



NEWSLETTER MARCH/APRIL 2017

Tráth na gCeist:

Well done to our quiz teams:

*Sophie Gordon
Ryan Holland
Adrian Conlon
Abbie McElroy
Erin Fegan
Caio Murphy*

*Niall Donnelly
Ava Connolly
John Tennyson
Taylor Donnelly
Charlotte Mc Aleer
Andrew Thornton*

They were winners of our annual quiz as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge.

First Penance:

Well done to the children in 2nd class who made their First Penance on Wednesday 15th March.

Care Programme:

The theme for February was 'Happiness'. This month's theme is 'My Wellbeing'. Reading suggestions for teachers and parents:

Why Parental self-care is essential for Children's emotional wellbeing.

Can you teach wellbeing? Martin Seligman thinks so.

Art Classes:

Marty's art classes will take place on Thursday 6th April instead of Friday due to early closure.



Irish League of Credit Union Quiz:

We are very proud of our quiz team

*Charlie McAleer, Cathal Maguire
Michael Kirby, Oran McMahon*

who represented our school in the Regional Finals. They tied for second and missed the National Finals by a single point!

FAI Soccer Blitz:

Well done to our players from 4th, 5th and 6th who were involved in two soccer blitzes in Oriel Park. Both boys and girls teams played well and enjoyed meeting other teams from the county.

Science Experiment:

Last week, our two French student teachers worked with 6th class on an experiment to extract D.N.A. from a banana. A mixture of banana, washing up liquid, salt and water was filtered and pure alcohol added to show the D.N.A. strands. The children were fascinated to learn the many ways in which harvesting D.N.A. can improve our lives, especially in the food growing industry.

Merci Cindie et Amelie!

Boys and Girls Football Blitz:

Both our boys and girls teams have qualified for Round 2 of the 7-a-side all county blitzes.

The boys play their blitz today in Ardee. No doubt they will give of their best. We wish them the best of luck in their matches!

The girls will play their blitz after Easter in Kilkerry against Redeemer GNS and Bay Estate. Best of luck to the girls for these matches too.

Junior Entrepreneur .Showcase Day:

5th class had a terrific afternoon showcasing their balloon bands to the school on Friday 24th March. They have had a great time being involved in the programme, which integrates very effectively across our school curriculum. You can access some of their progress photos on the Junior Entrepreneur page of our school website. Thanks to all those who came to support us on the day.

Website and Twitter:

There are so many wonderful activities and events happening in each class it would be impossible to include them all in our newsletter each month.

Follow us on Twitter @KilkerleySchool or check out our school blog <http://www.kilkerleyns.com/school-blog> for the latest updates, news and photographs.

For a more in-depth look at projects such as The Junior Entrepreneur, Green Schools and Primary Science Awards log on to our new website, www.kilkerleyns.com, which went live before Christmas. The website also provides easy access to lots of information about the school from the yearly calendar, videos, internet safety tips, policies and staff.

Senior Infants :

Senior Infants have been learning about looking after our environment by reducing, reusing and recycling. We have been practising these habits at school by reducing our food wrappers, reusing rubbish in 'Junk Art' and taking a field trip to the Recycling Centre. We sorted our rubbish into coloured glass, plastic and aluminium. We took photos of our journey there and drew maps to show how we got there. You can look at our journey on the display board outside our classroom.

Easter Holidays:

School will close at 12.00pm on Friday 7th April for the Easter holidays and will re-open on Monday 24th April.

Sky Dome:

On Thursday last, 3rd to 6th classes visited the Sky Dome. Each group had the opportunity to sit underneath the amazing dome and watch moving projections of our stars, the constellations, the planets and our solar system. Ollie was on hand to explain the images and answer any questions that our young stargazers had. The children came away with a wealth of information and really enjoyed the interactive learning experience.

Our Chicks:

Our chicks have hatched! It has been such an exciting week in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál as our little chicks hatched from their eggs.

Second Class have been observing and recording their progress in preparation for our Science Fair on Thursday 6th of April. The children explored the developments of the embryo inside the egg for twenty one days and are now observing and learning about the life of a chick. The chicks have been named Kirby, Chester, Ollie and Fluffy. The children are looking forward to sharing their knowledge at the Science Fair!



Fieldtrip to Moffett Engineering:

This month, as part of engineers week, 5th class went on a fieldtrip to visit Moffett Engineering. The children were taken around the various buildings to explore how Moffett design, build and test their forklifts. The children got to meet with some of the engineers on site who design the forklifts and were shown how computer software is used to build their machines. They were then given an opportunity to see the forklifts being built in the workshops. The children were shown how these machines are tested onsite to ensure they are fit for purpose.

5th class had a brilliant morning and we would like to thank Kevin Turnbull for taking the time to show us around. We definitely have some budding engineers in our school!

Scratch:

Scratch is an interactive computer coding programme that encourages children to design and create interactive stories, animations and games. The programme helps children to think creatively through computational thinking and problem solving. This programme is a free downloadable programme available online at scratch.mit.edu.

Some of our 5th class students designed their own animations and games and entered these into the National Scratch Competition run by the Irish Computer Society. Congratulations to our 5th class students who recently received certificates from *Scratch* for their efforts.

Engineers Week:

2nd Class enjoyed a special treat during Engineer's Week when Neil Larkin came to visit their classroom. Neil had prepared lots of fun engineering challenges for the boys and girls to try out. The children worked in pairs building bridges and testing out their strength. The children also worked on a structure made from spaghetti and marshmallows! The children learned about different types of engineering and the design process. It was an absolutely brilliant workshop. Thank you so much Neil!

Thank you very much to Claire Mulholland for coming to speak to 3rd and 4th Class as part of Engineer's Week. Claire is an Electrical Engineer working with the ESB. She talked to the children through her day to day jobs and responsibilities. The children had the opportunity to ask questions about being an engineer. They found out lots of information. In groups the children had to create an egg cradle using sellotape and straws. The children worked very hard to make sure the egg wouldn't break when dropped from a height. There were lots of fun designs created. The children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon with Claire. Thanks again Claire.

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths:

As with previous years, all of our classes have been working hard throughout the year towards the annual plaque of STEM Excellence. We have had lots of fun carrying out activities, investigations, experiments, going on fieldtrips and speaking to lots of interesting people that work in these areas. Keep an eye on our Primary Science Award page of our school website in the coming weeks for documentation of some of our work from throughout the year.

The children are also excited to be holding their own Science Fair in our school on Thursday 6th April. Each class will be showcasing some of their science work. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn from each other and to present their own ideas and investigations!

Greenschools:

Global Citizenship, Litter & Waste:

A big thank you to all who helped with our 'greenhouse from plastic bottles', last night. Hopefully our greenhouse will be visible to all in a few weeks time. In the meantime please continue to send in your unwanted 2L bottles.

We've managed to reduce our waste going to landfill by 50% this year. A brilliant achievement! Please remember to keep lunch wrappings to a minimum and use lunch boxes and reusable drink bottles.

Happy
Easter

