



Scoil Iognáid de Rís

Spring 2016

CBS Primary School, Kilkenny

056 7761739 office@cbsprimarykilkenny.net



Fáilte

On behalf of our school community, I would like to offer a special word of thanks to our outgoing Board of Management under the Chairmanship of Mr. Conor O'Higgins, and extend a warm welcome to our new Board of Management who will serve the school for the next four years. They are Chairman, Mr. Dónal Ó'Hanlon, Principal, Mr. Dónal Mc Carthy, Teachers' Representative, Mr. Niall Bergin, Bishop's Nominee, Paschal Bergin, Parents' Representatives, Ann Marie Deegan and Eric Granier, Community Representatives, Ann Croghan and Catherine O'Higgins.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Roberts on the occasion of his marriage to Pam. I wish them a long and happy life together. Best wishes and congratulations also to Mr. Bergin and his wife Eilís on the birth of their second daughter, Aoife and I welcome back Mrs. Ryan after the birth of her second daughter Maisy. I also wish Mrs. Moloney and Ms. Curran well. They are both currently on maternity leave and we await their good news.

I hope this newsletter will give you a flavour of the great work your children are doing with their teachers.

Dónal Mc Carthy, Principal.



Particularly noteworthy this year was the arrival of the Liam McCarthy Cup to the school in September, the official opening of the Brothers' Field by President of the G.A.A. Mr. Aogán Ó'Fearghail and Bishop Séamus Freeman and the arrival of the Defence Forces to the school to present both the National Flag and a copy of the original Proclamation. All schools will celebrate Proclamation Day on March 15th 2016.

Our co-curricular and extra-curricular programme has been progressing well this year, with the pupils enjoying Basketball, Performing Arts, Chess, Swimming, Tag Rugby, Jesters, Guitar, Gaelic Football and Hurling.

We are really blessed to have such a committed and hard-working teaching staff and ancillary staff, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for all their hard work.

I would also like to thank our Parents' Council for their Trojan work. They play a vital role in the smooth running of our school. A big thanks also to you, our parents, for supporting our Healthy Lunch Policy and I encourage you to continue to do so. Our children will thank us in the years to come.

Finally I'd like to wish the boys in 2nd class and 6th class well, as they prepare for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. It is a special occasion for all the children and their families. I hope the sun shines on March 12th for Confirmation and on May 22nd for Holy Communion. Thanks to Mrs. Bolger and Mrs. Ryan for preparing the second class boys and also to Mrs. Larkin and Mr. Leahy for their work with the sixth class boys.



CBS Boys' Choir



The choir boys from 3rd class are getting ready to sing at Confirmation in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, 12th March. This introduces them to full membership of the choir which they will join next September. From then onwards they will participate in all choir activities including, training in musicianship, vocal technique and public performance.

Following a very successful and enjoyable Choir Trip to Manchester last June and a wonderful performance at the Lions Concert just before Christmas, the senior choir is preparing for a very special 'performance' in early July - at the wedding of former choir member, now teacher, Mr. Conor Leahy.

We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Seamus Brennan, Choirmaster of the CBS Boys' Choir, for his dedication, time and generosity in sharing his expertise with the members of the school choir over the last thirty five years. A legacy of great memories and accomplished singers follow him and his work.

2nd Class

Mrs. Ryan is delighted to be back from maternity leave after the birth of her second daughter Maisy.

Literacy Lift off continues on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This is a 'power hour' of English where the boys spend fifteen minutes at each of the four stations.

The stations develop the following skills: New Reading, Familiar Reading, Phonics through magnetic letters and games and finally Writing. The boys are really enjoying it and benefitting greatly from this initiative.

We would like to thank Mr. Reidy, Mr. Prendergast, Mrs. Malone and Ms. Phelan for working with our class teachers and all the parents for supporting their children at home with the reading and ensuring that all the books are kept in good condition and returned safely.

We've been learning the tin whistle in second class and Mrs. Bolger and Mrs. Ryan are very impressed with the amount of practice the boys are putting in at home. Our repertoire of tunes continues to grow.

Remember to tune in to www.padlet.com/mrsbolger/2ndclass or www.padlet.com/CBSMrsRyan/2ndclass to visit websites that will support your sons' school work and also to see photos of various school outings and activities that your children are partaking in with their class.

Swimming for second class will be commencing in April at a cost of €40. More details to follow.

Green School 2016



The Green School Committee will be very busy over the coming months in preparation for the application of our third green flag. This flag is an award for all our hard work and effort with conserving water in the school over the last two years. The first green flag was awarded for litter and waste management and the second green flag was in recognition of our work conserving energy.

It is a huge achievement for the school and a testament to the hard work and determination of Ms. Boyle and her Green School Committee.

Water Saving Tips

- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Water flowers with collected rain water.
- Use a hippo bag in the cistern of your toilet.
- Wash fruit and vegetables in a basin instead of leaving the water running.

