

School News - April 2015

Important Dates this Term

- April 25th (Sat.) – Confirmation in Termonfeckin Parish
- May 4th & 5th (Mon. & Tues.) – School Closed
- May 22nd (Fri.) – School closed for Referendum
- May 23rd – (Sat.) First Communion for pupils of Scoil Naomh Feichín
- June 1st (Mon.) – School Closed
- June 23rd (Tues.) – End of Year Mass
- June 25th (Thurs.) – School closes for Summer Holidays



Well done to all of our pupils who dressed up in their Easter Bonnets on the day of the holidays.

Alice in Wonderland

We have arranged for M&M Theatrical Productions to put on two performances of *Alice in Wonderland* in our school hall on Tuesday, April 21st. Last year this professional theatre company put on a free show for us, *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*. The children thoroughly enjoyed this production so we invited the actors back for another show. The charge for this show is €3 per pupil – second child in a family €3 – no charge for 3rd or 4th child.

School Choir

Ms Duffy will be working with our school choir over the next few months to prepare the children for a primary schools choir competition in the TLT in May. Auditions took place before the Easter break and the choir will be doing lots of practice from now until the day of the competition.

Spelling Bee

As part of our School Improvement Plan we are organising a Spelling Bee for all classes from 1st - 6th. All of the pupils are working hard on their spelling lists at the moment so that they are ready for the competition in a few weeks time. There will be a trophy for the winner in each class and the 6th class champion will go on to represent the school in the County Final which will be held in Dundalk Grammar School on April 28th.

Confirmation in Termonfeckin

The pupils in Mr McCann's 6th class are in the final stages of preparation for their Confirmation on Saturday, April 25th in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Termonfeckin. The ceremony will commence at 11am. As usual we expect a large congregation to attend so a seating plan has been arranged for the families of pupils who are being confirmed on that day. More details will be available to parents this week.

A professional photographer will be at the school on Tuesday, April 28th to take photos of the children.

Lenten Fundraising

We were delighted with the response to our fundraising days before Easter and the pupils had a lot of fun at World Book Day, PJ Funday, Lá Glas and the Easter Egg Raffle. Altogether a total of € 1977.86 was raised – this money will be split evenly between the LauraLynn Foundation and the Medical Missionaries of Mary. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making our fundraising this Lent so successful.



Sports News

With the support of *St Fechin's Gaelic Football Club* we have arranged football coaching for a number of classes during April and May. Coaching will take place on Wednesdays for Senior Infants, Mrs Collins' 1st Class, 4th Class, 5th Class & 6th Class. This coaching is funded by St. Fechins GFC.



A coach from **Louth GAA** will take Mr Casey's 1st Class for a session each Tuesday from 11.30am-12.30pm. Louth GAA fund this activity.

Gaelic Football training for the senior pupils continues each Monday afternoon from 3pm-4pm. Many thanks to Ms McAuley, Ms Campbell and Mr. Casey.

Mr McCann will shortly select two soccer teams (Girls & Boys) to represent our school in the **FAI 5-a-side tournament** which will be held at Oriel Park, Dundalk later on this week.



The pupils in 6th Class have also been offered two **Pitch & Putt** coaching sessions at Seapoint Pitch & Putt Club at the end of May. The sessions are arranged through the Pitch & Putt Union of Ireland. There will be a small charge for this coaching.

Finally, the children in both 3rd classes and 2nd class are in for a real treat. Assistant Professional at County Louth Golf Club, Scott Wilson, will take the pupils in these classes for some golf coaching using a new teaching method called **SNAG Golf**. The coaching will take place in the school over the next 4 weeks. Scott will be at the school from 9am-12pm each day and all equipment will be provided – there is no cost for these lessons.

Guided Reading & Reading Eggs

Over the next two months the children in both First Classes will benefit from targeted reading tuition in the form of Guided Reading sessions each day. Guided reading is an instructional approach that involves a teacher working with a small group of students who demonstrate similar reading behaviours and can all read similar levels of texts. Earlier this year the pupils in Second Class benefitted greatly from a six week period of Guided Reading.

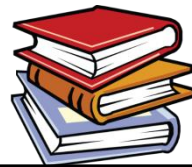
The Senior Infants and First Classes will also have the opportunity to try out an exciting new online programme called ***Reading Eggs***. This programme has got excellent reviews internationally and we are looking forward to using it with our junior pupils.

Maths Surveys for Parents & Pupils

We have designed two questionnaires that we would like parents and pupils to complete later this term.

We hope to collect useful data from these questionnaires to help us plan and devise a School Improvement Plan for the teaching and learning of Maths.

One area which we have already identified as needing attention is Problem Solving in Maths. We have arranged extra training for all teachers after school hours on April 30th to learn more about teaching problem solving skills to our pupils.



Book Rental Scheme

Please support our Book Rental Scheme and remember to send in the correct contribution each week.

Golden Book

To promote good behaviour, kindness, helpfulness and good work in class we now have a Golden Book. A child's name is added to this book when a child gets special praise.

Active School Week

Following the success of last year's event we hope to have another Active School Week in mid-June.

Standardised Testing

Standardised testing in English & Mathematics will be carried out in late May. Results of these tests will be published in the end of year reports.

Thank You to the Scouts

Sincere thanks to the Scouts & Beavers who use our school hall every week for donating two brand new laptops to our school.

Parents Association Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who supported the excellent Coffee Morning & Bakery Demonstration organised by the Parents Association before the Easter holidays.