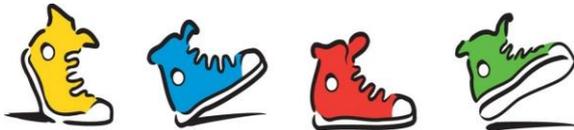


March Newsletter 2017



Congratulations to the 58 pupils who recently received their Confirmation from Fr. Dalton during a lovely ceremony in Gowran parish church. A sincere thank you to the twelve parents who volunteered to be leaders of the "You shall be my Witnesses" parish preparation programme, to our wonderful choir and to all who contributed to what was we hope was a memorable day for everyone. The final meeting for parents and pupils takes place in the school hall on April 4th at 8pm.

School walk



Our annual school sponsored walk takes place on Friday, March 31st. Sponsorship cards are currently being distributed. Once again we are fortunate enough to have refreshments provided by members of the Parents' Association. We greatly appreciate your generous support at this time every year.



Concern Primary School Debating Competition

Well done to our 6th class team who had a very close victory in Round 3 against Scoil Móin Ruadh, Hugginstown. They opposed the motion that,

"Child Labour is a Necessity of Life in the Developing World". They are now preparing for the next round against Moyne National School, proposing the motion that "Zoos should be shut down for good. We wish the pupils and their teacher Ms. Mulryan the best of luck going forward!

Annual Book Fair



Once again we had a very successful Book Week packed with activities ranging from visits to Dubray bookshop to dressing up as book characters on World Book Day and including Khan's Book Fair, where over €2,825 was spent yielding €700 worth of books to add to the class libraries. Congratulations to the lucky winners of the Book Bingo activity and well done to everyone for the wide range of reading that took place.

Seachtain na Gaeilge



We are currently engaged in activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge. All classes are practising their céilí dancing with Ann in preparation for Lá Glas when we will wear something green and participate in a Céilí Mór on March 16th.

Active week



Active School Week will take place from April 3rd to 7th. During that week, emphasis will be on being more active than academic and participation by everyone.



Education Initiatives

Primary schools will be engaging in a number of important initiatives in the coming years, some of which have begun and some of which are imminent. These include:

- The new Primary Language Curriculum: introduction has already begun from Junior Infants to Second Class. Begins in 3rd to 6th from 2019.
- Resource Teaching Allocation Model: the organisation of special needs education will be reformed from September 2017 and there will be an ongoing review of schools' needs every two years.
- ICT Infrastructure Grant: at long last a five year funding programme for technology in education has begun this year. The cost of maintaining, replacing and upgrading ICT resources has soared in recent years so this is a most welcome development.

National Parents Council

A large number of parents attended the recent talk organised by the Parents' Association to learn more about supporting their children's mental health and emotional wellbeing. Those present found the evening very helpful. Many thanks to the PA committee for their interest and we look forward to further information sessions in the future.



Cake Sale Many thanks to all who organised, baked and bought the delicious fare at

the Valentine's P.A cake sale. A whopping €892 was raised for Parent Association funds.

Clothes Recycling

The recent collection of clothes for recycling organised by the PA resulted in a cheque for €432 for school funds. An extra iPad has been purchased to cater for the large number of pupils in some classes.



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.



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Important Dates:

Wed, March 15 th	Sacrament of First Penance for 2 nd Class
Thurs, March 16 th	Lá Glas
Friday, March 17 th	St. Patrick's Day
Friday, March 31 st	School Walk
April 3 rd – 7 th	Active School Week
Friday April 7 th	Easter Holidays – school closes at 12.30pm
Monday April 24 th	School reopens