5th/6th Class



The boys in Room 6 have been taking part in Readers' Theatre this year, having completed 'Tacky the Penguin', and we are currently enjoying 'The Bakers' Dozen'. We also started Thesaurus Boy after Christmas. This is great fun and we really like being put into teams. It makes learning more fun.

Thesaurus Boy and Readers' Theatre is helping us to develop and improve our vocabulary, reading fluency, reading comprehension, vocal expression and drama.

We have made a start on our Europe projects. Already we have researched famous landmarks and sketched them. We are looking forward to continuing our research in the computer room. Before Christmas, Mayor Joe Malone invited us to The Town Hall. He was very kind to us and showed us many interesting things including a historical sword and mace. We also got to meet Kilkenny soccer player, Mikey Drennan. He encouraged us to study hard and to try to fulfil our potential. We finished off our visit with mince pies.

Room 5 had a Basketball Tournament that spanned several weeks, one team emerged victorious. That team consisted of Jack O'Neill, Marcus Smitnicks, Qoyum Ramoni, Morgan Leefarr and Aaron Powis. Well done to all who took part. It was good fun and we improved our basketball skills a lot.

The boys from Room 7 have been making huge progress all year and have enjoyed many different activities in school. We completed swimming lessons before Christmas with much improvement made by all. Since January the focus has switched to Tag Rugby. The boys have enjoyed top class training sessions from our expert coach who visits the school once a week. The boys have really showed great enthusiasm for the game and have learned many rugby skills.

We are also very lucky to have Olympic Handball starting in our school which the boys will be partaking in, up to the Easter Holidays. The boys have really enjoyed all the sports they have tried this year and have shown great effort, respect and appreciation during the lessons. The hurling leagues are ongoing at the minute with many boys from Room 7 taking part.

In art and craft the boys have completed Rocking New Year's resolutions and now that spring is here, they have worked on a beautiful daffodil display.

Following the Sugar Crash documentary which was recently broadcast on RTE, the class has focused on healthy eating and nutrition in our science lessons.

They have completed their own research projects to discover just how much sugar we consume in our diet. The results were shocking and have really raised awareness in our class about the sugar content of food.



The boys used a grams scale to weigh out the different amounts of sugar contained in the most common food. The boys then completed a notice board display of the results so as to highlight the dangers of consuming too much sugar and thereby increasing awareness within the school. The negative impact of too much sugar in our diet was also discussed.

We are now turning our attention to the Easter Rising of 1916 and will be learning all about these seminal events over the coming weeks leading up to Easter 2016.

The boys are thoroughly enjoying their preparations for 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'.

Credit Union Quiz 2016



We entered four teams into the Credit Union Quiz this year. It was held in Springhill Hotel on February 1st. A great night was had by all. We didn't win on this occasion but we did very well indeed. When it was over we all received a 'goodie' bag

from the Credit Union.

Team 1 Donnacha O'Connor Richard Madden Darragh Maher Daniel Kelleher	Team 2 Killian Dollard Rúairí Harrison Greg Kelly Tristan Kelly
Team 3 Rory Flanagan Ben Malone Aaron Powis Tabib Wasit	Team 4 Darragh Mc Morrow Michael Ibrahim Tyler Riley-Byrne Conor Hayes.

We'd like to thank Ms. O'Grady and Mr. Leahy for preparing us for the quiz and for looking after us so well on the night.

3rd/4th Class

We are all thoroughly enjoying our swimming lessons in the Watershed every Thursday. All classes do their 'Go Noodle' at 12pm every Thursday. It's great fun and it gives us a welcome break from class work.

We go out to the Brothers' Field almost every day at lunch time. The Winter Hurling League is competitive and we all get great enjoyment from it.

Our class have done excellent projects on New Zealand and The Maoris. Ms. O'Grady is very pleased with us. On the Maori theme, we made lovely necklaces, using painted pasta and beads, for our mothers, for St. Valentine's Day.

We are all 'Tables Champions'. This is helping us a lot with our maths.

Finally we are enjoying Jesters every Tuesday and we are looking forward to performing our play 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'.

In art and craft the Room 10 boys made beautiful rocking chairs and really enjoyed doing their design and build a bridge project which they were allowed to do with their parents. Mr. Bergin was very impressed with the high quality of work which was produced and believes that we have future engineers on our hands. Well done to all. They have also just finished creating St. Brigid's crosses which they made from rushes.



Our Winter Hurling League is up and running again with five rounds of games played so far. Mr. Bergin will be picking the School Hurling Team very shortly and those matches will be starting in early March.

Active School Flag

Our school is working towards achieving an Active School's Flag. An Active School is a school that strives to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community.

We have signed up for the Laya Healthcare Super Troopers programme where every child receives a physical activity homework journal and completes

exercises and activities each night with family and friends as homework.

