



## Spring Newsletter



### Special Education Teacher Allocation

The school's special education teaching allocation for the 2024/2025 school year has been reduced. This means that we will have less teachers available on our special education team for the next year to work with our pupils with additional needs. This will certainly have an impact on the amount of additional support that we can make available throughout the next academic year.



### Summer Programme 2024

The Department of Education has yet to release any details of the summer programme. We will share the details with families as soon as they arrive.

### Student Council Cake Sale

A huge thank you to all students and families who baked and contributed to the school annual bake sale, coordinated by the Student Council. €2205.28 was raised and was split between Dundalk Simon Community and Crumlin Children's Hospital. These are two very worthy charities and both were incredibly appreciative.



### Seinn

Sunday, 21 January–Saturday, 27 January



Catholic Schools Week 2024  
Catholic Schools: Serving Our Communities

Our school took part in the Seinn celebration in the Holy Redeemer Church on Thursday, the 25th of January. The Seinn ceremony was an event organised as part of the Catholic Schools Week which saw pupils from Ms Connolly's 4th class enjoying communal singing with schools from around the diocese. Archbishop Eamon Martin and Bishop Michael Router co-celebrated the ceremony with the children.

### Community Policing Visit on Internet Safety

Our pupils from 3rd - 6th class received a visit recently from our Community Garda Darragh who discussed Internet Safety with them.



## Seachtain na Gaeilge



Tá muid an-ghnóthach sa scoil faoi láthair ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024. School is very busy at the moment with our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations. We have had fantastic entries from all classes for our annual Comórtas Ealaíne (Art competition). We are looking forward to all of the upcoming activities and events- Feis na

Scoile/Poetry Feis, Cluichí Biongó/Bingo Games, Ceolchoirm na Scoile/School concert, Tráth na gCeist/School Quiz. **Our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations will finish off with a Lá Glas (Green Day) on the 15th of March.**

Congratulations to Holly Phelan who won the Breda Uí Uallacháin memorial cup. Holly was awarded this cup as the overall winner of our annual Feis which takes place, annually, during Seachtain na nGaeilge. Congratulations also to Agnesa Stecenko and Lorant Pinter ,who were second and third overall. The standard of spoken Gaeilge in the competition was very high and all our participants were exceptionally well prepared and performed brilliantly. Well done to all the pupils and teachers for their preparation, participation and engagement.

## Lá Glas (Green Day)

Our annual Lá Glas (Green Day) will take place on **Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of March**. On this day pupils do not have to wear their school uniforms but can come dressed to school in their regular clothes. During our Lá Glas we are celebrating our Irish culture so all we ask is that the pupils wear some item of clothing which is green or something that symbolises our Irish culture to them. Lá Glas is always a great fun day and we hope that it will be even bigger and better this year, especially as we will be holding our céilí on the same day.



## Grandparent's Day - January 24th & 25th

Our 3rd and 6th class pupils enjoyed inviting their grandparents along to our Grandparents' Day as part of our Catholic Schools Week celebrations. Their grandparents took part in Bingo and enjoyed a cup of tea.



## Dáil Éireann Visit

Mr. O'Hare's 6th class and members of our Student Council were given the opportunity of a tour to the Houses of the Oireachtas in Leinster House, Dublin. They met with TDs and representatives of the House and had a very enjoyable tour. The trip was organised by our local County Councillor, Mr Robert Nash.



**Dáil  
Éireann**

## Museum Trips

Our three 5th classes visited the County Museum as part of our history programme at the beginning of March.

To mark Seachtain na Gaeilge and Local History week this month the Armagh Rhymers presented their show Fionn MacCool and the Scottish Giant (also known as Fionn & Una). Ms Connolly & Ms Roe's 4th classes attended and enjoyed the show.



## Upcoming HRI Juniors Day Visit

Our 5th & 6th class pupils will visit Dundalk Stadium on Wednesday March 20th for Horse Racing Ireland Juniors Education Day. The children will get a tour of the stadium and get to meet a jockey, horse trainer and the groundsman of the Stadium on the day.



## School Tours



The organisation of the school tours are well underway. Class teachers have either informed or shortly will inform their classes of the planned trip. The necessary information will be shared with all families, including the details regarding the payment for the trip.

## Secondary School's Entrance Exams

De La Salle College, St. Mary's College and Coláiste Rís schools will hold their entrance exams on Saturday the 23rd of March, 2024.



