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## **Easter 2022 Newsletter**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we approach the end of our second term of our school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the support and help you have offered the school over the past few months.

Please note that we will finish at 12pm on April 8<sup>th</sup> for the Easter Holidays, and will not reopen until Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Liam McCarthy Cup Visit:** The Liam McCarthy Cup, won by the victorious Limerick senior hurling team last year, will finally visit our school this Friday before the Easter holidays. We look forward to celebrating its arrival once again! On the day, children will be asked to wear Green.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge:** Bhí sár seachtain againn sa scoil le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí caint, ceol agus cluichí i rith na seachtaine agus bhain gach duine taitneamh as. We had a wonderful week for Seachtain na Gaeilge during March with a huge amount of Irish spoken by all children across the school. It culminated in Rannta le Chéile in the hall at the end of the week. Sincere thanks to Mrs Tierney for planning and organising all of the events. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!!

**Confirmation:** Congratulations to the boys who received their Confirmation last weekend. We had a really lovely occasion in St Brigid's Church. Fr Gibson was the celebrant and paid tribute to the boys' excellent presentation on the day and preparation in the lead up to the ceremony. Thanks to Ms Ní Cheallaigh and all of the parents and guardians for preparing the boys so well for the day.



**Creative Cluster:** Our development of music continues in the school. Each week we have tin whistle practice for seniors, first, second and sixth classes and ukulele practice for third, fourth and fifth classes. We saw some excellent performances during seachtain na Gaeilge from classes and look forward to listening to the boys as they improve each week. It is really important that they do their practise at home in the evening in order to gain the most benefit from the lessons. Many thanks to everyone who paid their music fees. There is a total cost of €24 for the year (€8 per term). If you haven't paid already, we would appreciate it if this could be done at your earliest convenience. Mr Murray arranged a live performance of a variety of traditional musicians for Seactaine na Gaeilge also, which was really enjoyed by all of the pupils.

**Prayer Service at St Patrick's Well:** Last month we held a prayer service at St Patrick's Well on the eve of St Patrick's Day. The service was led by our parish priest and chairperson of our Board of Management, Fr Gibson. The boys sang traditional hymns including Hail Glorious St Patrick and Dóchas Linn Naomh Pádraig. Many thanks to Ms Beary for the beautiful choir and to our 6<sup>th</sup> class boys who played on the tin whistle. We look forward to next year! We then returned to school to hear the story of St Patrick, beautifully told by a group of boys arranged by Mr Ryan.

**Ukraine Appeal:** Míle buíochas to everyone who contributed so generously to our recent Ukraine appeal. €1080 was raised on the day with all proceeds being donated to the Irish Red Cross.

**Sport:** Our u13 football and basketball teams have been in action over recent weeks. The basketballers are participating in their leagues and have had games against Lisnagry, JFK and Kildimo. Our footballers played a blitz last week in Old Christians GAA and will play again this Thursday. Thanks to Mr Ryan, Ms Hogan, Ms Ní Cheallaigh and Mr Murray for preparing the teams. Paul Browne continues to coach hurling each week to all our classes up to third class. Great to see so many boys participating in their games. Information on how to join some local sports teams can be found on our [website or by clicking here](#).

**STEAM: Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEAM)** has been a focus of our attention in school over the past year. Teachers have recently received in-service training in this area as we plan to further develop children's critical thinking, problem solving and cooperative skills. Our third class boys have been extremely busy in the afternoons these past few weeks designing and making lego robotic vehicles and programming these to drive a course using Spike Software. It has been really interesting observing the



boys use all their problem solving, construction and ICT skills to overcome the many challenges that were posed. They were ably facilitated by Mrs Tierney, our ICT coordinator, Mr Shanagher and Ms O'Grady. Ms Martin's first class were building bridges recently, which had to take the weight of a toy car. Geoff Hunt, renowned ecologist, has also taken classes on very interesting nature walks which hugely benefit all of our pupils. These are among a variety of valuable class activities that are taking place. Please follow our social media pages (details of pages in header) to keep up to date with these projects and much more!!.

**School Garden:** Third Class boys are this week working hard on preparing the school garden for planting at the end of the week. Tilling the soil is an important part of the process and along with ensuring that there is adequate crop rotation from last year's garden. There is great enthusiasm from the boys and we look forward to another healthy crop. Go n-éiri libh a bhúachailí!

**Child Safeguarding:** As you are aware, we reviewed our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment at the end of the last term. Please be aware that as teachers and mandated persons, we have a statutory obligation to report concerns that we may have or are highlighted to us of a child protection and welfare nature to TUSLA. While it is our responsibility to report, TUSLA have the role of investigating these concerns. For more information for parents and guardians on child protection matters, [please click here.](#)

**School Holiday:** Please be aware that Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, will be taken as a school holiday in accordance with Department of Education updated guidelines.

**Student Council:** The students' council participated in the INTO plant a tree campaign recently which aims to plant a million trees as part of their climate action plan. We were delighted to have Limerick hurler, Dan Morrissey in for the occasion.

**ASD Special Class:** Planning for the ASD special classes is on-going at present. We will have a prefab in place for September while the main permanent building is being constructed. This project will take approximately two years to finish.



**Janette McCarthy:** Last week we said goodbye to our former “lollipop lady” Janette McCarthy who retired recently. Janette worked at the traffics lights for 28 years and in that time made thousands of safe crossings of boys and girls from both schools. We had a retirement ceremony in the school last week where we bid her a fond farewell. Thanks Janette for all your work!



Wishing you all a happy Easter.

Is mise le meas,

Principal