

## February Newsletter 2018

### CHILD PROTECTION

Following the commencement of the [Children First Act, 2015](#) from 11 December 2017, The Department of Education and Skills has issued new [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017](#)

The purpose of the new procedures is to give clear direction and guidance to school authorities and to school personnel in relation to meeting the new statutory obligations under the Children First Act, 2015.

The Department of Education and Skills has instructed all schools to undertake training to become familiar with the new procedures and their implications.

**Gowran NS will be closed on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> for this purpose. Please note this date was not included in the calendar issued in September.**

**GOWRAN JEP** Following on the great success of last year's project selling personalised keyrings and caps, the pupils of this year's Sixth Class, along with their teacher, are currently working hard on their Junior Entrepreneur Programme. They have two products for sale, personalised photo frames and bookmarks. They are holding a Showcase Day on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm when everyone is welcome to come and see their work.

### *School walk*



Our annual school sponsored walk takes place on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Sponsorship cards will shortly be distributed. We greatly appreciate your generous support at this time every year.

### *Credit Union quiz*

Four Gowran teams participated in this year's local Credit Union Table Quiz which was held on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Our U11 teams took 1st place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. We wish James, Billy, Orla and Finn the best of luck as they proceed shortly to the regional finals on March 4<sup>th</sup>.



### *Theatre Visit*

The pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will visit the Watergate Theatre on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> to see a Barnstorm Theatre Company production called "Barney Carey Gets His Wings." The cost of transport to the theatre has been subsidised by the Arts Office of Kilkenny County Council.

## Monthly Awards January 2018



Well done to the pupils who were chosen by their teachers for outstanding behaviour during the month of January.



## Annual Book Fair

As part of World Book Week, our annual Book Fair will take place with a display from Khan's Bookshop on Thursday, March 8th from 2pm to 3pm and all day Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to come and browse and buy great value books for your child.

Remember that a large percentage of the money spent is returned, in books, to the school, so everyone benefits. In addition, local author Helena Duggan will visit the school and some classes will visit Dubray Bookshop during the week to meet other authors. All pupils will partake in many school book-related activities including Book Bingo and dressing up as characters from books on World Book Day, March 2<sup>nd</sup>



## Education Initiatives

Primary schools are currently engaging in a number of important initiatives some of which have begun and some of which are imminent. These include:

- The new Primary Language Curriculum:  
The Oral Language programme is now being fully implemented and planning is well underway for implementation of the Reading and Writing strands from Junior Infants to Second Class. This will begin to be introduced in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes from 2019.
- Child Protection:  
The Board of Management and staff are currently preparing a Child Safeguarding Statement to comply with the Children First Act 2015.



## Hurling and Camogie

It's that time of the year when the boys and girls have taken to the field again in preparation for this season's matches. Hopefully the weather will improve as training schedules get underway. A sincere thank you to the teachers and the volunteers from our local clubs, without whom these activities could not take place.

**N.B. Please note that In the interest of safety, pupils can only play hurling during organised training times and helmets must be worn at all times.**

## *Important Dates:*

**Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Book Character Dress-Up Day

JEP Showcase – 1pm

**Wed, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Sacrament of First Penance for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**Thursday, Friday March 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>**

Khan's Book Fair

**Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> am**

Lá Glas/ Céilí Mór

**Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> pm**

School Walk

**Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday

**Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

School closed for Child Protection training

**Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Easter Holidays – school closes at 12.30pm



## EASTER CAMP

Don't forget the children's activity camp being held on the school premises during the Easter holidays from March 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> .

## HOMEWORK SURVEY

Many thanks to those who responded to our recent homework survey. **43%** of parents replied. In general, your responses were very positive and we appreciate your many comments and suggestions.

The main reason you consider homework is important is that it keeps parents informed of their child's progress. Reading was considered the most important part of homework followed by spellings and tables. **73%** of parents are happy with the current homework arrangements, while **17%** would prefer more written maths and less than **6%** would prefer written work in other subject areas. In response to what the children do with their free time, parents listed a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities, along with involvement in family life, helping with household chores etc.

We agree with the sentiment expressed by one parent, " If parents realised that just because there is little or no written work, this doesn't mean there's no homework at all." Similarly, teachers have noticed a careless attitude from many pupils towards the small amount they have to do.

As a result of the response to our survey, we will continue the current homework practice with the addition of a few written maths problems weekly in the older classes. In order to keep parents informed of what topics the children are working on and their progress, the teachers will regularly send home the Maths Assessment tests, weekly dictation tests and the genre writing copies. We ask for your co-operation in looking over these and signing them.

Once again, we are most grateful for the constructive suggestions you gave in your feedback to help improve the quality, relevance and benefits of homework for all.