



APRIL 2019

St Colman's N.S. Newsletter

Dear Parents,

After a long school term, Easter is fast approaching. We are all looking forward to a two-week break for Easter. Well done to all pupils, staff and parents for working so hard all term.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and enjoyable Easter.

Mary O'Brien.

Principal.

School Improvement Plan

The school are currently reviewing and updating the SPHE Plan. We will also be looking at the RSE and Stay Safe Plans. Parents input is always welcome when reviewing school policies and plans.

Digital Learning



As part of our school's digital learning plan, we will be working on incorporating digital technology within our classrooms. We will be using the digital devices and technology that we currently have and will be carefully investing in digital equipment that will benefit our school.

Food Dudes

Junior Infants to 6th class participated in Food Dudes – a Bord Bia healthy eating initiative. A portion of fresh fruit and vegetables for each child was delivered to the school each morning. Pupils tried different types of fruit and vegetables and joined the food dude heroes in beating the Junk Punks. Pupils received rewards for their efforts – well done to all!

Phase 2 of the programme encourages pupils to bring in their own fruit and vegetables from home. Again, pupils will be rewarded for their efforts, earning points for certificates. Keep up the fantastic effort and be a food dude hero!

Sixth Class Sensations!

Sixth Class had an amazing experience of going to Ballymaloe for a fun-filled day of gardening and cooking. When we arrived we were greeted with a warm welcome. Then, we got a tour of the magnificent gardens and tasted a variety of the plants and herbs. Next, we cooked and baked a selection of foods. We also developed our skills of teamwork and multitasking. Finally, the moment we had all been waiting for, devouring the food! We were as proud as peacocks with how it turned out. We would like to sincerely thank Ballymaloe Cookery School for an unforgettable experience.

(Recount by Ali Cotter)

As a reward for delivering the road safety lessons Sixth Class went to Tír na Sí for a Safety Education Day. There they learned about road safety, water safety, farm safety and general personal safety. The children composed a Road Safety Rap to present on the day. Caroline Casey, from the Cork County Council, was so impressed by the rap, and their performance, that she asked that we record it. It may become the rap that children in schools around the county will learn. Moreover, she asked that we go to an Awards Ceremony in Cork City Hall on Wednesday, the 10th of April, to perform the rap and make a presentation informing people about what the class did to promote road safety in the school.

F.Y.I. the calendar is currently with the printers and should be on sale in a school near you soon!

Holidays and School Closure Days:

The school will close for Easter on Friday (12th) at 12.30pm (Infants will finish at 12.15pm) and re-open on Monday, April 29th.

Days to remember for next term:

May 6th – May Bank holiday

Thursday, May 23rd – Extra closure for Staff In-service (was not on original calendar)

May 31st

June 3rd – June Bank holiday

School will close on June 25th

Meeting for parents of New Junior Infants – May 22nd



Active Flag

Hope you have all noticed the improvement in fitness from pupils who are walking, jogging, skipping and running our kilometre laps.

Pupils competed in run off for Cork City Sports – well done to all who participated and best of luck to those representing St. Colman's N.S. GAA skills – pupils in senior infants, 2nd, 3rd and 4th class are benefiting from hurling and football coaching sessions – thanks to all who help out. We will definitely have future all-stars!

We have been very busy collecting Aldi stickers to be in with a chance to win €50000. We are well on our way to completing posters number seven. Thank you to all for your support and fingers crossed we are successful – what a difference it would make.

The Easter Bunny is very egg'cited to be organising an Easter Egg Hunt for all pupils. We will have loads of fun activities while looking for clues to find eggs around the school.

Please notify the secretary of any changes to contact details including address, phone numbers and emergency contact details.

Reports will be posted in June to the most recent address given to the school.

Summer Camps: Information pertaining to summer camps is available in the foyer of the school, please feel free to have a look.

Attendance

Well done to our class winners this term. Best class attendance for January was Junior Infants (Ms Beecher) with an amazing attendance of 99.5%. Senior Infants (Ms Power) were the winners for February with 96.8% attendance. We had joint winners for March. Both 1st class (Ms O'Callaghan) and 2nd Class (Ms Bresnihan) had 97.8% attendance. A great achievement. Well done to all.