## School Closures

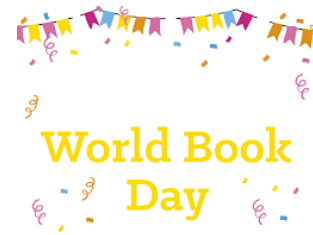
The following school closures for pupils are coming up:

- 18th of March: Bank Holiday
- 22nd of March: Easter Holidays (**School closes at noon**)
- 24th April: Staff Meeting (**School closes at 1.30 for all pupils**)
- May 7th/8th: School Holidays
- 4th June: Whole School Closure for pupils. Staff training for the Primary Maths Curriculum



## World Book Dress Up Day

Our World Book Dress Up Day will take place on **Friday, the 22nd of March**. We encourage all our pupils to choose their favourite character from a book. Our World Book Dress Up Day is always a day where the creativity of the pupils and families of Bay Estate come to light. Once again, we look forward to seeing the fabulous costumes which will be on display on that day. Please be advised that dangerous props are not allowed.



## Visit from Dundalk Dog Rescue



Ms Clarke's 1st class were very excited to welcome Bobby from Dundalk Dog Rescue to their class. Bobby brought five wonderful rescue dogs with him. 1st Class learned all about how to take care of animals and also about the fantastic work Dundalk Dog Rescue does in the community.

## Clothing Collection

We will hold a clothing collection on Thursday the 21st of March 2024. This is a wonderful fundraising event for our school. We would really appreciate your support for this fundraiser.

The school gates will be open from 7:30am on the morning to facilitate anyone who wishes to drop off clothes before work. We expect the collection van to leave the school grounds by 9:30am.

All types of clothes, shoes (in pairs), handbags and accessories are accepted.

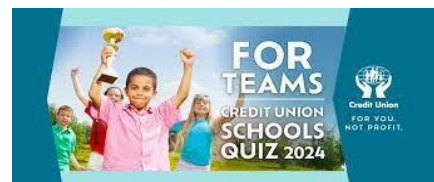
Please let your neighbours or extended family know about this fundraiser.

All donations will be gratefully received.



## School Quiz Teams

Congratulations to the school quiz teams who represented us recently in the Dundalk Credit Union Inter-Primary Schools Quiz. They were Eabha Byrne, Conor McCooley, Emily Searle, Harry Haughey, Jack Wehrly, Patryk Augustynak, Ahmed Elmbaridi, Zainab Ali, Fiachra Daly, Holly Phelan, Sadhbh Cahill and Aoibheann Morgan.



## **Blast (Art Initiative)**

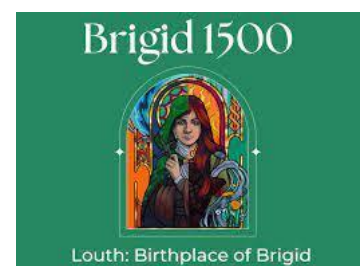
### **BLAST / BRINGING LIVE ARTS TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

The children of our 4th classes have just completed their BLAST / BRINGING LIVE ARTS TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS workshops with professional artist, Sculptor Brian Synnott. The pupils had lots of fun using materials such as tin foil and card to explore new creative techniques and processes involved in making figurative sculptures'. The pupils showcased their amazing art work with an exhibition for the rest of our school pupils to see.



## **Celebrating St. Brigid**

On February 1st our children celebrated the feast of St. Brigid and marked 1500 years since her death by making St. Brigid's crosses, learning traditional songs and painting cloaks. Our school community also learned about the tradition of the 'Brat Bride', where a piece of cloth, usually red or white, is left outside on a windowsill or tree on St. Brigid's Eve, January 31st. It is said that St. Brigid comes during the night and blesses the cloth which is then kept in the home or workplace for healing headaches and many other ailments. This year every class attached a piece of red cloth to the fence of our new build, which we felt was a nice way to ask St. Brigid to bless our work, our children and our school.



## **Congratulations and Celebrations**



Congratulations to our 6th class pupils who received the sacrament of Confirmation on the 7th of March. Well done to all the staff and pupils who put in a huge effort to make the day as special as it was.

Congratulations to our pupils from 2nd Class who received the Sacrament of Penance on Thursday, the 29th of February. The pupils and teachers are busy preparing for the Sacrament of Communion which will take place on Friday, the 3rd of May.

## **Transferring Schools**

If, for some reason, your child will not be returning to Muire na nGael for the next school year (6th class excluded!), we ask that you please confirm this in writing to [smgdundalk@gmail.com](mailto:smgdundalk@gmail.com) as soon as possible. A copy of our school calendar has already been emailed to all parents/guardians. A copy of our calendar is also posted on our school website.