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Together we learn,

Together we succeed



Scoil Phádraic Cailíní | March Newsletter – 2024

Dear Parents,

Following on from the **Smartphone Initiative** in Greystones, a large group of Primary Schools here in Fingal including Scoil Phádraic Cailíní, are working together to introduce a similar initiative to support parents in choosing not to introduce their child to a smartphone while in Primary School. This is a voluntary, opt-in initiative that outlines the potential benefits of this approach. The idea is to empower parents to come together, in saying no to smartphones in primary school, so that many of the children can benefit from the delay in smartphone ownership. The hope is to grow the initiative up through the school. We realise that, in the case of senior students, such an agreement may not be practical as they may already have their own smartphone. Therefore, it is understood that this approach may be of more interest to parents of children in 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes. We have discussed this with the Parents Association and look forward to going out to the wider parent body to help inform our approach.

To support the launch of this initiative, we are delighted that **Dr. Colman Noctor, Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytical Psychotherapist**, will give a talk on the implications of smartphone use on a child's development and mental health. Dr. Noctor has worked across a range of Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services both in Ireland and abroad and he has a wealth of national and international clinical experience. Colman specialises in the treatment of all emotional disorders and has a keen interest in the effects of contemporary media on child development and mental health and frequently contributes to national media on this topic. Colman will speak about his experience and understanding of the serious implications of introducing mobile phones to Primary School children. The venue for the talk is Holywell ET School Swords, Tuesday 9th April, from 7pm-9pm.

Places are limited and each school has been allocated a number of tickets. Attendance is by direct booking through our school email scoilphadraic@gmail.com.

Reminders of upcoming school closure dates:

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

Staff Maths In-Service Training Day - Tuesday 23rd April

May Bank Holiday - Friday 3rd May and Monday 6th May

June Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd June



On the 21st of March we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day! The theme of this year's celebration was 'End the Stereotypes'. The girls wore mismatched or colourful socks to help raise positive awareness around

Down Syndrome. For further information please see

<https://downsyndrome.ie/whats-happening/world-down-syndrome-day/>

The week of the 18th-24th of March is Neurodiversity Awareness week.

The term 'neurodiversity' was coined to help fight the potential stigma that people may experience with diagnoses of Autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, etc. The objective of Neurodiversity Awareness week is to increase acceptance and understanding of the neurodiverse experience, whilst celebrating the strengths of the neurodiverse mind. For more

information please see

<https://neurodiversityireland.com/support/support-for-neurodiverse-children/>

April is Autism Acceptance month. Scoil Phádraic Cailíní is in its second year of being an Autism Friendly school with AsIAM. During April School staff will undertake additional training and pupils will be provided with opportunities to extend their understanding of difference and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual!

Literacy Week



For literacy week the junior classes joined up with the senior classes and did 'Book Buddies' The junior classes also read to their teddy bears & designed bookmarks. The senior classes did book reviews, quizzes and a poetry competition.

We all dressed up for World Book Day on March 7th.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024 was a great success. All classes participated in various activities through Irish, such as board games, trath na gceist (Senior classes), an art and colouring competition, Buddy Reading as Gaeilge, as well as Ceilí dancing during PE.

Thank you to Ms. McGee for organising the ceolchoirm last Friday where we were treated to lots of Irish poems and songs from each class. We enjoyed watching the Irish dancers perform and we loved Senior Infants Haka Gaelach. Everyone was dressed in the colour of their culture too!



Engineers Week

To mark Engineer's week (March 2nd - 8th) Dermot Collins talked to 4th class about the diverse world of Engineering and about his work with planning and development



of roads and traffic management in the Engineering Department of Dublin City Council. Many of the girls asked lots of astute questions and even gave Dermot some interesting ideas to take back to his colleagues!

Pupil's Council

4th and 5th class participated in our Pupil's Council elections. A new class rep. and deputy class rep. were voted on by all the 4th and 5th classes. Any girl who put their name forward prepared a speech before election day. Well done everyone!



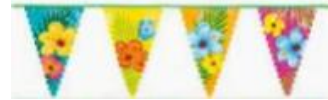
World Down Syndrome Day



On Thursday, the 21st of March we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day. The girls wore funky socks to school on that day. Some classes learned the song Paradise by Irish band Keywest while using Lamh signs. The girls enjoyed raising positive awareness around Down Syndrome.

Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day took place on Friday 8th March. 3rd class grandparents and family members were invited to participate in a prayer service led by Fr Pat. Our visitors were also treated to the girls singing their hearts out to 'When I Grow Up'. It was a wonderful afternoon where all grandparents wherever they may be were honoured and celebrated.



Easter Fair

The Easter Fair on Thursday 21st March was a great success with lots of fun games, treats and prizes won from the Easter Raffle. A big thank you to the Parents Association, parents, SNAs and teachers for their help making the day great fun for all!



GAA

Our GAA coach, Paul, brought the Sam McGuire Cup to every class at the end of February. We learned that Sam McGuire was born in Dunmanway, Cork. The girls were able to tell Coach Paul that the cup was modelled on the Ardagh chalice.



6th class have started Fingal League. They had their first match against Colmcilles in Ballymastone last week & our next match is in April in Howth.

Hockey

3rd and 4th class enjoyed a hockey blitz with Educate Together. Great fun was had by all!



The 6th class hockey team took part in Leinster Hockey Division 1 Primary Schools League. We played 3 matches against Wesley College, St Andrew's Lucan and St Matthews NS. The girls showed fantastic teamwork, dedication and determination in all their matches. A huge thanks to the coach Anthony Glutz for all his work with the team.

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** in St. Patrick's Church.

✚ **First Holy Communion** will take place on **Saturday 11th May** in St. Patrick's Church.



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