



Newsletter

Hello & welcome to our April Newsletter. We hope all had a relaxing Easter break and look forward to a busy and productive last term.

Here are some points of information.

Confession: Our two 2nd classes will make their first confession on Wednesday evening 13th April at 7pm in the Dominican (college) church, as they continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion in May (14th). We wish them all the very best for this occasion.

Flag Raising Day: On Tuesday March 15th, in glorious sunshine, we raised our tricolour in memory of the events of the 1916 rising. Congratulations to all the children who read, wrote poems & proclamations, sang, played tin whistle and danced to help us to celebrate in style. A huge thanks to your wonderful Parents Association committee who decorated the school, provided refreshments on the day and a commemorative wristband for all the children. We were very fortunate to also be the only school to witness the army, air corps fly over event on the day. The children made “1916” on the football pitch and we are hopeful of some great photos. Thanks to Geraldine Browne (parent) for organising this for us. There are a lot of protocols surrounding the flying of the Irish Flag and that is why it is not permanently flying on our flag pole.

Bag Packing: A busy day of bag packing in Dunnes Stores was held on Saturday 12th March. €1,000 was raised by the Parent Association volunteers. A huge thanks to one and all. This money is being put towards the cost of our new photocopier which is now in place.

School Closure: Scoil Bhríde will close on **Friday 29th April at 3 p.m. and re-open on Monday 9th May at 9.15 a.m. 2016.**

Scoil Bhríde Website: School news updates are provided regularly on the Scoil Bhríde website. All parents can sign up on the site to receive emailed updates. Go to www.scoilbhrideathgarvan.com and select ‘News Updates’. Simply enter your email address and click ‘Join Now’. That’s it ... you will then be included in the next scheduled mailing. Thank you.

Cross Country: The boys & girls from 3rd – 6th class continue to run and train daily for the upcoming school's Cross Country event which takes place in Hawkfield on Friday 22nd April. Our sincere thanks to Paul Archbold (parent) and Ms. Kavanagh and Ms. Kelly who train the children each day. It is a great way for the children to have some fresh air and exercise daily.

Instrumental Music Lessons: This week the children had an instrumental music demonstration by Music teacher Jennie Bagnall (parent). Last year Jennie taught music lessons after school to children in the junior classes during the summer term. The school has again invited Jennie to offer afterschool instrumental lessons to our pupils at an affordable cost. The benefits of learning instrumental music from a young age are widely known, and we are encouraging our Junior and Senior infants to learn to play the Ocarina. This is a small round plastic 'wind vessel' (flute) with just 4 small finger holes that is designed for children from 3yrs + to play. It is widely used with young children in the UK, but Scoil Bhríde is the first school in Ireland to have children learning to play the Ocarina.

Lessons will cost €30 for 7 weeks and children will perform on their 8th week. Ocarinas cost €20 and will be ordered as a group. Older children can have Ocarina, Recorder, Fife or Flute Group or Private lessons. Please contact Jennie Bagnall directly on 086 3322136 to indicate your interest for your child to join any of these classes.

Book Rental: Book Rental will be up and running for September 2016 from 3rd through to 6th class. Details to follow in May 2016.

Clean-Up Day: The annual Scoil Bhríde clean-up day, organised by Ms. Cosgrove and the Green Schools Committee of students & teachers, takes place on **Wednesday 13th April 2016**. All children will be involved in a clean-up exercise in their own classrooms. We ask parents and all friends of Scoil Bhríde to volunteer to help out on the day. If you are available please leave your name with Emer in the office. We are particularly looking for volunteers who may have power washers. Please ensure you received and read the Green Schools letter (sent Tuesday 5th April) about this Clean-up day

Road Closure: As I'm sure you are all aware, Kildare County Council are carrying out essential sewerage work on the road from the Pink House to Athgarvan Village. Please see attached flyer given to us by the company involved. We have been assured that there will be no disruption to the pedestrian access along the road so we continue to encourage as many children as possible to walk to school.

