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March 2016

Newsletter

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Easter Holidays

Our school will close for our Easter holidays at 12 noon on Wednesday 16th March. As per the standardised year, our school will reopen on Monday 4th April. Pupils may dress up in their St. Patrick's Day clothes/country colours/school tracksuit on Wednesday 16th March. A donation of one euro is requested with all funds going to Trocaire.

IT

We have been very lucky this year and were able to invest in new laptops for use in the classroom. Our portable laptop trolley can be wheeled into any classroom, holding 14 laptops allowing a laptop for every pair of children in the class. So far both the teachers and the pupils have really enjoyed working on them. Already we can see how they will enhance both teaching and learning in our school.

HISTORY- 1916 COMMEMORATION

This year marks the 100th anniversary of The 1916 Easter Rising. Already we have begun preparations to mark this significant event in Irish History. 5th Classes have written a modern day Proclamation and it is available to view on

www.scoilnet.ie/proclamationtemplate/proclamation-search/.

Proclamation Day takes place on Tuesday 15th March and a short ceremony will be held at 9.30am (3rd & 4th classes) and at 11am (5th & 6th classes) in the assembly hall on this day. The raising of the flag will take place at 12 noon. Parents are invited to join us for all these events.
A. Malone (IT & History Coordinator)

Green Schools Spring is here and we are seeing lots of lovely spring flowers around the school grounds. The green school committee has been busily coming up with ideas to work on our travel theme and they have been planting vegetables for the garden. Students from Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown will be coming in to help us with our raised beds after Easter. We will be starting our "Walk on Wednesdays" days soon to encourage everyone to get walking if they can. Any children interested in cycling can do so once they have a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian. The forms are available from the office and as the weather improves, it would be great to see more children cycling to school!!

Maths and Merits!!

DFL: Congratulations to all those who received a certificate for reaching 400 merits recently. On Monday, 14th March, all children who reach 500 merits will receive their certificate with the added bonus of a no homework voucher for that evening. Well done to everyone who reached the target of 200 merits this term. Their reward will be a treat of a DVD and popcorn this Monday, 14th March. Please remember to sign your child's journal after you check their homework each day. This will ensure that your child receives one of their five merits each day. **MATHS**: We hope you're benefitting from using your MATHS HOME GUIDE. Remember this is useful for dipping in and out of when needing help with Maths homework. Many of our methodologies are explained and have appropriate video links. There are also many useful tips and interesting websites to explore. Any family that needs a new copy of our guide will be contacted shortly. DFL and MATHS co-ordinator: M. Henderson (Maths & DFL Coordinator)

Sporting Days in Scoil Mhuire!

A big word of Thanks to all the parents and the children on their continued effort with the Healthy eating policy. A healthy body = A healthy mind, as they say. Here in Scoil Mhuire SNS we encourage children and we continue to teach them about healthy lifestyles and partaking in physical activities. At the moment the children in 6th class are enjoying Cricket coaching with Vanessa. The 5th class children are continuing GAA coaching with Gordon. The 3rd and 4th class children have nearly completed the 10 week Sports Conditioning programme. Assessments will take place next week. All children in the school took part in 'Friendship week', it was fantastic to see so many children making special efforts to include others in their games, make new friends and look out for each other. Keep up the good work. N. O'Mahony (Sports and SPHE Coordinator)

HSCL to Parents

Parent Courses: Courses currently running: Monday - Parents Together; Tuesday - Knitting and Yoga; Wednesday - Crafts; Thursday - Keep Fit; Friday - Drumming.

Up and Coming courses after Easter: - Cookery and "Prepare for Work".

Parents of Fourth class pupils - Literacy 4 Fun - Help your child with Reading, Comprehension and Grammar through easy to use board games. Will take place after Easter.

Local Education Committee - Currently Parents and Staff working together to produce a leaflet containing information for parents on groups/activities available for children after school and during holidays in the locality. We are cooperating with Blakestown CS to form a group - "POTHLES" for parents (Parents On Tour Helping Out Learning Educating Sharing) to organise trips for parents. The first trip this Friday is to Glasnevin Cemetery to visit the 1916 exhibition (unfortunately fully booked) but another trip is planned for May. For more information contact Tim on 085 1559152.

Literacy at Scoil Mhuire.

Our Annual Book Fair is recently over, and we had another successful and busy year. It coincided with Confirmation preparations and the Big Day itself, so the school was buzzing with activity. The whole affair went down very well, raising more than €700 worth of books for the school. It's great to see the huge boost in enthusiasm for reading during Book Fair.

We also had Richard Marsh a visiting Story-Teller recently: He came to the school for five days, and was mightily impressed with how absorbed the children of our school were in his stories. There is a term used by story-tellers, "Story-Trance", which describes this type of absorption, and we're delighted to report that Richard said that he witnessed this in every single class in the school. He has travelled the world telling stories, and has only had this experience across a whole school just once before.

You should be proud of your children, we certainly are! (M. Lineen, Literacy Coordinator)