



Easter Newsletter 2016

Christ the Saviour N.S., Ballingarry

Welcome to the Easter edition of our school newsletter. This edition includes the many activities and achievements that our pupils and teachers have been involved in since Christmas. Pupils in 5th and 6th class are busy preparing for their confirmation day on Tuesday 19th of April. Their special enrolment ceremony took place Sunday 13th of March. Also, the school is currently working on various initiatives including 'Biodiversity' with the Green Schools programme, 'Active Breaks' with the Active Schools programme and lots of success in various competitions and GAA matches lately.

Feast of the Epiphany

The school re-opened on Wednesday 6th of January this year. We marked the Feast of the Epiphany here in the school with a prayer service. In Ireland it is also called Nollaig na mBan, also known as Women's Christmas, and Little Christmas. The religious feast marks the day the three kings are said to have arrived at the stable in Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus. Mrs. Murphy gave us information about this holy day, and the boys and girls in her class also did some readings.



Improvements to the School: New Intercom System & Display Screen

A new intercom system has been added to our lovely new front office. Sheila can now call a pupil to the office, using the intercom, if they are being collected early by their Mom or Dad. Also, special announcements can be made such as naming Students of the Week each Friday for the Wall of Honour on our school website.

This week we are enjoying the boys and girls in Juniors, Seniors, First and Second class teaching us some Gaeilge on the intercom system. They are singing us some lovely songs and rhymes as Gaeilge to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Maith sibh!!

Visitors to our school will also notice a new display screen in the front hall. This display screen shows lovely photographs of recent activities in our school. Have a look the next time you visit us in the school!!

Donation of a Photocopier

A massive thank you to Orona Mid Western Lifts Ltd, Dock Road, Limerick for their kind donation of a photocopier to us in Christ the Saviour N.S. A special thank you to Shane Markham for organizing this generous donation and for arranging transportation of the photocopier to the school. We will certainly put the photocopier to good use!!



World Book Day Tokens & Upcoming Book Fair

We will be holding a Book Fair in the school in April. There will be a wide range of books available to purchase in the General Purpose Room from Scholastic Book Company. During these few days we will celebrate reading in the school with a range of special activities. A percentage of the money spent during the book fair will be given to the school and will be used to update and rejuvenate our classroom libraries. Hold onto your World Book Day Tokens because they can be used during the Book Fair also.





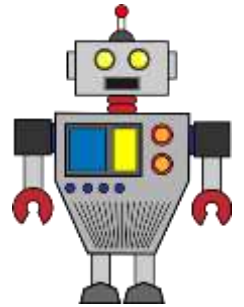
Artist in Residence



We recently applied for the Artist in Residence scheme funded by Limerick City and County Council. Last year, we had Artist in Residence Jeanne O'Connor who worked with 1st and 2nd class in the area of Creative Dance.

We have been successful again this year and our Artist in Residence is Katie O'Kelly who is a Ceramic Artist. She is going to work with pupils in 6th class after Easter and help them to plan, design and create ceramic Bird Houses which will link in with our 5th Green Flag on the theme of Biodiversity.

Robotics Challenge for 4th and 5th Class



In early February the pupils from 4th and 5th class in Mrs. Murphy's classroom spent a full day building robots and programming them under the expert guidance of Colmac Robotics. This project was sponsored by Analog Devices and only twenty schools in the county out of fifty were chosen to take part. The class was divided into seven teams.

Colman and Nicola arrived at the school with lots of gear and energy! The goal for the day was to build and programme a lego robot to perform a hillclimb up a ramp. Marks were awarded based on robot design, teamwork and succeeding at the hillclimb. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and we very much appreciated the expert help and teaching from Colman and Nicola, of Colmac Robotics. At the end of the day the teams put their robots to the test. It was a tense and exciting finish. In the end the winning team was 'Cent Bot 2016' with the team Cian McGoey, Ellie Long, Nicole McNamara and Tomás Houlihan.

These children then went forward to the County Finals in Mungret College in February on the 20th. On this day the children will had to design and build another new robot to take on a new challenge. The new challenge was to face up to another robot and push it out of the ring. The battles were epic and as usual the children did us proud. 'CENT Bot 2016' made it successfully into the semi-finals but unfortunately reached the limit of its power at this point. The children were awarded bronze medals and lovely commemorative t-shirts on the day.



Grandparents Day 2016

As part of Catholic School Week 2016, we invited grandparents to our school to talk to their grandchild's class about what school was like for them growing up and other things. We were delighted with the response, with over forty grandparents showing up on the day! We took many photographs to remember the special day and can be all seen on the school website. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and loved every minute of the time spent with the Grandparents.





Friendship Week 2016

We were very busy in school celebrating Friendship Week 2016. The following are some of the activities we did during the special week:

- A friendship quote was displayed on the new display monitor outside reception each day. The classes discussed each quote with their teacher.
- Each child got a template in the shape of a key. They had to write what they thought was the 'key to a good friendship'. The person who gave the best advice in each class won a prize!
- Mr. Keogh sold Friendship Bracelets for Amnesty International. We raised more than €440. Thank you and well done to all boys and girls!
- Each class got a template of a Friendship Tree. Every child printed their fingerprint on a branch of this tree. We now have a Friendship Forest with everybody's fingerprint!

