

St. Aidan's N.S.
Spring/ Easter Newsletter: 2018/2019



A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone all the blessings of Easter and an enjoyable break from school. Our second term has been an extremely busy one full of learning, events and achievements. Well done to all our pupils!

Many thanks to the staff for their continued energy, hard work and dedication. Special thanks to our Parent's Association who are always on hand to support every initiative and were responsible for the excellent presentations on 'Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety' this term. Thanks also to Fr. Michael and the BOM for their support.

We look forward to an even busier Term 3 with First Communion, Confirmation, School Tours, Active Week, Sports Day, 6th Class Graduation and lots more!

Anne Cunnane

Pupil and Staff Health and Safety: Our top priority every day!

The following is the basis for our current safety review

- Traffic and safety arrangements in place at the school are monitored very closely
- It is a challenge for all of us - BOM, PA and Staff to continuously ensure the safety of everyone the whole year round
- Safety matters and many safety issues/concerns are on the Agenda of every BOM meeting, Staff Meeting and Parents Association Meeting.

We appreciate your co-operation with the new measures put in place on April 1st. We want to get the changes right so please continue to give us feedback. It is important that every family returns the Review Questionnaire this week. Thank you.

Great excitement building for New Multi-Sensory Room

Arrangements are in place to have the room painted over the Easter Holidays. A number of items to support pupils with sensory issues have been purchased as well as some soft furnishings. Sincere thanks for your support of the NO UNIFORM DAY which raised over 500 euro towards soft furnishings.

Two separate donations totalling 600 euro were also received from Marita and Padraic Shannon, Tigh na Leanai and Hazel and Seamus Cosgrove. Both wished to be associated with the development of this wonderful facility. Sincere thanks!

Further updates and plans to officially name and bless the Multi-Sensory Room after Easter.

6th Class TROCAIRE FUNDRAISER this Friday, April 12th. Please Support

A busy term!

Credit Union Quiz 2019: 4 Teams represented the school at the Annual Credit Union Quiz in the Park Hotel, Kiltimagh on Feb. 4th. Thanks to Claire Hickey for co-ordinating the selection process and preparation for the event. The competition was exciting and while we were successful, we were pipped at the post for a place at Chapter Level after losing out in a tie-break round. Well done to our teams and Mrs. Hickey!

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Swimming: 5th and 4th Classes each completed a set of Swimming Lessons at Claremorris Swimming Pool this term. It is the turn of 3rd Class now who started on Fri. April 5th and will continue for a number of weeks after Easter. 2nd Class will follow at the end of Term 3.

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Catholic Schools Week: Our message for Catholic Schools Week this year was simple - 'In St. Aidan's we welcome everyone. We always aim to be just and kind. We share love with those in our school family and we all try our best to live like Jesus.' Prayers and activities during the week were co-ordinated by Vivienne Lee.

It was disappointing that we were unable to host our Annual Grandparent's Assembly as part of Catholic Schools Week due to poor weather. It is still our intention to welcome grandparents on another occasion this year.

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RSE 6th Class: The Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme forms part of the Social, Personal and Health Education Programme for schools. It is a compulsory part of the SPHE Curriculum. As it deals with sensitive issues the school together with the Parents Association agree that this programme should be delivered annually to 6th Class pupils by a qualified facilitator. Sincere thanks to Noel Kearney for two excellent presentations and thanks also to the PA for taking care of the cost involved.

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Banna Cheoil Scoil Aodain and Majorettes: 84 pupils from 3rd to 6th plus the 12 girls from 2nd Class made up the School Band and Majorettes for this year's St. Patrick's Day Celebrations. After weeks of preparation, we were delighted to accept an invitation from the Kiltimagh Tourism Association to welcome the Quaker City String Band to Kiltimagh on Thursday, March 14th. This opportunity was very special as it was our first outing and it was greatly appreciated by all the spectators on the day. *Sincere thanks to the Tourism Association for treating the band members in the Cill Aodain Hotel after the welcome.*

On St. Patrick's Day, the band once again did the school proud when it led the Parade through Kiltimagh. Sincere thanks to everyone involved - pupils, staff and Parent Body.

It is an honour for pupils to represent their school on occasions such as this and we appreciate their commitment and loyalty. We were delighted to treat all 96 members to a movie, followed by Pizza, Chips and a drink in the school on March 29th.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION BAKE SALE this Sat Apr.13th and Sun. 14th in the Parish Centre after Mass. Your support for St. Aidan's is greatly appreciated.

