



St. Conleth's N.S.,
Derrinturn.

February 2015

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World Book Day

We are delighted to be celebrating the 18th World Book Day in Ireland on **Thursday 5th March 2015**. Over the last 18 years World Book Day has become firmly established as Ireland's biggest annual event promoting the enjoyment of books and reading. The main aim is to encourage children to explore the pleasure of books and reading by providing them with an opportunity to have a book of their own. This may sound like a very simple idea, but unfortunately, many children do not have access to books in their homes.

At St. Conleth's National School we have celebrated a Book Fair every year and the children use their World Book Day vouchers at the fair. This year we cannot hold our Book Fair to coincide with World Book Day due to our renovations and building project. However we are proud to say that we are in the process of making arrangements for the Book Fair. It will be slightly later in the year and we will have to make alternative arrangements, but because of our commitment to children's reading, we are determined that the Book Fair will go ahead. The children will be able to use their World Book Day vouchers at the fair.

Soccer Star



Sixth Class are very proud of Robert O'Connell. Robert has been selected by the Kildare County u.13 Soccer Team and is currently training with the team in Portugal. Robert has always been a keen soccer player and thoroughly enjoys his daily kick-about in the yard. We congratulate Robert and wish him every success as he trains and represents his county.





Our Cross

Each month we have written a piece about the Cross of San Damiano or St. Francis and their connections. As Lent begins we think of sacrifices and abstinence, of fasting and praying.

During Lent this year we draw your attention to the missionary work of Franciscans all over the world. St. Francis' vision was a simple one. He saw himself as living in a universe that reflected the beauty of God, sharing it with other creatures whom he regarded as his brothers and sisters. He sought to respond to God's generous love in a spirit of humility and poverty, in simplicity, joy, peace, gratitude and service and with a profound respect for all humans and other creatures. Franciscan missionaries, in their work around the globe, try to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis.

Trócaire

During Lent this year we ask you again to support the work of Trócaire.

Trócaire works in over twenty countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Trócaire delivers support through local partner organisations and churches, helping communities and families to free themselves from the oppression of poverty.

In Ireland, Trócaire raises awareness about the causes of poverty through their outreach programmes in the education sector, through parish networks, and through their public campaigns and advocacy work. During Lent, the children will be using the Trócaire Resources at school and they will learn a lot about climate change and climate justice. Please give generously to Trócaire.

Green Schools

Our Green Schools theme for our next flag is Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste. As part of our work, the school took part in Amnesty International's Friendship Week in early February. Funds were raised through the sale of friendship wristbands

Development Education for Trócaire



and there were peer playground pal activities each day as well as extensive study in classes. As we learn about the work of Trócaire we are engaging even more with the theme and Ms. Keown has great resources for all classes as we develop as global citizens

GLOBAL CITIZEN



Although we are unable to use the hall as a sports facility this year, the school continues to participate actively in many sports. Mrs. Kenny has been busy organising lots of events for us to look forward to later in the year. We're very excited about all her plans and we extend a huge thank you to her for her hard work and commitment.

Teams have been entered for the Cumann na mBunscol competition. We have already seen our girls reach the final this year and we can't wait to see our other teams in action.

Children have started training for the Desk to 3K challenge with Mrs. Colleary. We will also be taking part in the county cross country competition. Mrs. Colleary has agreed to escort the team to the event.

Thanks to the children in third and fifth classes who took facilitator roles during our Friendship Project for Amnesty International last week. They organised and supervised play activities for Junior and Senior Infants and it was wonderful to see the children playing traditional playground games.



Due to the incredible success of Skip Hop days last year, Mrs. Kenny has tried to organise similar activities for this year. She has managed to make contact with Mark McCabe and he has agreed to come again to organise a special day of skipping for us. The children loved the tricks and skills they learned last year and they cannot wait to show Mark how much they have practiced since then. We will notify you in advance of the day so that the children have time to fine-tune their skipping routines and performances to show Mark. There will also be a Skip-a-thon this year and we hope that all classes from third to sixth will take part.



Swimming will start after Easter this year. Sessions have been scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays and the classes will be informed closer to the time about the day and time of their sessions. The children will travel by bus to Edenderry Swimming Pool and lessons will be delivered by the staff there. It is very important that the children learn to swim and we are delighted that we are able to organise these lessons. Aquatics is a strand in our Physical Education curriculum and it is among the most favourite.

TIMMS - Trends in Maths & Science Survey 2015

TIMSS 2015 is the sixth cycle of the IEA Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Conducted every four years since 1995, TIMSS has been a valuable vehicle for studying international trends in mathematics and science achievement at fourth class and second year levels. Participating countries include Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and United States. Our school has been selected to participate and our fourth class children will have an opportunity to inform international research and be part of ongoing educational research and development. Mrs. Byrne is liaising with the Department of Education and Skills and organising the implementation of the survey. More information will follow closer to the date. We are very honoured to have been chosen to participate and to be Maths and Science trend-setters

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

BAIN TRIAL AISTI SURPRISE YOURSELF!

Seachtain na Gaeilge runs from March 1st until St. Patrick's Day. Mrs. O' Donoghue is currently organising activities for the children . One of the biggest and most ambitious plans for this year is the organisation of a nationwide 'Human Chain', in which every participant will be singing the same song and making a human chain together, all around the country in sync with one another.

WATCH THIS SPOT!

Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated at the end of January. The highlight of the week for the children in fourth class was the visit of their grandparents to the classroom. The grandparents spoke to the children about their lives as schoolchildren in the past. There have been lots of changes! The children treated their grandparents to refreshments and had a good old fashioned game of Bingo! They performed for their visitors and entertained them. Thanks to Ms. Culhane and Teresa Kelly for organising our grandparents day, Well done to all the boys and girls.



Peace Proms

Three cheers for our super choir that took part in the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland Peace Proms in the R.D.S. on January 31st. Our choir stood out in their pristine white blouses and shirts and their performance and behaviour were outstanding. The choir have agreed to perform for the rest of the school on February 18th and a major concert for the parents will be organised later in the year. We promise you an evening to remember. Congratulations to Mrs. O' Donoghue, Mrs. Curley and all our superstars. Well done!



CONTACT DETAILS

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Dates to Remember

Mid-term break	Thursday February 19 th and Friday February 20 th
Seachtain na Gaeilge	Sunday 1 st March until Tuesday March 17 th
St. Patrick's Weekend	Monday March 16 th and Tuesday March 17 th
Easter Holidays	Friday 27 th March (closing) until Monday April 13 th .