



# Scoil Muire Bannrion



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## School Configuration Update

The Board of Management has been liaising with the Department of Education and skills on our school's future configuration. As it stands the Department of Education has yet to make a final decision on the school's application to change from its current set-up to a co-educational school from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. Our Board of Management are very aware that this has been a lengthy process and we can assure you, it is the most pressing matter for us, the Board of Management. We will keep parents informed of any updates. Until such a time as a decision is reached we will continue to enrol boys into our school from second to sixth class. If parents have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Nicola McMahon, school principal.

## 1916 Proclamation Day

As part of the Ireland 2016 commemorative programme, our school has been commemorating and reflecting upon the events of 100 years ago. Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of March has been designated "Proclamation Day" for all schools in Ireland. Our school's Proclamation Day will involve the raising of our new Irish flag at 12pm. We will also be unveiling our school's "Proclamation for a New Generation" which pupils of our school have written. The various creative projects that have been completed by each class relating to 1916 will be displayed in the school. All families and parents are welcome to attend on the day. We hope to see you there!



## Glasnevin Cemetery

As part of the 1916 commemorations in our school all pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class visited Glasnevin Cemetery. Here the classes learned about the history of Glasnevin Cemetery including how gravediggers used to come at night to take valuables from the graves. Our pupils were shown the graves of some of Ireland's most historical figures and also those with a direct link to 1916. Graves visited included Roger Casement, Joseph Plunkett, Countess Markievicz, Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins and Eamonn De Valera. All of our pupils thoroughly enjoyed this school trip and we highly recommend a visit there!



### Caseмент Aerodrome, Baldonnel

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class enjoyed a trip to Caseмент Aerodrome in Baldonnel on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. We got a chance to learn about the role of the Air Corps and also got up close to some of the aircraft used by the Air Corps. We even received permission to sit in the fire engine and one of the helicopters! We saw some former Air Corps aircraft that are retained in the Air Corps Museum along with a model of the Wright Brothers original aeroplane. It was a very interesting day out and one the boys will remember for a long time to come!



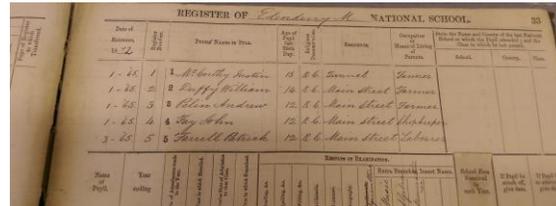
### Edenderry in 1916

All classes were fortunate to attend a talk given by Dr Ciarán Reilly. Ciarán is a lecturer of history in National University of Ireland, Maynooth and he is also a past pupil of Scoil Muire Banríon. Ciarán gave a presentation to the boys and talked about life in Edenderry in 1916. We were amazed to find out about all of the links that Edenderry has to both the Easter

Rising and World War I . The talk was hugely informative and all classes benefited greatly from the experience. Ciáran has kindly offered to give this talk to parents of our school after the Easter break. Further details will be given closer to the time.

### School Register

While carrying out research for our projects to mark the 100 year anniversary of 1916 we have discovered an old school register dating back to 1872. This book details the pupils of the Boys School over 140 years ago. It is a fantastic historical resource to have in the school and we will have it on display on Proclamation Day. If any families think they might have connections recorded in the Register and are interested in tracing their Edenderry roots we are happy to offer our help.



### Easter Raffle

Our Parents Association Easter Raffle draw will take place on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Dunnes Stores, Edenderry. Tickets will be on sale on the day and there is a fantastic hamper up for grabs on the day. Tickets for the raffle cost €2 for a strip or 3 for €5.

Our Parents Association have also very kindly organised a free raffle for our students that will be held on Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>.



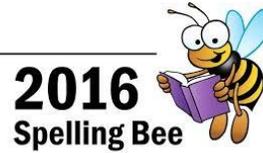
### World Book Day

This year our pupils took part in World Book Day where we celebrated authors, illustrators, books and reading. As part of the celebrations our pupils had the opportunity to dress up as their favourite characters. We had lots of interesting characters visit our school on the day. We even got a mention from famous author David Walliams for the effort some of the boys went to with their costumes! Each class was also invited to the library to enjoy a short reading to celebrate World Book Day. While in the library the classes got to view some of the fantastic art projects created by students from St Mary's Secondary School also.



### Spelling Bee

This year we will be organising a Spelling Bee competition for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. This competition is a nationwide competition sponsored by Eason. Spelling is an important skill and we hope to foster an appreciation of this skill in our students. Our best speller will receive a certificate for their achievement!



### Library Challenge

All classes took part in the Offaly Library Challenge over the last two months. As part of this challenge, each class spent a specified period of time (from 5 to 20 minutes depending on class level) each day reading novels and books of their choice.



