

**Opening Time :** 9.00 am - 1.40pm for infant classes and 9.00am - 2.40pm for all other classes.  
School opens to receive pupils from 8.50am onwards.

## February Newsletter 2024

February has been a busy month. Children are doing lots of work in the classroom and enjoying time outside. Here is some of the latest news –

- **Literacy Lift-Off** has finished in the Middle and Senior Rooms. 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes read each day and worked on grammar, spellings, writing, iPads and other stations in the process.
- Well done to all the classes for starting off the month by making **St. Brigid's Crosses**. Every student got to take one home.
- **Pancake Tuesday** was celebrated on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. 6<sup>th</sup> class prepared and served pancakes to all pupils in the school, which was great to see.



- February 14<sup>th</sup> was a busy day in the school. Fr. Brendan called into the school and delivered ashes for **Ash Wednesday**. Lots of lovely cards went home for **Valentine's Day**.
- **Games Promotion Officer Mark Troy** has started his coaching. Coaching in both football and hurling for all classes will continue fortnightly.
- **Doon GAA and Brosna Gaels** presented the school with hurls, helmets and sliotars. This will ensure we have enough equipment for all children to learn new skills.

- **Student Council** – Entries for the school crest design has closed. The intention is to use a selection of ideas from the three classrooms for the final crest.



- **Coding** - Microsoft employee Andre McQuaid spent much of Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February with pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes on coding activities. The pupils enjoyed coding their own computer games on the iPads.

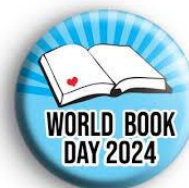


- 6<sup>th</sup> Class visited Gallen CS for a **taster day** on 29<sup>th</sup> February. They enjoyed their time in secondary school ahead of September.
- **Infant Hour** with SNA Louise Bennett is going very well. The boys and girls enjoy playing with their friends from 1.40pm – 2.40pm.
- The school's new First Aid Policy was ratified at a recent Board of Management. Please find on the school's website.
- **World Book Day** will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite characters on the day.

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- Lunchtime **Gaelic Football training** is underway for Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Focus is on skills, fundamental movements and **enjoyment**.
- **Hurling training** continues for our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class hurlers in preparation for the Spring Cumann na mBunscol league.
- **First Confession** took place in St. Colmcille's Church, Ballinahown on Sunday 11th February at 11.30am mass. Well done to all involved.
- **Confirmation**, with Bishop Paul Connell, will take place on Wednesday 20th March in St. Colmcille's Church, Ballinahown at 3pm.
- **Frása na Seachtaine** - The weekly Gaeilge phrase is being shared weekly on Aladdin. Families are encouraged to use the phrases at home.
- The **Parents' Association** had its first meeting and an interim committee has been formed and will run until the end of the school year. All relevant communication will be made via **Aladdin**. There is also a Rashina NS Parents Association Facebook page to share news and information.
- Work has begun on the damaged **ball stopper** from the January storms. This work will be completed in the coming weeks.



- Dean from Offaly County Council will spend time in Ms. Bryan's room introducing the Junior Room to **VEX 123** on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We are delighted that the younger classes will gain exposure to robotics.
- **Swimming for 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes** will begin after Easter on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April for 5 weeks. Full details on Aladdin.
- End of year **standardised tests** will take place on the weeks of 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of May.
- There is a very busy few weeks coming up for the school. Here are some of the events-
  - Gaelic Football Blitz for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class girls in Faithful Fields to celebrate Women in Sport.
  - World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.
  - FAI Schools 5-aside Boys and Girls Soccer Tournament will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March in Tullamore.
  - Cumann na mBunscol Hurling Competition will begin in March.
  - VEX Robotics tournament will take place in Gallen CS on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- The road outside the school is busy as always, especially at home times. Thanks again to all parents for being **extra vigilant** at these times and ensuring the safety of all.
- **School Closures** –
  - Friday 8th March - School used as polling station for referendums.
  - Monday 18th March - St. Patrick's Bank Holiday.
  - Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April – Closed for Easter Holidays.