Blessed Sacrament Adoration

Pope Francis invited all Catholics to spend 24 hours in prayer recently over 29th & 30th March. The children in St Aidan's were blessed to have the Blessed Sacrament in the school on Fri morning March 29th. Each class got a chance to pray and reflect in silence and be in the presence of The Blessed Sacrament for a short period of time. We thank Fr. Michael for giving us this opportunity.

Congratulations to all the children in 2nd Class who made their **First Confessions** on Tuesday 12th March.

First Holy Communion: Sat 11th May 2019 at 12 noon

Confirmation Retreat for 5th & 6th Class pupils on 14th and 15th May

Confirmation: Sat 25th May 2019 at 12 noon

School Self Evaluation

Our SSE curriculum focus this year is 'spoken Irish'. We identified this area of focus while engaging with the 'New Language Curriculum for Schools'. To date we have completed the following

- Collaborative and professional discussion, highlighting what is working well in the school and what we need to focus on. We discussed resources available and planning templates were distributed to all based on the advice given by facilitator Bríd Ní Dhonnacha
- Student Survey: A survey was completed by pupils in 2nd, 3rd & 4th classes to gain information, thoughts and opinions pertaining to the use of Oral Irish in school /at home.
- The Parental Survey draft has been completed and will be distributed straight after Easter.

Literacy Lift Off is up and Running

The Senior Infants have completed 4 weeks of a new English programme - Literacy Lift Off which aims to improve a child's reading, writing and comprehension skills through station teaching. It is proving to be a very effective and enjoyable programme for the children. Ms McCallion, Mrs Commons and Berni Finn have been working with the children in the Senior Infant classroom. It involves 5 stations: new reading, familiar reading, dictation, audio stories and an independent word work station. The children are tested before they start the programme and then again when it is completed to monitor their progress. Well done and thank you to all the Senior Infants and their parents for all the time and effort that they have put into Literacy Lift Off!
We only have one week left after Easter!

Internet Safety Presentations a huge success!

Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety is an area of concern identified by the Parents Association. The school fully acknowledges that there is an increasing problem with social media activity outside of school impacting on pupil behaviour and relationships in school.

In an effort to make pupils, parents and staff more aware of the possible dangers as well as giving everyone advice on how to be safe on the internet Lurtel Ltd were invited to the school by the PA on March 20th. All pupils from 1st to 6th were given age appropriate information. This was followed by a presentation to the school staff at 3pm and later that evening a presentation to Parents/Guardians.

The informative presentations given by Trisha O'Sullivan clearly identified the various types of online activity available to users. Pupils were advised on the skills to stay safe. Parents and staff were advised on ways to monitor and protect children. Sincere thanks to the PA for organising the day.

Active Schools Report

The Active Committee met recently and discussed the following:

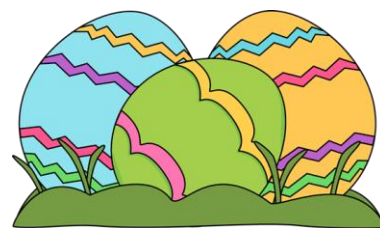
- **Active Slogan Competition:** Pupils from 3rd to 6th Classes were asked to come up with a new Active Slogan. Committee members are to encourage their classmates to enter a slogan.
- **Clubs Survey:** 4th Class pupils gathered information from all classes in the school about what clubs the pupils attend outside of school. The findings have been generated into graphs and pie charts and will be displayed on our website and in the hall in the coming weeks.
- **Active Week 2019:** The committee contributed ideas for the upcoming **Active Week**. Some trained personnel have now been booked and pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities such as Yoga, Junior Jiving, Gymnastics etc. Active Week takes place from 7th -10th May .

Sporting Matters

- Cumann na mBunscol Quiz was hosted by St Aidan's N.S. in February. Congratulations to St. Aidan's Team B who qualified for County Final in March and came 4th in Castlebar
- Well done to the two Boys teams and the Girls team who participated in the **Spar 5-a-side East Mayo Soccer Tournament**. All teams played superbly. Our Boys 1 Team was narrowly defeated in the semi-final by Began N.S.
- Best of luck to all our footballers who have been training for the past few months. The Cumann na mBunscol competitions will take place after Easter.
- Congratulations to U 14 Kiltimagh Giants Basketball team who participated in the All-Ireland Finals in Dublin last weekend.



Happy Easter
to all our
pupils and
families!



Check out our website kiltimaghns.ie for more information and photos of school activities