

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní, Donabate, Co. Dublin

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Together we learn,

Together we succeed

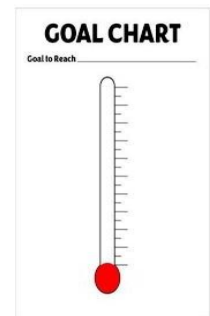


Scoil Phádraic Cailíní | February Newsletter – 2024



Dear Parents,

It has been lovely seeing so many of our parents in the school for the Parent-Teacher Meetings. I'm sure that you are very proud of your daughter's progress, as are we! Following on from our *Read a Book Over Christmas* campaign, we have set up 'Reading Thermometers' in some of the classrooms. The girls are reading library books and recording how many books they as a class have read altogether. We will have little class incentives to encourage them to reach their collective target! The fourth class girls have a visit to the library coming up this month. We will be looking forward to celebrating Language Fortnight this term, enjoying activities in literacy and reading in English and as *Gaeilge!*



Hot Meal Scheme

The Minister for Social Protection Heather Humphreys last year announced her intention to commence the roll-out of the Hot School Meals Initiative, to primary schools, from 2024. We were quick to get our expression of interest in and have been selected in this early round of schools, to be chosen as part of the initiative. After the Easter break your child will be receiving a hot meal at school each day at lunchtime. You will choose from a large choice of meals for your child on an app. The meals are completely free and uphold high nutritional standards. The meals are heated on site, so we will be finding a home for 3 large 6ft ovens! Our Parent Representatives on the Board of Management, Amanda Bourke and Paudie Byrne and I, have been meeting with different companies that provide this service. This is an exciting development and we will be have more information for you in the coming weeks.

While we are delighted about this opportunity for parents and children alike, this, in conjunction with last year's Free Book Scheme announcement, significantly add to the already weighty administration of the school. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of requests to the school office. We have no update as yet on the Free Book Scheme for the coming school year



Reminders of upcoming school closure dates:

Mid-term Break - Monday 12th - Friday 16th February (inclusive)

St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday - 18th March

Easter Holidays - Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April (inclusive)



6th Class Christmas Fun Day

A huge well done to our 6th Class girls for all their hard work and enthusiasm for our Senior Christmas Fun Day! Students were treated to Festive games, an Elf-Hunt, Christmas Crack the Code, a Dance Party, a Christmas Quiz, a Bake sale and a Raffle. Many thanks to everyone who donated and supported the day. The girls raised over €1000! They very generously decided to donate €250 to the Dogs' Trust Charity, €200 to Aoife's Clown Doctor and €50 to Temple Street Children's Hospital. Well done girls!

Catholic Schools Week

From the 22nd of January - 26th of January we celebrated Catholic Schools Week here in the school. We contemplated our schools as communities of service under the following themes:

Service in Our Community of Friends

Service in Our School Community

Service in Our Family Community

Service in Our Local Community

Service in Our Faith Community

Our third-class girls are working on their projects on their Grandparents, and we look forward to celebrating Grandparents Day later in the month.

Hockey

Hockey matches for 6th class will be starting in February. They will be playing against Wesley College, St Matthew's National School and St Andrew's Lucan. They are in Division 1 of the Leinster League for primary schools.

Peace Proms

The two 4th classes had an amazing time on Saturday night, 3rd February, performing with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland in the Peace Proms concert at the RDS.

The school choirs lifted the roof with powerful peace anthems and lots of family favourites including Pop Medleys.

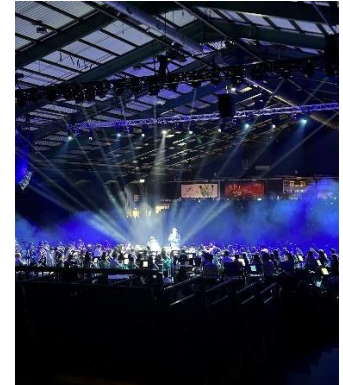
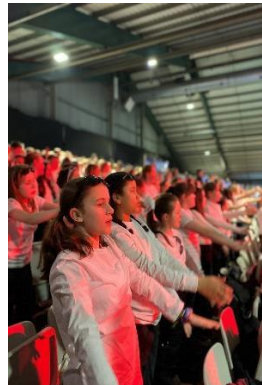
With everything from majestic Bagpipe melodies to rocking violin and vocal solos, the musical programme was certainly thrilling.

As an added bonus, we enjoyed Alannah from Ms. MacDonald's 6th class who was also a performer on stage as part of an Irish Dancing group.

A big thank you to the 2 parents who came along on a Saturday night of a Bank holiday weekend to help and support the girls, Helen Spencer and Melissa Gray.

Lastly, many thanks to Ms. Walsh and Ms. Flood and Ms. Greene for all their hard work preparing the girls for this wonderful event.

Well Done 4th Class!



Tennis

The school tennis team are looking forward to participating in the Leinster Tennis Primary School Tennis League 2024. The girls started practicing together in December and matches will take place between 4th March and 23rd May.

Swimming

2nd class have started their term of swimming!



Internet Safety

3rd and 4th classes did an internet safety workshop with Barnardo's on Monday 22nd January. The workshops teach children to stay safe online by learning 4 simple rules and by asking children to be S.T.A.R.s online.

'We learned that cyberbullying is actually illegal. So if you are being told mean stuff the police can get involved. We also learned that you should never ever give out your personal information on public websites or social media. If an advertisement pops up (unless it's a trustworthy game) always decline because of hackers and because viruses may get into your device. Do not accept or send a friend request if you don't know the person.'

By Ruby and Ella in Ms. McGee's 3rd Class.



Dates for Sacraments



Our 2nd and 6th class girls are busy with their preparations for their upcoming Sacraments.

- ✚ **Confirmation** will take place on **Friday 12th April** at 11am in St. Patrick's Church.
- ✚ **First Holy Communion** will take place on **Saturday 11th May** at 11am in St. Patrick's Church.

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