

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In what seems like a flash we have arrived at the third term of our school year and as always it is a busy term in school. With the lifting of restrictions in schools, we are delighted that we can FINALLY engage in some of the more fun activities that are traditionally associated with the summer term.

Latest News

I want to begin by commending our 6th class for the exemplary way in which they prepared with Mrs Duffy and Father Mc Eneaney for the sacrament of Confirmation. Indeed, Bishop Duffy commented on their respectful engagement throughout the ceremony – we are very proud of them all!!

We have recently been gifted a new PA system by Fr McEneaney and the parish. This is something that was much needed here in school and will most certainly be put to good use. We thank Fr Mc Eneaney for such a kind and generous donation.

We are currently participating in the award winning Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme and the children got off to a great start this week! This programme is designed to increase children's consumption of fruit and vegetables and is based on positive role models, repeated tastings and rewards. Everything is supplied free of charge to the school and Food Dudes is a fun and enjoyable programme for all children.

Our annual standardised testing will take place during May and full attendance by all pupils, where possible, ensures that this can run smoothly in whole class groups.

Our senior pupils are continuing with their monthly newsletters and I thank the boys and girls of Mr Duffy's 5th class for their work in producing the latest newsletter. The newsletter is available on our school website or via the following link:

<http://www.scoileanna.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/March-Newsletter.pdf>

Last night saw the Parents' Association AGM take place. Thank you to all those who turned out to what was a very productive meeting. I am pleased to announce our new committee members and I thank them for their commitment in volunteering to work together with myself and the staff of Scoil Éanna to build on the effective partnership of home and school. Educational research on the involvement of parents in schools shows that children achieve higher levels when parents and teachers work together. Covid-19 has been very damaging to this relationship but we are excited to be working together to rebuild those all-important connections with new and fresh ideas. It truly is a very special experience to be involved in the school life of your child/ren. We have a great school here and the new committee have asked me to encourage parents to get involved and come along to their meetings to support the work they do for your children. I thank the outgoing committee for all that they have done to support our school community, for their wonderful fund raising efforts and for their willingness to take on their roles. There were many memories made and friendships forged on fun days in school with the children!

New Committee:	Chairperson	Caolán Duffy
	Secretary	Emma Harte
	Treasurer	Lurana O'Neill
	PRO	Ciara Quinn

Important Dates Term 3:

I have included dates for school tours – further details on all events will be issued closer to the time.

Monday 2nd May SCHOOL CLOSURE (May Bank Holiday)

Thursday 5th May Annual breakfast morning. Children are welcome to arrive in school from 8:30am and are asked to bring their own bowl and spoon. A selection of breakfast cereals, fruit and bread along with our ever popular porridge will be available for all children as we breakfast together as a school community. Breakfast will be followed by the launch of our annual Scoil Éanna ag Rith programme and a visit and talk from local athlete and past pupil Conor Duffy. We are excited to be running our programme for a 10th year!!! The programme will culminate with our school run/walk through the town after a six-week training period.

Children can wear their favourite jersey and runners on this day.

Monday 9th May – 4th class along with their peers in Scoil na gCailini will visit Castleblayney Adventure Centre as part of their Peace IV programme. This programme is fully funded and will be a free event for all children.

Saturday 28th May @ 11am First Holy Communion St. Patrick's Church, Ballybay.

Thursday 2nd June @ 1pm Junior and Senior Infant parents 'social afternoon'. Parents are invited to school for a performance by our junior & senior infant pupils followed by tea and a chat.

Monday 6th June SCHOOL CLOSURE (June Bank Holiday)

Tuesday 7th June SCHOOL CLOSURE. This date has been added to the calendar due to the introduction of the extra bank holiday on 18th March (which had previously been a planned holiday on our school calendar)

Thursday 9th June Open afternoon for children and parents of our junior infant class 2022/23.

Thursday 9th June 3rd, 5th and 6th class tour to Castleblayney Outdoor Adventure.

Friday 10th June 4th class along with their peers in Scoil na gCailini will visit Shabra Plastics and Muckno Play Park as part of their Peace IV programme. This programme is fully funded and will be a free event for all children.

Monday 13th – Friday 17th June Active Schools Week + School Sports Day

Thursday 16th June Scoil Éanna ag Rith. We ask **as many parents as possible to join us** to run/walk as a school community. We want to make the 10th anniversary a special and memorable event. Children will be issued with sponsorship cards in advance of our run and all donations are welcome.

Friday 17th June Junior & senior infant tour to Dyan Mill Farm, Caledon.

Tuesday 21st June 1st & 2nd class tour to GR8, Castleblayney.

Tuesday 21st June 6th class graduation night.

Friday 24th June Summer holidays close @ 12noon

Thank you all for your continued support of our school. I wish you all a lovely Bank Holiday weekend and I hope the sun continues to shine!

Kind regards,