On the 2nd of April, Caoimhe's mum came to visit 1st and 2nd class. She is a clinical nurse specialising in cardiology in CUH. Nurse Keneally arrived in her nurse's uniform and showed us some of her important nursing equipment, including a stethoscope and a blood pressure monitor. Her ward 3C is a very busy place and she told us it is important for nurses to work well as part of a team. Nurses also need to solve problems and investigate why a patient is unwell. Some tips Nurse Keneally gave to us are:

- Eat healthy foods
- Get lots of exercise

We learned so much about nursing and all the hard yet rewarding work it entails.

Thank you Caoimhe's mum!



Cork Food Policy Council Awards 2019

St. Colman's N.S., Cloyne has been awarded a certificate of excellence by the Cork Food Policy Council.

The Cork Food Policy Council believe there are many people who go that extra mile when it comes to sustainable food practices, who don't get the recognition they deserve.

St. Colman's N.S. has gone that extra mile and further through the following committees; The Green School's, The Active Flag and The Garden Committee. We promote the importance of a healthy lifestyle which in turn builds lifelong skills, encourage all to reduce their carbon footprint, plant and grow food in the school garden which is sold to the community.

Some of the activities we have taken part in are; scooter lessons and put in a scooter rack, cycling lessons through the RSA, purchased a polytunnel where we will grow flowers, vegetables and fruits to be sold, helped the tidy towns with litter picking, promoted a healthy lifestyle through Fit February, Rudolf Run, School Marathons, etc.

The award ceremony took place on the 12th February at St Peter's, North Main Street, Cork. The Lord Mayor of Cork City Cllr. Mike Finn and Dr Colin Sage, Chair of the Cork Food Policy Council awarded us with this prestigious award. Ciaran Crowley, Molly O' Shea, Kara Keeler, Lily Kent and Leona Mc Grath represented the school. It is a fantastic achievement for the school – well done to all!

Gaelbhrtach

Bhí Seactain na Gaeilge á cheiliúradh againn anseo i Scoil Naomh Cholmáin ón ceathrú lá de Mí Márta go dtí an cúigú lá deag agus bhí réimse gníomhaíochtaí eagartha sna ranganna go léir. D'obrigh an Choiste Gaelbhrtach go han dian agus ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghábhaíl leo. Chaith na daltaí éadaí glasa don "Lá Glas" ar an 11ú Márta. Lá Earraigh fíor aoibhinn ab ea é agus d'éirigh linn "An Céilí Mór" a cheiliúradh amuigh sa chlós. Sheinn Jason Perry an Fífil, Mike Greany, an druma agus John Cronin an bosca ceoil don chéilí. Ba mhaith linn buíochas mhór a ghabhaíl le Jason, Mike agus John as an ceoil iontach! Bhí na daltaí ag cleachtadh le cúpla seactain anuas agus bhí an - spraoi acu ag damhsa "Ionsaí na hInse", "An Seanáin" agus "An Dreoilín". Ag deireadh an chéilí chan Ms. Quaid Amhrán na bhFiann. Bhaineamar go léir an taitneamh as Seactain na Gaeilge i mbliana.

5th Class trip to Blackrock Castle Observatory

On Friday 22nd of March, 5th class went to Blackrock Castle Observatory as part of Engineer's Week. The boys and girls completed a workshop based on the topic of electricity. They worked collaboratively in groups to create circuits to make a lamp light up and a motor move. They then solved problems based on what they had learned about electricity and circuits.

After our electricity workshop, we were told about the history of Blackrock Castle and went up the narrow stairs to the very top where the telescope is kept. Leading on from this we completed interactive games on computers and went into the planetarium where we observed the night sky and learned about the planets and the stars.

The boys and girls in 5th class thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Blackrock Castle Observatory. Many thanks to the Parents Association for funding such an excellent trip.

Pancake Tuesday

Lots of pancakes were devoured on Pancake Tuesday! Thank you to the Parents' Association and all the parents who prepared and served pancakes on the day. We had a choice of many toppings and they all tasted delicious.

Internet Safety

Safer Internet Day took place on February 5th 2019. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2019 was "Together for a Better Internet" and this year almost 145,000 people in Ireland celebrated Safer Internet Day 2019. 5th Class pupils in St Colman's designed a PowerPoint presentation based on the book "Timmy's Technology Trouble" written by Niamh Ahern and presented it to the other classes in the school. If anyone would like to read "Timmy Technology Trouble" it is now available in our school Millennium Library.

Pupils also designed posters to promote Safer Internet Day; these posters were displayed around the school. The children in the older classes were presented with bands after participating in Safer Internet Day.