- Two Friendship Sheriffs were on hand everyday; making sure everybody had someone to play with out in the yard!
- On Thursday, each child picked a name out of a hat randomly. They had to perform a Random Act of Kindness for that person during the day. We have heard fantastic accounts of children getting other children's coats for them, drawing pictures for them and paying them compliments! We're so lucky to have such kind boys and girls in our school.
- We also had a whole-school assembly on Friday where we announced the winners of the competition and sang two songs about friendship - the third to sixth sang 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers, while the juniors to second sang Bruno Mars' 'Count on Me'.

Ballingarry is lucky to have such friendly boys and girls. Todor in sixth class was voted the Friendliest Child in Ballingarry for 2016. Anytime a teacher passes him he has a big smile and salute! Well done, Todor. Great Achievement!



1916 Easter Rising Celebrations

On the 22nd February Alessio from Senior Infants brought in a newspaper supplement given to his family by his grandfather. The supplement was released with the Irish Independent on the Golden Jubilee of the Easter 1916 Rising. It was released in 1966, 50 years after the Insurrection. It contained some fantastic articles and pictures, which were passed on to the different classes for their perusal. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to use this primary source for their history lessons. Thank you to Alessio and his family. Also, Alessio went on a road trip over the February mid-term, up to the GPO in Dublin. He informs us that bullet holes can still be seen and felt on the exterior walls of the post office. Take a look at some of the pictures from the supplement and other pictures can be seen on the school website.



We will be marking the 1916 Easter rising anniversary here in the school on today Tuesday 15th March with a special flag raising ceremony. The special tricolour flag that was brought to the school by the army before Christmas will be raised at 12p.m. Each class will perform something special and patriotic for the flag raising ceremony, including songs, poems, a reading of the 1916 Proclamation, a reading of a New 2016 Proclamation, some presentations of 1916 projects and some music on the tin-whistle. All parents, guardians and special guests are very welcome to join us for this very special celebration. Tea and coffee will be served after the ceremony in the school.



Sports News

We are thrilled to welcome back Tommy O'Donovan, from the Granagh Ballingarry GAA club, back this term as our hurling and football coach every Friday here in the school. All children from Senior Infants to 6th Class have a 30 minute session of hurling/football training with Tommy. All the boys and girls really love getting the opportunity to learn some new hurling and football skills and also they get the chance to practice the skills that they have already learned. We want to thank Tommy for his expertise, patience and kindness with the children.



Active Schools Programme

We are busy working away here in Christ the Saviour N.S. trying to get our Active School Flag. Since Christmas we have started 'Activity Breaks' which means that at 10.40am each Monday, Wednesday and Friday the school bell rings and our teacher plays some dance music for the whole class and we get to dance and move to the music for 5 minutes each day. This is great fun and we really love getting the opportunity to start moving around and being active.

We will also be celebrating Active Schools Week in the school from the 25th to the 29th of April. We are all looking forward to taking part in different activities to get us moving during this time. Make sure to have a look on the website after this event to see all the fun and active activities that we took part in.



Indoor Camogie and Hurling

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who represented the school in the West Limerick Indoor Schools competition last week. The boys played very well winning two matches and getting to the final which they unfortunately lost. Well done to all the boys and to Mr Keogh their coach.

Boys Indoor Team: Charlie O'Sullivan, Daniel Kelly, Tim O'Donoghue, Jack Mullane, Jack Mc Mahon, Adam Burke, Michael Mulcahy, David Long, Noah Davis, Liam Molloy and Thomas Moran.

The girls also played last week and won three games which saw them reach the West final against the Gaelscoil Ó Dogháir Newcastle West. The girls fought very hard and played very well and came out eventually winners. The girls represented the West in the County Indoor Camogie Competition on Thursday last. The girls played very well and came in second place. Well done girls.

Girls Indoor Team: Nicole Mc Namara, Emily Flynn, Laura Mc Mahon, Jane O'Connell, Ellie Long, Orla Mulqueen, Ciara Insley, Kate O'Connor, Abbie Clancy, Nessa Markham, Chloe O'Keeffe.



Credit Union Quiz

Congratulations to the students who represented the school in the Annual Under 11 and 13 Credit Union Quiz. All students should be very proud of their hard work and how well they represented the school. A special congratulations to the under 11 Team of Jack Mullane, Tim o' Donoghue, Charlie O' Sullivan and David Clancy who came in second place and won a fantastic prize of €35 each. Well done boys and well done to all involved

Under 13 Team 1: Michael Sheahan, Pádraig Mc Kenna, Aisling Irwin and Molly O'Connell.

Under 13 Team 2: Anna Mullane, Michael Russell, Brett Shanahan and Emma Kelly

Under 11 Team 1: Jack Mullane, Tim O'Donoghue, Charlie O'Sullivan and David Clancy.

