

Swimming

Every Tuesday 1st, 2nd and 3rd class go swimming in Portlaoise Leisure Centre. While on the bus, we chat and have great craic. When we get there we are dying to get into the water.

Our swimming coach's name is Joe. He is very nice. We do the front crawl, back stroke, the butterfly and the breast stroke. Also sometimes we do sit dives. About five minutes before we go home we have play time. We get a ball and toss it around.

We usually bring something to eat on the way back. It is great fun. We really enjoy it and cannot wait to go back next week. **By Aisling Tunney and Kolia McDonald, 3rd class**



Jokes

Q. What did one egg say to the other?

A. Heard any good yolks lately?

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a good joke?

A. It might crack up!

Q. How does the Easter bunny stay in shape?

A. Lots of eggs-ercise!

Q: How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?

A: He's Dublin over with laughter!

Q: Why did the schoolboy hate decimals?

A: He couldn't see the point.

Teacher: Please name two pronouns.

Student: Who? Me?

Teacher: Correct.

Easter Competition

1. What is full of holes but still holds water?

2. What has four fingers and one thumb but is not alive?

3. What flies without wings?

Don't forget to give your answers to your teacher, as you could win a prize.

THE BAND—Moving On Up

The Tobar an Léinn band

was formed before Christmas. The Master decided that since there was so much musical ability amongst the students, it would be a good idea to create a traditional Irish Band.

The Master elected me to be the leader of the band, and we practise every Wednesday during our big break. We have improved greatly since our last performance.

We can play quite a lot of tunes now. The members are Eoin O' Sullivan, Ciara Dunphy, Tara Duignan, Emma Grant (Tin Whistle), Mollie Brennan (Button Accordion), Conor Donoghue (Fiddle), Darren Phelan (Guitar), Eoghan Hanley (Concertina) and myself Conor Hennessy (Banjo).

Ms. McGill has been giving us tips and pointers and helps us with our tunes. We have a variety of instruments. We are looking forward to our next performance.

Oh, and anyone who wishes to join the band is very welcome to do so. The more the merrier!!

Conor Hennessy 6th class

Comhghairdeas to Leah Moffitt on winning the Colt GAA crest competition. Keep an eye out for her crest design on the new jerseys!

Dates to Remember

Confirmation Day—Friday April 27th at 11.30am—school closed

Communion Day—Sunday 20th May at 11am.

We would like to wish all the Parents, Guardians and Families of Tobar an Léinn a very Happy Easter.

Tobar An Léinn

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Nasc

“Tús Maith”

Our Confirmation Journey

For the past number of weeks 5th and 6th classes have been preparing for Confirmation. It is a special day so lots of preparation is needed. We have been studying the main points of Confirmation e.g. about the Sacrament, The Holy Spirit and even the word's meaning. A lot of work has gone into our Confirmation folder.



We have been learning a lot about the Holy Spirit for he is a very important figure of Confirmation. We have also been linking the Holy Spirit to his symbols. Fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit because it is warm and welcoming, it is very useful and fire destroys unwanted items. The Spirit guides us away from evil to follow the Good Way. Our Confirmation folder is very important for it reminds us of all the work we have done on Confirmation and it will help us to never forget the day.

We have begun night classes which are fun and exciting. They teach us a lot more about Confirmation and will help us to prepare for the day and get our parents involved more. Our Confirmation folders will be very informative and useful for other children making their Confirmation so they can see the work that has to be put in for the Sacrament.

We are all looking forward to the day. But until then... Our journey continues. **Eoin O' Sullivan (5th Class)**

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Congratulations

To Ms. Kirwan on her engagement.

Best wishes to the happy couple.

LÁ NA GAEILGE

An Aoine roimh Lá le Pádraig bhí “Lá na Gaeilge” agus “Lá Glas” againn i dTobar an Léinn. Bhí gach duine ag caitheamh glas agus ag labhairt Gaeilge. Timpeall 12.45 chuaigh gach duine isteach sa Seomra Teacht le Chéile. Bhí gach rang ag canadh, agus bhí an banna ceoil ag seinm an *Polca Chiarraí, Lá le Pádraig, Cor Banna, Sleamhnán O' Keefe* agus *Amhrán na bhFiann*.

Bhí an lá go hiontach.

Jamie Conroy (Rang 6)

Farewell

We bid farewell to Ms. Everard who will be leaving us this week. We thank her for all her work and dedication here for the past seven months. Well done Ms. Everard. We wish you every success for the future.

Welcome!

We welcome back Ms. Moore from her recent leave. We are certain that she can't wait to come back! Best of luck for the remainder of the school year.