On Tuesday February 18th James from Zeeko Ireland visited St. Colman's, he spoke to pupils from 1st to 6th class about internet safety. He also provided a seminar for parents that evening.

The link below to Zeeko Internet Safety Guide will help parents navigate the internet and teach their children how to use the internet responsibly.

<https://zeeko.ie/internet-safety-guide/>

Also keep an eye on Internet Safety page on our school website for tips and news

<https://cloynens.com/index.php/internet-safety/>



East Cork & County Chess Tournament 2019

On Tuesday February 12th, Cloyne N.S. took part in the second annual East Cork primary schools' chess tournament. This year, it was held in the Community Hall in Carrigtwohill. We entered four teams from Rang III and Rang IV in the Budding Masters competition, crossing chess pieces with six other schools. Wearing the famous red and black jersey, our intrepid competitors battled for four hours over six championship matches and called upon all their reserves of strategy and concentration. At the end, thirty-two weary but happy warriors trooped onto the bus, swapping tales of gripping encounters from the day's play.

The tournament itself was very well organised and the feedback from the children and teachers involved was overwhelmingly positive. I would like to complement the children on their preparation, whole-hearted participation and good behaviour throughout the day. Many thanks to Mr. Collins, Ms. Savage and Ger O'Brien for their involvement in the tournament. Finally, a special word of appreciation to the Parents' Association for contributing 50% of the total cost of entry and bus trip. (Mr. Collins, Rang III & IV)

One of our teams won the overall Budding Masters competition and qualified to represent East Cork in the County Final in Ovens two weeks later. This was a very competitive field made up of the eight regional winners from all over the county and city. Despite a strong showing, we fell just short on the day. Well done to Fionn, Kieran, Josh, Hugh, Jakub, Danny, Oran and Nicolas for a great performance!

Coppers for Cloyne

Well done to Lucy O Regan and her classmates from 6th class for going around to each class for two weeks collecting coppers, thank you to Ms Healy and all the staff for their co-operation in this fundraiser and finally thank you to everyone who donated coppers it raised €695. (PA Committee)

School Garden

Spring has arrived and work has begun in our School Garden. A big thank you to the parents and staff who have helped out in the garden recently. Classes have been very busy planting seeds! We will continue the "Garden Work" on Mondays at 2:45pm weather permitting, so if any parents/guardians/grandparents/aunts/uncles have free time we would really appreciate the help and ideas. If anyone has brightly coloured paint suitable for wood and tyres at home that is surplus to requirement, we would love you to donate it to us.

We would also like to thank Cloyne Men's Shed group for offering to help us make raised beds.

Green Schools

In the Green Schools we are currently in the first year of our Biodiversity Flag. In achieving this flag we hope to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, animals and habitats, and to increase species-richness in the locality. This flag needs the help of the whole school community and we are very thankful to our students and parents who are on this committee. This term, all class teachers have taken on The Great Plant Hunt and will be teaching their classes about specific species of animals and plants, exploring them in our environments, where possible, and conducting relevant experiments. We have begun our Habitat Map, where our committee stayed after school and mapped every tree, plant and shrub on the grounds. With thanks to our committee and parents we almost have every tree and plant identified, but keep an eye on Facebook for any we still need to name! Our aim is to plan to increase our habitats on the school grounds, to encourage more wildlife and insects to come, increasing the diversity in the locality. We have some great ideas including bug hotels, a butterfly and bee wild flower garden, a herb bed, bird feeders etc. We would love to hear any ideas from the wider school community and would welcome any resources or help you are willing to give.

Tree Week was the 1st – 5th of April and we enjoyed many activities:

The children heard a fun tree fact every day, for example, did you know that there are over 60,000 tree species on planet Earth?

- We had a competition to guess how many trees on the school grounds.
- Every day the children heard about the history of the trees on our grounds. For example, at the back of the school there are a large number of Ash trees. This section was named Ros Uí Rinn and they were all planted over a number of years by members of the GAA, intercountry GAA players from all over the country and the local community to honour Christy Ring. It was planned to use the ash to make hurleys for the players of Cloyne.
- Each class had fun worksheets based on trees.
- We planted a Rowan tree which was sponsored by the National Tree Council and two representatives from each class were involved.

We hope everyone has found a new appreciation for trees. For the rest of this school year we will be working very closely with the gardening committee to plant and increase our habitats.