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## January Newsletter 2024

It has been a busy start to 2024. Here is some of the latest news –

- **Literacy Lift-Off** is at the midway point in the Middle Room and Senior Room. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes are busy on their readers while 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes are enjoying many different novels. Both rooms are progressing all aspects of their literacy skills at the different stations in the process.



- **Grandparents Day** - As part of Catholic School's Week, Fr. Brendan celebrated mass in the school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. It was particularly nice to see so many people join us on the day, especially the grandparents. There was a cup of tea for all afterwards.
- **DES Inspector Lena Ní Dhuinn** visited the school for a two day Curriculum Evaluation of English on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of January. Lena enjoyed her interactions with our pupils in the classrooms. She gave the staff lots of positive feedback and some advice for going forward.
- School is delighted that Doon GAA, along with the other local clubs, have employed a **Games Promotion Officer**. Coaching in

- There was **damage to our ball stopper** during the January storms. Thanks to the parents who helped to temporarily fix it. There will be a more permanent work completed in the coming weeks. Big thanks also to Offaly Council Council for treating the roads approaching school to ensure a safe opening during the frost.
- **Infant Hour** with SNA Louise Bennett is going very well. The boys and girls enjoy playing with their friends from 1.40pm – 2.40pm.
- **Open Evening** took place on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. The staff were delighted to welcome prospective pupils and their families into the school. A special thanks to the pupils from Ms. Moran's room who helped show the young boys and girls around. Enrolment for September 2024 is open.
- **St. Brigid's Crosses** - Lovely to see lots of children make the traditional crosses in advance of St. Brigid's Feast Day.
- **Beauty and the Beast** - Gallen CS have invited 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class to the matinee show on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.
- **First Confession** will take place in St. Colmcille's Church, Ballinahown on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am mass.
- **Confirmation**, with Bishop Paul Connell, will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March in St. Colmcille's Church, Ballinahown at 3pm.
- **Student Council** - The girls and boys are busy. They are working on many issues and receiving suggestion from all the students. They are currently excited about designing a school crest.
- **Frása na Seachtaine** - The weekly Gaelge phrase will be shared on Aladdin each week. Families are encouraged to use the phrases at home.

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both football and hurling for all classes will begin soon. This will involve a full day's coaching from Mark Troy every fortnight.

- Lunchtime **Gaelic Football training** will begin for all classes in February. Focus will be on skills and enjoyment. This will progress into little tournaments. Training days will be shared on Aladdin.
- We will enter our **first ever Rashina NS hurling team** into the Spring Cumann na mBunscol league. Pupils from 3rd to 6th are encouraged to take part.



- Well done to the girls and boys who represented the school at the U-13 **Credit Union Quiz** in Moate on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.
- Thanks to all parents who completed the **Impact of Covid-19 survey** that Ms. Grehan shared. Staff will look at findings in the coming weeks.
- Following a presentation from National Parents Council's Helen Butler, the parents in attendance decided to **start up a Parents' Association** and run it on an interim basis until the end of the school year. Date of first meeting will be shared on Aladdin where all parents will be encouraged to attend.
- The new **Board of Management for 2023 – 2027** is fully in place and have had its first meeting.

- **Safer Internet Day** takes place on Tuesday 6th February. Please find information on [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)



- **Coding** - Microsoft employee Andre McQuaid will spend much of Wednesday 14th February with pupils from 3rd to 6th classes on coding activities. Promises to be a lovely STEM activity!
- We are currently in the early phase of applying for the **Schools Photovoltaic Programme**. Offaly schools will be amongst the first to be fitted with solar panels under this scheme.
- 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** -
  - \* Monday 5th February - St. Brigid's Bank Holiday
  - \* Thursday 15th/ Friday 16th February - Midterm
  - \* Wednesday 21st February - 12pm finish for all pupils
  - \* Friday 8th March - School used at polling station for referendums
  - \* Monday 18th March - St. Patrick's Bank Holiday
  - \* Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April – Closed for Easter Holidays.

Thanks to all families for their support. Wishing everyone an enjoyable Bank Holiday Weekend as we move into spring.