



## **Nuacht na Scoile**

### **Principal's Address**

Dear Parents and Guardians,  
Another term completed and the year is flying. Once again, it has been a busy time in the classrooms with the boys working diligently, the sport fields full with our soccer and hurling games go leor, the hall active with our athletic training and pickleball and the corridors spirited with our choirs practicing for Confirmation and Communion. It is all go!!

I would like to thank the Board of Management, the staff, the parents and the boys for their support and dedication this term.

I would also like to say a special warm welcome to all our new boys.

On behalf of all the Board of Management and staff I would like to wish Ms McKeon all the best in his new post after Easter.

Kind Regards,  
Stephen Terry

### **Farewell**

It is with a touch of sadness, we will bid farewell to Mr McKeon this Friday. Mr McKeon has served our school well over the last 15 years. He has brought a liveliness to our staffroom, an inspiration to our classrooms and music to our corridors. At the drop of a hat, Mr McKeon would put a song/choir/performance together for you, his musical talents will be missed!! We thank Mr McKeon for the wonderful contributions he has made to our school

and wish his all the best as he embarks on his new journey as principal in Ballycumber, Co. Offaly.

### **Curriculum Planning Day**

The school will b closed for pupils on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to facilitate staff training on the new maths curriculum.

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**



*Junior Winners*

Bhi Seachtain na Gaeilge ann an seachtain seo caite. Bhi ceili mor, ceolchoirm, turas chuig an leabharlann áitiúil agus tráth na gceist ar suil i rith na seachtaine.

Chabhraigh buachaillí rang a sé leis na Naíonáin Shóisearacha agus Shinsearacha lena gcuid léitheoireachta freisin. Phioc na muinteoiri "Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine" as gach rang, agus fuair siad go leir duaiseanna. Bhi an-sport againn! Mol An Óige Agus Tiocfaidh Sí.



*Senior Winners*

### Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club has grown from strength to strength in the last few weeks. We recently purchased a cooker and oven for the club. This is a wonderful amenity to have in our school. Thank you to all involved in its success.

### Agility Course

The boys are enjoying their time playing on the agility course. It is a wonderful amenity to have in the school.



### Rainbows Programme



Scoil Phádraig facilitate the Rainbows programme in our school. The Rainbows Programmes provide

- a 10-week listening, group support programme for children and young people following a bereavement or parental separation.
- Children of a similar age (from 7 years) and loss experience are in separate groups.

- Rainbows is not counselling or professional therapy.

For further enquiries or to enrol your child: email [rainbowsscoilphadraig@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowsscoilphadraig@gmail.com) or leave a message for Aisling Sullivan, Rainbows Co-Ordinator, Scoil Phádraig (057 8623394)

### Choir

Thank you to our wonderful school choir. They performed beautifully at the Confirmation ceremony last week. Practice is underway for the upcoming Communion.

### Swimming

The boys from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes will begin swimming lessons after Easter. This will be on Tuesdays. Please take the opportunity over the Easter break for your child to work on independently undressing, drying and redressing themselves. Also, a routine of how to pack your clothes back into your bag while you swim would be beneficial. Please note shampoos, body wash, deodorant and gels are not permitted.

### Sacraments

Congratulations to the boys from 2<sup>nd</sup> class, they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation earlier this month.

Congratulations also to the boys from 6<sup>th</sup> class who had their Confirmation last week. Wishing them a lifetime of faith and blessings.

Our First Communion date is Sat, May 25<sup>th</sup> 11.30am

## 6<sup>th</sup> class retreat

The boys from 6<sup>th</sup> class participated in an in-house retreat before their confirmation. The day began with a hot Breakfast and continued with a visit from Fr Eugene. Pizza and chips was a treat for lunch. The day was facilitated under the excellent guidance of our secretary Ailish, who took time out her day to spread the word of God. In appreciation for this work, the boys have decided to make a donation from their Confirmation money to a charity of Ailish's choice – ACN – Aid to the Church in Need.



## Cumann na mBunscol

Our school has 2 hurling teams for the first time ever! One team have had 2 games so far. We lost to Ballyfin in our opening game and has a great win against our neighbours Emo. Our developing squad have started strong with a win over Abbeyleix. Matches will continue after Easter.

## Grandparents Day

We celebrated Grandparents Day as part of Catholic Schools Week this term. It was wonderful to have the grandparents in with us to share their knowledge and stories. The boys loved chatting and playing with the Grandparents also. They were then treated to sandwiches sweet treats, teas and coffees sponsored by Bradburys, our new hot school meal suppliers.

## Catholic Schools Week

Along with our Grandparents Day, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a school service. This was on St Brigid's Day. We also went for a school walk around the block – welcoming spring and walking in hope as we leave winter behind us.

## Hot School Meals



Scoil Phádraig will be participating in the Hot School Meals Programme, on our return from the Easter holidays, on April 8th.

This programme provides a hot meal for every pupil in the school, every day, free of charge. The boys will only have to bring in a snack for their small break and their normal drink. Please continue to refer to our healthy eating policy, as summarised on page 6 of your son's homework journal, for any snack that is brought to school.

When ordering your free school meal, simply go to [www.irishschoolmeals.ie](http://www.irishschoolmeals.ie) to log in using your log-in details. These details have been sent home on a label in your son's homework journal/folder.

## My sisters closet



Two parents from our school are organising a wonderful pop-up shop in the Solas Eco Garden Shop in Sunday. April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm. All monies raised will go towards doctorswithoutborders and the Gaza Paediatric Care Initiative. Please support.

## Soccer

We had 2 team compete in FAI 5 a-side tournament recently. Both teams were unlucky not to advance from their groups, coming in 2nd in their respective groups. 4th class had a soccer tournament trí ghaeilge to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge.

A tournament will be held for 2nd and 3rd classes after Easter.

## Chess Club



*The boys in Abbeyleix*

Our Chess club has been a huge success again this year with boys from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class taking part. We have had the opportunity to take part in 3 chess tournaments in the last term including a visit to the Rock N.S and a day out at Abbeyleix Manor Hotel for the Féile Fichille. We hosted the Ficheall Chess tournament again this year with 128 children from 5 different schools taking part. This was a fun and friendly day where all children could put their chess skills to the test!



*The boys in The Rock School*

## Pod



We hope to have our brand-new sensory pod fitted in the school next term. This will be a wonderful resource for our pupils. It is a therapeutic space for pupils who may need to regulate after a sensory overload. We hope you will support our fundraising effort in May – our Marathon Run to secure our purchase of this

## Cake sale

Thank you to everyone that supported our recent cake sale. We raised 1,630 euro towards our sensory pod – pictured above.

## Big Birthday!



Congratulations to Ms Davis's mother Teresa Finerty, Mount Talbot, Roscommon on turning 100 on March 10th. Her grandfather was actually born before the famine in 1842 and she is still going strong in 2024. She still does the crossword every day and watches the news every evening.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Ms Flanagan and her partner on the recent safe arrival of their daughter Hannah.

## Val

Best wished to Val our cleaners who finished working with us this term.

## Social Networks

We ask all parents to respect the confidentiality and privacy of our school community. We ask all parents to refrain from making any reference to our school, teacher, pupils or other parents on social media. Mr Galvin and the staff are always available to discuss any concerns you may have in relation to your son at short notice. We strongly encourage this mutual respect.

## Holidays

School closure for the Easter break is on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Bus pick-ups -11:30 – All Buses

ARC, Junior Infants & 4th – 6th Classes – 11:40

Senior Infants & 1st – 3rd Classes – 11:50

We will re-open on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder – the school is closed for one week in May 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

