Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are moving swiftly through our 2nd term and after a very positive and enjoyable lead up to mid-term with our Well-being Week pupils and staff are feeling positive. We thank you our parent body for your wonderful support of this event. February was Kindness month in school and it has been lovely to see and hear the kindness that now comes more naturally to us all. We will continue to encourage the growth of our Scoil Éanna kindness tree over the coming months.

**Important Dates:**

8th March @ 7pm 2nd class First Confession in St Patrick’s

15th March School Photographer

17th + 18th March **CLOSURE** St Patrick’s Day Holiday

27th March 6th class Confirmation @ 3pm in St Patrick’s

31st March 2021 **School Half Day CLOSURE** for Primary Language Curriculum Planning.

School will close @ **12noon** for all children.

11th – 22nd April Easter Break

**World Book Day** Today is World Book Day and children brought their favourite books to school to read together as a whole school. We are encouraging children to read more for the month of March to foster the love of reading. To further enhance our class libraries, we ask that if any parents have books in good condition that they are finished with at home, or children have grown out of, that perhaps you could donate them to the school. We would also gladly welcome any board games or jigsaws; teachers are always trying to add to their collections!

**Pancake Tuesday** was a great success and it was great to see all the children out in the hall for the first time in two years. We currently have €202 to donate to Trócaire. So thank you for your support, every penny counts!

**Seachtaine na Gaeilge**/**LÁ Glas** Wednesday 16th March will be **Lá Glas** where children can come to school dressed in green to celebrate Lá Fheile Padraig. We will be holding a number of events in school from 14th- 16th March to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge…. Comórtas Ealaíne, Damhsa, Ceol Traidisiúnta, Amhránaíocht, Comhrá, Drámaíochta, Tráth na gCeist, Sport trí Ghaeilge, Scéalaíocht.

**Student Council** will be organising yellow badges, yellow pictures and yellow art pieces in support of Daffodil Day on March 25th. Keep an eye out for our ***‘yellow windows’*** and please feel free to donate to another worthy cause. The student council are also planning to hold an *Easter egg hunt* for all classes in the week leading into our Easter break. This is a fun activity for all classes and the student council are working hard behind the scenes planning their event.

**February Student Newsletter** A huge thank you to Ms Fitzpatrick and all her 5th class journalists for producing this month’s newsletter. Follow the link to read;

<http://www.scoileanna.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/February-Student-Newsletter.pdf>

**Sacraments** Congratulations to 6th class who had their Enrolment Ceremony and Pledge Mass on Sunday 20th February it was a lovely celebration with excellent participation by all of the boys and girls. They are continuing to prepare for their Confirmation at the end of the month. We wish our 2nd class well as they continue with preparations for making their 1st Confession next Tuesday evening.

**COVID-19**

**Covid-19 Symptoms** The requirement to stay at home if you have symptoms remains. Please notify the school if your child has a positive antigen/PCR test.

**Mask Wearing** It is no longer a requirement for pupils to wear a face covering in school. Pupils can continue to wear a face covering if they wish to do so on a personal basis.

**Antigen Testing** As part of the transition arrangements HSE will continue with the current processes to support the provision of antigen testing for primary schools. If a confirmed case is reported within a class antigen tests will be offered to all pupils in the class as pods no longer exist.

**Staggered breaks** From Monday we will be returning to a single break-time/lunch-time for all classes (No more staggered breaks). Children will be able to interact freely with children from other classes.

**Physical distance** Schools are no longer required to maintain class pods and bubbles.

**School Activities** Singing/music/indoor sports and inter school activities are all things we are delighted to see back in place.

**Parental Declarations** are no longer required following an absence however, we are considering a digital absent note system going forward and we would like to hear your thoughts on this as parents. I will send a link tomorrow *via text* for you to record your choice.

Continued use of good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene and ventilation are still advised and therefore in place. The updated Covid-19 guidance has from this week, in general, meant that school can now resume normal school routines and normal teaching and learning activities.

Regards,