

EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL

MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER 2017

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Board of Management and Staff, I would like to wish all our families and friends a happy and holy Easter.



SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE:

Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated recently in our school. The Student Council encouraged their peers to use as much Irish as possible. We had several "Gaeilgeoir an lae" winners. On Thursday 16th March, the children dressed in green, white or orange and we had a very enjoyable ceolchoirm in the school hall.



GREEN SCHOOL NEWS:

We continue to strive for our 5th Green flag for Biodiversity. We now have another new bird house (thanks to Ms Wallnutt) and a Bug Hotel (thanks to Mrs Cleary's husband). We want everyone to make a big effort to walk to school particularly this Wednesday during our Active School Week.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE:

The Sacrament of First Penance took place for 1st and 2nd classes on Thursday, 23rd March. Sincere thanks to Fr. Lyng, Fr. O'Callaghan and Ms Wallnutt and especially our beautiful choir who helped make it such a special occasion.

TRÓCAIRE BOXES:

Families are reminded that Wednesday morning next, 5th April, is the last day for returning Trócaire boxes. If you forget to bring them in by this date, please return them to your local church.

FUNDRAISING:

The Parents' Association organised a very successful Easter Bingo and raffle last Saturday, 1st April. The total raised was €420 before costs. This amount will be put towards our new Sensory flower and vegetable beds. Have you seen our new Amuigh Faoin Spéir Learning Zone? The children and teachers love it. We are very grateful to Lisa and all the committee for all the hard work they put in to their fundraising initiatives.

SACRED SPACE/CONVERSATION COAXER:

Our Sacred space is depicting a Wilderness Garden to remind us of the time spent by Jesus in the desert wilderness. We are reminded to try to give something up and also to try to do something good during the time of Lent. It's not late too start over if you've forgotten!



ENROLMENT 2017

Our Junior Infant class for next September has been finalised and all families have been contacted. I would recommend that you fill in an application form for any younger brothers and sisters and make sure we have this on file for future years.

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BOOK BILLS:

Thank you to those families who have paid for all their books for this year. We would urge anyone with remaining bills to pay them as soon as possible as we will be issuing next year's book bill in June so that we can purchase what's required during the summer. Thank you also to those families who have made voluntary contributions. We recommend a donation of €60 per family but we are extremely grateful for any amount.



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Ms Wallnutt has been doing fantastic work with our school choir in preparation for the National Children's Choir event in the Basketball Arena this Wednesday, 5th April. I have heard them rehearsing and it would lift your heart to hear them. We are very proud of them all and wish them well.



EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND MATHS.

As you know we have been placing a great emphasis on STEM subjects for the past year (please see the link on the school website). In this regard, we will have a little showcase of some of the experiments the children have carried out. This will take place on Friday at 11.30am.

Parents of 5th and 6th and Junior and Senior Infants in particular, are welcome to come in and have a little look at the work.

BÍ GNÓTHACH

5TH and 6th class have been working on their Bí Gnóthach project which involves entrepreneurial skills. They will be selling some Easter pottery and some Easter cakes this Friday from 11.45am. All support would be appreciated.

TEACHER TRAINING:

The teachers and staff recently received some fire safety training. They also received some training in new programmes and apps for use with our laptops. We also attended the informative training day on the new Primary Language Curriculum.



ENGINEERS' WEEK:

During the week of 4th – 10th March we celebrated Engineers' Week. Lots of construction and investigation took place – check out the STEM link on the school's website.

WORLD BOOK DAY:

The children enjoyed the particular emphasis placed on their favourite book during World Book Day. We hope they

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enjoyed using their vouchers. We will have a special visit from a children's book author later in April and we are looking forward to this.

5th and 6th class entered the "Write a Book" competition. They enjoyed exchanging books with a class from a different school. Congratulations to Rebecca Gillen who won a Merit award.

BIBLE STUDIES:

5th and 6th class enjoyed 5 weeks of Bible Studies facilitated by Mr. Colin Sheldon recently. The use of actions made the Bible stories come alive for the children.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS' WEEK:

Edmondstown National School are celebrating Active Schools' Week this week to allow us time to get our paper work together for our application for the Active Flag. Thank you to our Active School Committee and Mr. O'Dwyer who have been co-ordinating all the activities. Children will wear their tracksuit all this week and their homework will consist of physical exertion only. Remember – please try to walk to school, especially this Wednesday.

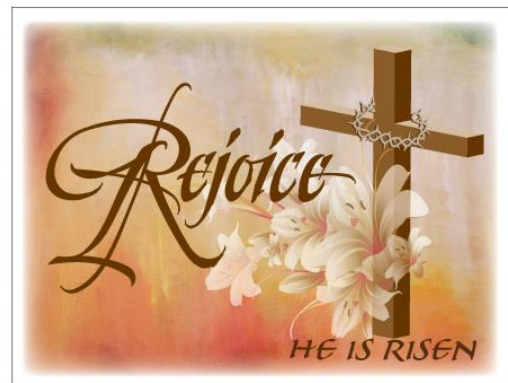


PRAYERS:

Please keep Ms Tallon and Valerie in your prayers over the Easter period. We are delighted that Catherine Behan and Pádraig Lambert are over their recent operations and we wish them a full and speedy recovery.

EASTER HOLIDAYS:

The school will close at 12 noon on Friday, 7th April 2017 and all children will go home at this time. The school will re-open on Monday, 24th April 2017 at 8.45am.



Beannachtaí na Cásca daoibh go leir.

Philomena Cleary

Principal