

# Scoil Phádraic Cailíní, Donabate, Co. Dublin

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Together we learn, Together we succeed



## Scoil Phádraic Cailíní | April Newsletter – 2024



Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are in the last term of the school year! We have lots to look forward to, including First Holy Communion, school tours, Sports Day, Creative Schools Day and our annual Onesie Walk, to mention just a few! Our 6<sup>th</sup> class girls had a really special Confirmation Service on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, followed by a lovely reception in the Shoreline Hotel afterwards. We are very proud of our 2<sup>nd</sup> class girls who celebrated the sacrament of First Penance on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April with Fr. Pat and Fr. Augustine, the girls were beaming with pride afterwards.

This term is a very important one in terms of completing the curriculum at each class level. This is also when we revisit the learning taught throughout the year, to cement this learning in preparation for the step-up that the next class level will require. To this end, we will be promoting and encouraging good school attendance throughout the term. Ms. O'Reilly, in collaboration with the Pupils Council will be running a Positive School Attendance Slogan Competition. We will also be displaying Attendance Ladders in the classrooms where accumulatively the class can aim for high school attendance goals and achieve whole class rewards along the way. This will all be promoted in a positive light, trying to encourage good habits that span their school years, while reminding the girls that they do need to stay at home if they are sick and we understand that.

### Hot Meal Scheme

The government's Hot Meal Scheme initiative is in the process of being rolled out to schools like ours, who were accepted into this initial launch phase. The company The Lunch Bag, who are our chosen providers, have been busy ensuring that the facilities and protocols for this service are in place and are awaiting our launch date in mid-May.

## Tennis

The School Tennis team are in the middle of their Leinster Primary School league group stage matches. On the 10th of April they played St Andrews from Bray and while they didn't win, they put up a very brave fight and the school is very proud of them.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Nature Crafts

3<sup>rd</sup> Class had a visit from Mouse (from OWLs) and got girls busy making bird boxes.



## 6th Class GAA

Congrats and well done to the 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls winning their GAA semi-final on 30<sup>th</sup> April and now into the final of the Fingal League. Details for the final match date in May to be decided.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Class Science visitors

On the 19<sup>th</sup> April, Triona Lally (Professor in Biomedical Engineering in Trinity College) and her colleague Rob talked to fourth class pupils about designing medical devices and using 3D printing. They also showed them an artificial heart valve and assisted the girls in making and testing a simple heart valve together. Finally the girls examined the natural heart valves in a lamb's heart. We are very grateful to Triona and Rob for giving up their time to tell us about this fascinating and life-saving work.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Class Confirmation

The 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls celebrated their Confirmation on 11<sup>th</sup> April. The Parents Association and school organised a lovely reception in the Shoreline Hotel afterwards where all families and girls could meet up after the ceremony. A special thank you to Ms Manning and Ms MacDonald for their time preparing the girls, as well as the SNAs for all their help, the Parents Association for organising the Shoreline Hotel and not forgetting Father Pat for making it a special day for all.

Many thanks to parents that completed and submitted the Smartphone Survey. We have had a great response from parents to this initiative. Parents were asked their opinion on delaying access to smartphones at primary school age. The results confirmed that parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the initiative. Even in the older classes where some children already have mobile phones, over 70% of parents said that had there been a Smartphone Agreement in place when their child had joined the school, that they would have signed up to it.

Survey responses	Jnr & Snr Infants	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Class	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Class
% of overall responses	77%	94%	67%	70%
Yes to signing up	89.4%	86.7%	82.6%	47.8%
No to signing up	10.6%	13.3%	7.3%	10.8%
Child already has a smartphone	-	16%	10.1%	41.4%

### Next steps - Smartphone agreement

Given the strong positive survey response, it has been decided to proceed with implementing a voluntary smartphone agreement. We will be in touch with further information on this as well as a copy of the Voluntary Smartphone Agreement. The response rate for each class level will be recorded and parents/guardians will be advised of the acceptance rate for their child's class level.

This will be a recurring activity each year for all classes.

## Dates for Sacraments



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> class girls are busy with their preparations for their upcoming Sacraments.

**✚ First Holy Communion** will take place on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May** at 11am in St. Patrick's Church.

### Contact Us:



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