 

**March Newsletter 2018**

**Dear Parents,**

**Storm Emma** We hope you remained safe and well during the recent inclement weather, while still availing of some opportunity to enjoy the snow and create some happy memories.

**World Book Day** In order to promote a love of reading, we will celebrate World Book Day (postponed due to school closure) on Friday 9th March. Each class will engage in book swops, fun quizzes and reading activities. Please wrap up an age-appropriate book for your child to swap with one of his/her classmates. The Book Swap will ensure everyone has a “new” book and a possible introduction to a different author. Pupils are also invited to “dress up” as their favourite book character and bring along their matching favourite book to regale their classmates. Pupils will receive a Book Token which entitles them to a free ‘World Book Day’ book, or money off any book of their choice in participating bookshops.

**Coicís na Gaeilge agus Lá Fhéile Pádraig.** Seachtain na Gaeilge began on March 1st and continues until March 17th (St. Patrick’s Day). It gives an opportunity to everyone, to enjoy our Irish language and Irish culture. Bígí ag labhairt Gaeilge. All classes are engaged on a daily basis in general conversational Irish and we would encourage you at home to try out a cúpla focail as well – the responses will be readily forthcoming from the children. Bainigí triail. Classes will come together in the halla for fun activities, such as Tráth na gCeist, Cluichí Biongó, Amhráin, Céilí to promote a grá for our native language. Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir.

To instil a grá don Ghaeilge, we have also arranged a Reading Buddy System, whereby the older classes will pair up with the Junior & Senior Infants and read scéalaí as Gaeilge to them.

**First Confession** **and Confirmation**. First Confession for 2nd Classes took place in the Church on Thurs 22nd Feb at 7.30 p.m. We commend children and their teachers, Ms Fitzgerald, Mrs Crowley and Ms. O’ Byrne on their hard work and preparation for the ceremony. Well done everyone. Confirmation took place on Tues 27th Feb and the 6th class were a credit to themselves, parents, teachers, Fr. Fitzgerald and Bishop Crean alike. Well done to Mr. Cronin and Michelle McCarthy for all their preparations. Congrats to all.

**GAA Training** GAA Hurling Training takes place every Thursday for all classes up to Thursday 22nd March. We wish to thank Blarney GAA for their continuous support of our school and to the generous volunteering of the coach.

**Discover Primary Science.** We continue to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths in our school and this year all classes are participating in the Discover Primary Science Awards. The final date for staff training is on Tuesday April 17th . The school will close at 1 p.m. on that day to facilitate the workshop by Frances McCarthy, Education and Outreach Officer at Blackrock Castle Observatory.

**Cork City Sports/June Bank Holiday**

Cork City Sports takes place on Friday 1st June this year. *Please note that the school will open on that day (originally scheduled to close)* in order to allow pupils and volunteering teachers to participate and accompany children to the sports. The school will close alternatively on Mon 4th and Tues 5th June for the June Bank Holiday.

**Relief Traffic Warden**

We are pleased to inform you that Cork County Council has appointed Pat Walsh as a relief traffic warden to our school. We wish her every success in her new role and also we would also like to wish Jill a full recovery.

**Reminders:** Just a few items to note to ensure child protection and safety of all in the school.

* Pupils are supervised in the hall in the mornings from 8.40 a.m. to 8.50 am when school starts. No responsibility is accepted for pupils who arrive before this time as they are not insured or supervised.
* Good Attendance is vital for learning, so please ensure that you send your child to school every day unless he/she is ill. A note is require for absences. Equally, please ensure that your child arrives on time in the mornings as late arrivals are required to be recorded. Our school is obliged to issue a Standard Letter to parents whose child is absent for 20 days or more. This is a statutory obligation and is never meant to offend.
* Parents and visitors **MUST** report to the office before going to any class. Equally, please sign the “Sign Out” book if withdrawing your child during the school day.
* Please ensure that your child is collected no later than 2.30 p.m. as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after that time.

**School Tours.** School Tour venues and dates for this year are as follows. Please return forms and fees in due course.

Junior Infants: Leahy's Farm, 4th May

Senior Infants: Blackrock Observatory, 6th June

1st Class: Fota Wildlife Park, 14th June

2nd Class: Cuskinny Court, 31st May

3rd Class: Bunratty Castle, 15th June

4th Class: Spike Island, 21st May

5th Class: St. John's Castle, 13th June

6th Class: Dublin, 16th May

**Standardised Tests.** The annual standardised tests will commence the week beginning 30th April. Please ensure that your child attends school on this week.

**Student Council.** Members of Student Council, along with 6th will donate some of the funds raised at the recent Valentine’s Coffee Morning to Bernice Manley on Wed 7th to support her work in establishing schools for children in East Africa. We highly commend their generosity. Our Student Council have also studied and researched the work of local community activists as examples in how to help our own school community.

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Lá Fhéile Pádraig:** School closed on Mon 19th March

**Easter Holidays:** School closes onFriday 23rd March at **12 noon** and re-opening on Monday 9th April.

**Easter Camp:** An Easter Camp takes place from 26th – 29th March. Please contact Ms. Fitzgerald.

**Standardised Test Week –** week beginning April 30th.

**May Bank Holiday:** Mon 7th May to Fri 11th May

**Communion:** Sat 19th May @ 11 a.m.

**Cork City Sports:** Fri June 1st.

**June Bank Holiday:** Mon 4th & 5th June

***On behalf of the Staff of Scoil Chroí Íosa, we wish you an enjoyable Lá Fhéile Pádraig.***

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Mary Magner Ciara O’ Callaghan