Under 11 Team 2: Abbie Clancy, Ciara Insley, Nessa Markham and Tómas Houlihan.



Charleville CBS Quiz

On Tuesday night the 1st of March the school was represented by Pádraig Mc Kenna, Brett Shanahan, Emma Kelly and Michael Russell in the Charleville CBS Quiz. Well done boys and girls.

Community Games Quiz

We had two teams representing the school in the Community Games School Quiz competition. Both teams qualified for the final round and were unfortunate to be placed in the top three teams. Well done to Michael Sheahan, Pádraig Mc Kenna, Aisling Irwin and Molly O'Connell, Michael Russell, Niall Sheahan, Emma Kelly and Nicole Mc Namara.

Religious News



Diocesan Inspection

On Tuesday the 8th of March Fr. Séan Harmon and Fiona Dineen to visit our school. They visited each classroom and talked with the children about their knowledge and experience of the Religion programme in the school. As usual the children did themselves proud and showed great knowledge and understanding. Fr. Séan and Fiona were very complimentary of all the children and the work they have been doing, especially the children who are currently preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

First Penance Ceremony

The children in 2nd class had their First Penance ceremony on Wednesday 2nd of March in Ballingarry church. The children presented themselves beautifully on the night and received their First Penance from Fr. Lane. When it came to making their First Confession, they each took great care in ensuring everything went according to plan! Each said “sorry” for the times

they didn't live as Jesus had asked them to and were willing to try very hard again.



The children were very well supported by the older children from 3rd to 6th class who turned out in great numbers for the choir. We know the Communion class really appreciated their support on the night. A big thank you to Mrs. O'Neill for her hard work and preparation with the children for their special night. Also a sincere word of thanks to Fr. Lane for making the ceremony so special and making the children feel so comfortable. We wish all the children well as they continue preparing of their First Holy Communion Day on the 14th of May.



Confirmation Class

The fifth and sixth class pupils are busy preparing for their Confirmation Day on April 19th. They have presented some beautiful and creative projects on their chosen Confirmation names. Each child is currently deciding carefully which person they would like to stand with them as a sponsor on their special day. The children presented themselves with their parents on Sunday 13th March for their enrolment ceremony in the church, their prayers and hymns were wonderful on the day and we know they are really looking forward to their Confirmation day now.



Parent's Council News

(From Aisling Frawley)

Greetings from the Parents' Council! It seems like only yesterday we were busy preparing for Halloween and the November Cake Sale and here we are facing into Easter – where has the time gone? As this first term between Christmas and Easter has been so short we had to postpone our fundraising plans until after Easter. So start putting aside your jumble for our upcoming Jumble Sale and start clearing out your wardrobes for our upcoming Clothes Drive. We hope to hold the Jumble sale on Friday April 29th, 2016. We will keep you posted and will send a reminder closer to the date. As of yet we do not have a date for the Clothes Drive but start filling those bags!! The money raised will help us to cover the cost of the buses for the upcoming school tours. Thank you for your continued support and have a very Happy Easter!

**GET YOUR
RED OF
STUFF**



Green Schools News!

Indoor Planting



As part of our 'Biodiversity' theme for our Green Flag programme some classes have begun some indoor planting. Pupils from Mrs. Murphy's 4th and 5th class planted a variety of bulbs on 7th March and we are doing our best to give them just enough heat, light and water to help them to grow. We are monitoring their growth regularly and hope to see some beautiful flowers in the near future.



Bird Feeders for the School Garden

Ms Tangney's Senior Infants and First Class were very busy helping to feed the birds in the cold weather. They made two different types of bird feeders. The first was made using an orange and the second was made using a toilet roll holder. The boys and girls mixed oats and seeds with peanut butter. The children then went outside and hung the feeders in the school garden and on the trees. Lots of birds came to enjoy the yummy food. We watched to see all the different birds. We also gave them water and left over bread.



New Students in our School

This term we were delighted to welcome three new students to our school community. Kate Long joined fifth class, David Long joined third class and James Long joined first class with Ms. Tangney. We hope that they have settled in well at this point and have been made feel welcome by all. We hope that all our students enjoy the remainder of their time at school right up to the summer holidays this school year.



Junior Infant News!

Life Cycle of the Butterfly

It is spring time. Junior Infants are learning all about butterflies. First the Mammy butterfly lays hundreds of eggs. The eggs hatch into hungry caterpillars. They eat and eat and eat. When they are full they turn into a cocoon. After two weeks a butterfly comes out. We loved learning this. We wrote stories, watched videos and did lots of art work.



Reflection for Parents





**THE EASTER BUNNY
WOULD LIKE TO WISH
ALL THE BOYS AND GIRLS
A VERY HAPPY EASTER!!!**



We hope you enjoyed the Easter edition of our school newsletter. Our school motto is 'Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí' – Praise the young and they will flourish. We certainly have much to celebrate in Christ the Saviour N.S.

The Board of Management and staff would like to wish all families a happy Easter.

School will close tomorrow March 16th at 12p.m. and will re-open on Monday 4th April