Designed by health and fitness experts, it's hoped the mix of high-intensity, family-based exercise routines and tips on nutrition will help school children and parents form long-term healthier attitudes and behaviours. Children are encouraged to spend 10-15 minutes doing each activity and parents are asked to sign off each activity at the end of the week, just as they would regular school work. Prizes will be awarded for children who make an effort to be active each day, and those who show improvements in physical activity.

We have set up a number of initiatives to get children more physically active throughout the school day:

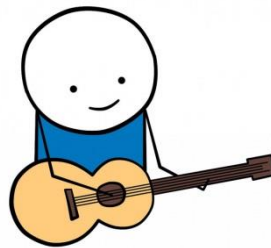
1. 'Move-It Monday': children are involved in aerobic exercises in their line after both lunch breaks. Exercise ranges from jumps, squats and jogs to burpees.
2. 'Wake- up Wednesday': the boys jog or walk around the pitch at their leisure before school and their aim is to achieve their own potential. The children are trying to improve the number of laps they can do each week, some boys are even timing their laps!
3. Children are participating in classroom activities every Thursday at 12 o'clock. Each class has a Go Noodle account and they work up exercise minutes.
4. Winter Hurling leagues are in full swing every Tuesday and Thursday.
5. The field is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for all classes to improve their hurling skills.

There is a strong focus on PE at the moment with teachers planning together and ensuring the children get 60 minutes of physical education each week. All ideas are welcome and can be placed in the 'Suggestion Box' upstairs or downstairs beside the Active Schools Board.

We would like to thank Mr. Bergin, Ms. O'Grady and the Active School Committee for their commitment and hard work in ensuring the success of this initiative.

A big thank you also to Mr. Bergin, Ms. O'Grady, Mr. Prendergast, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Reidy for promoting hurling by refereeing matches, coaching and helping the boys to improve their hurling skills.

Guitar Lessons



Mr. Leahy has completed the first term of Guitar Lessons. All seventeen boys really enjoyed the ten weeks. Most of the boys have attained Level 1 and some boys passed Level 2 also.

Well done to the following boys:

Mark Mullally, Evan Comerford, Rúairí Harrison, Tristan Kelly, Mikolaj Lesniak, Richard Madden, JJ Mooney, Dylan Wall, Daniel Kelleher, Martin Smith, Brooklyn Synnott, Valerjis Valsiljevs, Jamie de Grado Galvez, Darragh Maher, Dylan Deegan and Darragh Mc Morrow.

School Tour 2016



We will be going on our annual school tour on Friday, 17th June this year. Our destination is Dunmore East Adventure Centre, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford. We hope that all of you got your information letter.

If you haven't already given in a deposit of €10 by now and you wish your son to go, we would advise you to do so as soon as you can so that we can finalise our booking. Once a deposit has been paid we will take the remainder of the money in instalments over the next three months. We hope this will make payment easier for you. The tour costs €45 in total.

Book Fair 2016

In conjunction with World Book Day which is celebrated on Thursday, 3rd March this year, we held a Book Fair in the school on the 11th and 12th of February.



It was a good success and the boys really enjoyed browsing through a very good selection of books from Khan's Bookshop Kilkenny. Approximately €1,000 worth of books were sold. From that money Khan will donate €250 to the school. This money will be used to develop and improve literacy in the school.

Lenten Campaign 2016



Our Lenten Campaign for 2016 is currently under way. All classes are organising fundraising events to raise funds to help those in need. These activities will vary from sponsored walks, to sponsored mini – marathons, to soccer tournaments. Your son will bring home a sponsorship card soon. Your support is appreciated and remember every little bit helps.

Appeal to parents

We are hoping to assemble a support group of people from our parent body and friends of the school. If you have a particular skill or expertise in a specific area, and would be willing to give a little of your time, free of charge to enhance the school

building, the garden or more importantly to support the children themselves, then we'd love to hear from you. Some examples are art and crafts, gardening, cookery, carpentry, painting and decorating. Please contact Tom in the office at (056) 7761739 if you would like to volunteer.



Grandparents are also very welcome to become involved with the school by sharing their life experiences with the pupils. Please contact your grandchild's class teacher if you would like to arrange a visit.

Finally, we are planning an end of year fundraiser in Kilkenny Dog Track. We would greatly appreciate hearing from any of you who have experience or expertise in this area. If you are willing to go on a committee, please give your name to Tom in the office and I will be in contact.

Special Thanks

I thank Mrs. Grace for her time, effort and expertise in putting this newsletter together and for keeping the parents informed of all the wonderful work that is being done in the school along with the activities that are being provided for your children's enjoyment and development. She, along with the Special Education Team of Ms. Boyle, Mr. Reidy and Mr. Prendergast work in close contact with the class teachers to promote and develop literacy and numeracy throughout the school.

Sincere thanks also to Tom in the office for his patience, expertise and co-operation in assisting to put this newsletter together, along with all his never ending work for Retreats, Confirmation, Holy Communion, School Tours, Extra Curricular activities etc. I thank him also for his diplomacy and courtesy when dealing with parents and visitors to the school every day.