Sponsored Silence: The 6th class students (and Ms. Cosgrove) are undertaking to do a sponsored silence for the school day on Thursday 14th April to raise funds for the 'Maintain Hope' African Charity. We wish them all the best of luck for this challenging day!

1916 Drama & Talk: The local 'Stage Academy' troupe performed a re-enactment of events of the 1916 rising for all classes on 7th March. Some of our past pupils featured and it was a wonderful production. We also had a local historian visit on Wednesday 9th to talk about the Kildare connection during this historical time.

'Go-Racing Kids Club Day': Every year our 5th class students are invited to a day visit to the Curragh Racecourse. This year the children will visit on Wednesday 13th April where they will see a farrier at work, meet a horse trainer in the parade ring, see the training racehorse simulator in action (some of the children are always allowed to have a go!), visit the jockey's weigh room and meet the racecourse manager. Looking forward to another great visit to our local famous racecourse.

Clothes Collection: Fundraising Clothes Collection for 'Bag2school' will take place next **Monday 11th April**. All bags of clothes, shoes, handbags, soft toys & mobile phones can be left into lobby beside office on or before this date.

Order Of Malta has come to Athgarvan: The Order of Malta, Newbridge, cadet unit, teaches children from age 10-16 first aid skills. Essentially the children are taught to save lives, in a fun way. Our dedicated cadet leaders are fully qualified to work with children, and have taken numerous courses to do so. The cadets will enjoy our many trips, fun days out and educational excursions. They will be part of Order of Malta, Ireland and they can meet other cadet units from all over the country at our Regional and National competitions annually. Our leaders came to Athgarvan School today the 7th of April for assembly. The students were given a demonstration of our skills, and we told them all about the fun we have at our cadet meetings. By doing this we hope to gain new cadets for our unit. Our meetings take place in the GP room in Athgarvan school every **Monday evening from 7pm-8pm**. Each child pays two euro a week, this money goes towards days out, and supplies. All cadets wear an Order of Malta uniform. We ask parents to pay forty euro towards their child's uniform, this can be paid off weekly in increments. At present we can take on **13 new cadets**. We will take new cadets on a first come first serve basis, and after that the children will be on a waiting list. If you would like your child to be part of our unit please ring Cadet Leader and secretary, Carmel Murphy on 085-7361469.

Green School Event: As part of Ms. Cosgrove's and the Green School Committees endeavour to secure our 3rd Green Flag for water conservation, 10 students and 3 staff will travel to Glendalough today, 7th April for an event. They will walk while carrying water packs to emphasise the number of people who do not have access to clean hygienic water as we do here in Ireland. We hope they have a great day.

Tip of the Month

‘Don't leave the tap on while brushing your teeth’.

Gardening Club: Our industrious gardening club students will have a busy term. We thank Ciarán Malone (parent) who replanted our flower boxes for Easter and is also tidying up the willow tree at the edge of teachers car park. The gardening club will use the rainwater from the water barrels to ensure all flowers and plants are properly watered and cared for. New hedging has been planted again by St. Brigid. Please do not walk through (or allow children & toddlers to do so) this hedging.

GAA Table Quiz: Athgarvan GAA are holding a table quiz in aid of the club on **Thursday 21st April at 8 p.m. in the Athgarvan Inn**. Derek Gallagher (chairperson) and his team have done extensive work in the club house to upgrade it and have also purchased new goal posts. Please support this event.

Newbridge Community Games (St. Brigids & St. Conleths): The Cross Country will be held in Sarsfield GAA Club on **Friday 8th April at 6 p.m.**, all children under 12/13/14 are welcome.

Boys Football: Training will continue in April every Wednesday from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. (unless the boys hear otherwise). We will play our first match tomorrow against Scoil na Naomh Uilig, Newbridge. Training is for all ages from 2nd class to 6th class. Please remind the boys to bring in all gear on Wednesdays.

Senior Girls Football: Our League started on Wednesday 6th April. Training on Monday from 3 – 4 p.m. We are very excited for the league ahead.

Quote of the Month

‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to the change the world’
Nelson Mandela

Le gach dea-ghuí

Kate Gallagher