



St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



April/Aibreán

Welcome to our Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all well. The last term is in full swing and the teachers and children are making the most of the good weather.

Thank you for all your support and adherence to our covid response plan it is much appreciated. The children have been great and it is second nature to them to hand sanitise and work within their POD. There is still no word on the sacraments for the children who are making their confirmation and communion. Fr John McNamara has said as soon as they are allowed he will plan dates starting with those for confirmation followed by those for communion.

We will carry out our standardised tests this month in first class to 6th class. These are in literacy, maths and spelling. The results of these will be communicated to you on the report card. You will receive the report on the 23rd of June. This allows time for you to make contact with teacher if you would like more information on your child's progress. This link will bring you to the NCCA website which explains the scores and what they mean. https://www.ncca.ie/media/1429/understanding-standardscores_eng.pdf.

As we all know we have had two school closure periods and we all need to keep this in mind. The scores are only one small piece of your child's learning. You will see comments by your child's teacher that will reflect where your child is at in all aspects of their education. These are more meaningful. We are mindful of the fact that your child's scores may be very different to pre- covid times. Both you the parents, the staff and the children have all done so well during this pandemic. Test scores are a mere snap shot in time.

RSE and Stay safe is being taught throughout the school this term. Staff has completed a questionnaire as part of the Child Safeguarding Statement Annual Review. A survey will be sent to you as part of this review. The Designated Liaison person is Mairéad Murphy and the Deputy Designated Liaison person is Joanne Callaghan. The Child Safeguarding Statement is available on our school website.

The Board of Management meeting this month was held on the 19th of April. CPSMA has provided child protection training to all boards of management. More training will follow. The Board of Management will review the Child Safeguarding Statement at our June meeting. The flat roof of the existing building will be replaced. An architect has been appointed by the Board. The new building project is progressing. The documents to tender for construction have been prepared and sent to the Department of Education. This is the pricing document. We will keep you posted if there are any developments. New floor covering will be laid in Mr Hall's classroom and Ms Gleeson's room over the June bank holiday break. Finally the Board was updated on our teaching and learning and that Gaeilge is the focus of our school improvement plan for the coming school year. Questionnaires on this will be shared with parents, teachers and pupils.

Reminder school is closed Tuesday and Wednesday next week. In June school is closed for Thursday 3rd of June and Friday the 4th of June leading into the bank holiday weekend.

Have a lovely weekend everyone and see you on Thursday the 6th of May.

This term has been busy as usual.

The Green Flag committee have been leading a whole school study on Marine life. Each class has learned about the importance of keeping our oceans, seas and rivers clean and how important they are to all overall well being. The study was integrated with a whole school art project using clay to make sea animals. This then will inform and act as stimulus for a mosaic that will represent our love of nature, our love of our village and our school. There will be a hint of covid in it as well. This links in with our creative art programme.



clay samples by Keelin and Erin



by Lauren and Lily.



by Lexie.

Mr Callaghan's class went to the beach to investigate Marine Life.



Nature is our friend at the moment and we all have begun to appreciate what we have on our doorstep. The challenge will be to keep our awareness of this alive going forward. Ms Calnan investigated birds' nests with 2nd class, they gathered materials from our yard, made some nests then hung them on our trees. Birds can



take materials to make their own nests. The children were so creative. We are lucky to have our own park close to the school. A previous 5th class took part in researching trees for the tree trail. Ms O' Mahony's class went on a trip to learn all about our local trees and local biodiversity.



Ms McKiernan's class learned all about the life cycle of the butterfly.



The Green Flag Committee has been planting peas and spinach for our school garden.



We now have a school pond thanks to Tommy, Ms Calnan and Ms Kiernan who brought in tadpoles for the children to study.

A big thank you to Balrothery Community Group for linking in with Fingal Co Council to get the planters and the bollards at the front of the school. Today the children planted some bee friendly plants. Thank you to Shane Bolton and EEC Hardware for donating the plants. It is much appreciated.



Sixth class (Ms Byrne and Mr Callaghan) is engaging in the Junior Entrepreneur Project. Two business ideas have been selected. We have Passion Pots and Bottle Bakes. More information and advertisements to follow.



Ms Gleeson's class had a zoom meeting with RTE School Hub. How exciting! Thank you to Oisín who won this prize for his class. The children had an interactive session and learning about volcanoes, rockets and different eye colours took place.



Have a lovely weekend and keep safe, we are nearly there!
Mrs Murphy