Red Cross Crew

Irish Red Cross



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann

The day the Red Cross crew came in, we all were very excited and confused. We were all wondering what they were doing here and who they were. We found out it was Seán Stackpool's granddad and uncle. We listened to them and found out a lot about Red Cross. They gave us all a little leaflet to bring home. At the end we were not all confused. We found out that they climb the Slieve Bloom Mountains once a year. We all enjoyed them coming in. Most of us wanted to go after we heard about it. Oh yes, we almost forgot that Red Cross is on every second Friday.

How do they help people?

They help people by saving their lives. They help injured players at matches. At the St. Patrick's Day festival they help people who are injured. They also take part in the St Patrick's Day parade.

By Third Class

Disney Cake Competition

On the 24th January all of 4th class went to Leah Moffitt's house to make the Disney's 20th birthday cake. The competition was for a chance to win a three day trip to Disneyland Paris.

We made the Eiffel Tower cake. It took a long time.

First we made the chocolate biscuit cake by melting the chocolate and butter. Next we broke up biscuits and added them together. Some of us tasted the cake (especially the boys). It was put in the freezer for two hours.

We covered it with icing, and then sprayed it with edible gold spray paint. We put black strips on the cake. While the cake was setting most of the boys cut up pictures of Disney characters. Meanwhile the girls designed the number 20 for the top of the cake. We took loads of pictures.

We all really hope we win. By 4th Class

Red Cross

Every second Friday we go to Red Cross. At Red Cross we are split into three groups. The three instructors are called Joe, Peter and Mary. We learn what to do if someone breaks a leg, if they have a bad cut or if they are unconscious. We also play games like monster surgery, jenga, twister and bowling. We really enjoy it and can't wait for Friday to come.

Green Schools News

We have been working towards our third green flag for water for over a year now, and we were assessed by Lorraine Flanagan from An Taisce on Monday March 26th. She examined our displays on rainwater harvesting and water conservation and was very impressed with our application. We hope to achieve three in a row and get a new green flag before the summer holidays.



Learning French

In January, Transition Year students Ray Killeen, Kevin Bergin and Henry Keyes came into our school for two weeks. Not only did they teach us some new soccer and basketball skills but they also taught 1st -6th class some French. We learned the French alphabet, numbers, how to say our name, where we live and what age we are in French. It helped both of us as we now have a French exchange student staying with us for 9 days. Here are some tips for you to practise your French!

Bonjour – Hello **Salut!** – Hi!
Je m'appelle... – My name is...
Où habites-tu? - Where do you live?
J'habite à Raheen - I live in Raheen
Merci Beaucoup – Thank You
Au revoir – Goodbye

By Emily Goode & James Mullhall
(3rd & 4th class)

Give

Our Lenten challenge is to give our time to others
this Lent –

We hope that everyone continues this after Lent.

Don't Waste Water

Don't waste water, save water

Oh what a present water would be,

Nobody should leave a tap running,

Turn off the water tap while washing your face

Water should be saved

Always save water, don't waste water.

Showers are better than baths,

Turn off the tap while washing your hands,

Every drop of water should be saved.

Wasting water is bad

As you should know water should never be wasted,

Turn off your tap while brushing your teeth,

Every drop of water should be saved,

Remember don't waste water.

By Emily Goode 3rd Class

Water

Collect water from the sky

Fill up the buckets and barrels high,

Don't have a bath, take a quick shower,

Spare the water for nature's flower.

If summer brings a good warm spell

You will never have water in your well,

So spare, spare, spare.

James Whelan, 3rd Class

Billy Walter

Billy Walter never saved water,

He never used the shower, instead he used too much power,

He washes the car every day,

Soon he will have to pay.

His Mam came home and he felt ashamed.

Billy Walter never wasted water again.

Séan Stackpool, 4th Class

Lá Glas don Afraic.

The Green-Schools committee decided to use the Lá na Gaeilge as its Day of Action for the Green-Schools application. We have been working on our third green flag which has Water as its theme. Since everyone was wearing green for Lá na Gaeilge, we decided to call it Lá Glas don Afraic. Pupils and staff made voluntary contributions on the day in the hope of raising enough money to buy a solar water pump for communities in developing countries. Each pump costs €36.00 and we were delighted to raise enough for three pumps. We hope that these gifts will help people in poorer countries to have a reliable supply of clean water. Buiochas mór do chách!

First Penance

We celebrated the Sacrament of First Penance on Thursday the 15th of March. We said the Act of Sorrow, prayer of forgiveness, Confiteor and prayer after forgiveness. We went to the church to practise. We were very nervous singing 'I'm sorry'. It was a special occasion for us. Now we are preparing for our First Holy Communion. Yay!!

By Jack Bergin 2nd Class

Song Singing

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th class started singing with John Hosey a few weeks ago. We learned hymns and other songs like *Galway Girl* too. This is for the school choir. We practise every Wednesday. We will be singing for 2nd class's Holy Communion in May. We are all very excited and looking forward to the 20th of May. By Erin Lalor, 1st class