4th to 6th classes are busy practising their hurling and camogie skills in preparation for the Offaly Cumann na mBunscol competitions which will begin shortly. Thanks to Ms. O'Connor, Ms. Gorman, Mr. Judge and Mr. Carey for sharing their coaching expertise.

School Garden

Spring has sprung in our school garden. Thank you to our fifth and sixth class pupils who planted lots of daffodil bulbs last October. Ms Conroy's second class repotted their sweetpea plants. Ms Williamson's class did some weeding and planted garlic bulbs.

All classes throughout the school will be busy over the next few months as we immerse ourselves in our school garden activities.

Ceremony of Light

The students from 6th class who will be making their confirmation this year, attended the Ceremony of Light on 28th January in St. Mary's Church. The children, along with their parents, lit their Baptismal candle. This symbolised their commitment to their confirmation journey.



Active School

This year we are aiming to recommence our Active Flag journey in St Mary's. The Active Flag Programme celebrates and promotes physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. We hope to set up a committee of students and teachers to begin the process this month.

6th Class Carol Singing

6th class students went carol singing in the Edenderry Shopping Centre on Wednesday 18th December. Their performance included a mix of traditional Christmas songs and modern pop, as well as some tin whistle tunes. Thank you to all who turned out to support us on this day.



Peace Proms

The children in Ms. Cunningham and Mr. O' Connor's third classes travelled to the RDS on February 1st, to take part in the Peace Proms concert. This involved months of preparation in the lead up to the big day, with learning songs and movements. The children put on a wonderful show, and their enthusiasm was second to none!



Swimming

Our 4th class pupils are travelling to Portarlinton each Monday for their swimming lessons. The pupils are making great progress each week. Fifth class pupils will begin swimming lessons after Easter. Thanks to the Parents Association who subsidised the cost of the buses.

Diversity Games

Athletes from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes recently travelled to Athlone to take part in the Diversity Games. The children took part in sprints, long distance runs and long jumps with great confidence and they brought home a large haul of medals!



GAA coaching

All classes have been lucky enough this term to receive some GAA coaching from the Edenderry GPO, Cian Farrell. Cian is sharing his expertise with the pupils and ensuring that the children are all having fun while learning new skills.

Street League Soccer Tournament

Our street league was a great success with 20 teams taking part, consisting of no less than 101 players. We witnessed 124 goals over the course of the 16 days, culminating in the finals taking part in the Youth Café astroturf. Well done to Argentina and Germany on their victories in this year's tournament. 28 pupils will now be selected to represent the school in the FAI Soccer Tournament at the end of March.



Amber Flag

The Amber Flag committee was formed earlier this year with pupils from 3rd to 6th classes. The aim of the committee is to promote positive mental health in the school. The committee meet regularly with the co-ordinator Miss Fingleton. At the moment, the committee are planning a Wellbeing week which will take place later this term.

Collecting your child early

If collecting your child early from school, please avoid collecting between 11:00 - 11:15 and 12:45 - 1:15 as the pupils are outside playing at this time.

VEX Robotics

On Friday, February 7th, Mr. Kelliher's 5th class took part in the VEX IQ Robotics Championship in Tullamore. The class had been working incredibly hard since early October to design and build a robot to enter the competition. The children developed incredible problem-solving skills and learned how to become a team. The class had to do many tasks such as building, coding, creating a digital portfolio and designing a physical scrapbook.

On the day itself, the children played in 9 different matches against other schools from Offaly, and got better as the day progressed. The class ended the day by winning The Judges Award and picking up a well deserved trophy for all their efforts. The team gladly gave robot demonstrations to all classes from 2nd Class-6th Class in the following week and developed lots of public speaking and communication skills.

Their hard work, dedication, and teamwork truly paid off, making it an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.