

**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.

## March Newsletter

The boys and girls finish up for Easter on the back of a very busy March. Here is some of the latest news –

- **World Book Day** was celebrated on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Lots of pupils dressed as their favourite characters while others opted for cosy pyjamas. It was great to see everyone reading their favourite books and enjoy the activities.
- The girls and boys did brilliantly at **the FAI Soccer 5 Aside tournament** in Tullamore on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The boys won two from three in their group. The girls reached the final but lost out 1-0 in a great game. All had a great day and were a credit to the school!



- **Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ó 1ú – 17ú Márta.** Bhain na páistí taitneamh as. Bhí said ag caint gach lá. Bhí Seo Faisin agus a lán rudaí eile i gcesit! Well done to all children on making great efforts at speaking Irish. 😊
- Big congratulations to all the 6<sup>th</sup> class boys and girls who received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** with Fr. Brendan on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March in St. Colmcille's Church, Ballinahown. It was a lovely day for the children and their families. Well done to all!

- All classes enjoyed learning about bogs during the **FARMPeat 'Love Your Wellies'** presentations in school on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes went on a field trip to the boardwalk in Ferbane while the younger classes participated in an art workshop in class. Some **very informative podcasts** produced by Ms. Moran's class can be found on our website.
- Our **Maidin Caife** on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March was a great success! Lots of parents and grandparents came into the halla for a cuppa and treats, which were served by our pupils who were using their Gaeilge. A big thanks also to our singers and dancers!
- **Engineers Week** took place from 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March and there was bridge building and lots more. The younger classes got an opportunity to **drive the VEX robot** in the halla. It's lovely to see the boys and girls engage with this STEM activity.



- **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)** has taken place throughout this term. Classes are grouped for this programme as follows –
  - Junior & Senior Infants
  - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Classes
  - 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes

**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.

- The in-school **soccer tournament for Senior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class** has concluded. There were two great finals and all the girls and boys will go home for Easter with a well-deserved medal!



- **Junior Entrepreneur Programme Showcase Day** on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March was a major success. The ideas and designs all came to life as our budding business people presented and sold their products. Phil O'Callaghan of Centra, Ferbane was great with his time and had the tough task of judging. He chose *Wax and Wicks* and *Good with Wood* to represent the school further afield. The pupils made a whopping **€1,264 profit**. The children haven't yet decided how to use the money but there will be a charitable donation involved. None of this would've been possible without the massive support of the school community.



Parents are encouraged to discuss the weekly topics at home with children. RSE will finish soon after Easter.

- **Music with Zoe** (Tuesdays) and **hurling with John** (Wednesdays) will continue after Easter. We will also concentrate on Gaelic football in school in Term 3.
- **Clothes Collection** – Thanks for the great response to the Clothes Collection this month, which raised **€360**. Thanks to all families for supporting this and spreading the word.
- Thanks to **Ballinahown Progressive 25** card players for generously donating €100 to the school this month.
- **Barnardos Online Safety Workshops** for all pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes will take place on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**.
- **End of year standardised testing** will take place on the week of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.
- **Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**: School will be closed for all pupils on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> to facilitate CPD on The New Primary Language Framework and the Primary Language Curriculum.
- Nice to hear children describe their activities outside of school - Irish dancing, hurling, horse riding, soccer, gymnastics, music lessons, hip hop, swimming and lots more... Well done to all the young Doon GAA players who played in O'Connor Park at half time of the Offaly vs Down match. A day all will remember!
- Morning supervision starts at **8.50am**. The door of school will not be open before then and we thank parents for not dropping off children before 8.50am. Thanks also to all parents for having children at school in uniform for 9am to start lessons.
- The road outside the school is busy as always, especially at home time. Thanks again to all parents for being **extra vigilant** at these times and ensuring the safety of all.

**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.

- Both the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class Gaelic Football Blitz and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class Rugby Blitz **were postponed** due to poor weather.

- We wish all families a lovely Easter break. School reopens for all pupils **on Monday 17 April**.