### Writing

All classes have been working on two new writing genres during this term. In January the focus was on procedural writing, with many of our pupils creating fantastic recipes and instructions. In February and March the focus switched to persuasive writing. The boys were encouraged to develop opinions and to defend or argue points. It made for some very heated classroom discussions! Some examples of the boys work is displayed on our writing noticeboard in school.

### Handwriting Competition

Our school recently took part in the An Post INTO Handwriting Competition. All of our students participated in the competition and displayed the beautiful handwriting they have. We chose winners in each class and each winner received a certificate and a small prize. All of our winners were also entered into the National An Post Handwriting Competition. Some of the handwriting samples are on display on our school noticeboards!



## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Táimid ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge inár scoil ón 1-17 Márta. Táimid ag déanamh an-iarracht níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt i ngach rang i rith na coicíse. Roghnaíodh cainteoir na seachtaine i ngach aon rang. Tógfaidh gach rang páirt i tráth na gceist as Gaeilge agus glacfaidh rang a dó, rang a trí agus rang a sé páirt I gcéilí. D'fhoghlaim gach rang an t-amhrán 'Amhrán na bhFiann'.



*We are celebrating Irish Language week in our school from 1-17<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone is making a special effort to speak more Irish in every class. A speaker of the week was chosen in every class. Every class will also take part in an Irish quiz and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will hold a céilí where they will learn different Irish dances. Every class learned our national anthem 'Amhrán na bhFiann'.*

### Credit Union Quiz



The Edenderry Credit Union held its annual school quiz

on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Two teams competed in the U-13 category and two teams in the U-11 category. The boys were very successful in both categories with one of our U-11 teams (consisting of Seán Cullinan, Callum Dunne, Cian Tyrrell and Daniel Tenuto) finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place after an exciting tie break. We would like to thank all of the 17 boys involved who gave up breaktimes and came into school early for quiz practice!

### Engineers Week

As part of Engineers Week which ran from Feb 28<sup>th</sup>- Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Gaetano Tenuto from Intel visited some of the classes in our school. Gaetano explained the job of an engineer to our students before setting them a challenge to design and construct a bridge that could hold a toy car. They had to construct their bridges using only simple materials: drinking straws, string, blu-tac and paperclips. The boys came up with some fantastic and creative designs. This activity was aimed at creating a positive awareness and enthusiasm for engineering as a profession. We would like to thank Gaetano for visiting us and for setting such an exciting challenge for us!



## Sports News

### 3km Challenge

Mr Ryan's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class began a 'Couch to 3km' training programme which saw them commence interval running training. After 3 weeks of training, all boys completed a 3km run. Well done boys.

### Active Schools Week

Following on from our achievement of receiving our Active Flag last year we will be holding an Active Schools Week from 25<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> April. We will be organising fun physical activities for our pupils every day. We are currently looking for suggestions for fun activities for our Active Schools Week. Anybody (parents or pupils) who has any suggestions are asked to write it on a piece of paper and put it into our Active Schools suggestion box which is located in front of our Active Schools notice board.

## All Ireland Sportshall Athletics Championship

On Wednesday 9th March almost 30 boys from our school went to Athlone to represent our school and Offaly in the All Ireland Sportshall Athletics Championship. The competition consisted of a wide variety of field and track events and we are awaiting our results at the moment. Both our 3rd and 4th class and our 5th and 6th class performed brilliantly on the day. We would also like to thank Frank Kilraine who helped prepare our athletes for the day.



## Cumann na mBunscol Skills Competitions

Every year Edenderry BNS is proud to send a representative in both hurling and football to the Offaly Cumann na mBunscol skills competitions held during the Spring. This year Jake Maher took part in the hurling skills competition where he acquitted himself fantastically well.

Tadhg McBride will compete in the football skills competition on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March. We wish him the very best of luck!

## Gaelic Football Blitz

10 members of our school football panel competed in a gaelic football blitz in Tullamore and they performed brilliantly on the day. They remained undefeated for the day and won the final of the competition. Well done boys!



## School Hurling Blitz

We recently ran a very successful hurling blitz for the boys of our school. Four teams of children took part and it was an extremely enjoyable day.

## Communion and Confirmation

### Confirmation

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, the boys in sixth class took part in the Ceremony of Light on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm.



### Communion

The children in second class have been busy preparing for their First Confession which took place on 9<sup>th</sup> March. First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The next 'Do This In Memory' Mass will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> of April.

## Safer Internet Day

On February 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 all of our students took part in lessons based around safe use of the internet. These lessons taught children how to interact with others in an appropriate way. We would also like to remind parents that they should know what websites their children are using and should monitor their accounts on a regular basis.



### 'Darkness into Light' Edenderry

The 'Darkness into Light' 5km walk/run will take place in Edenderry on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. It will begin in darkness at 4.15am and end as the sun begins to rise. It is the first time this event will take place in Edenderry and we encourage as many people as possible to take part in this very worthy charity fundraiser for Pieta House. You can register for this event online at [www.pieta.ie](http://www.pieta.ie) or pop into the DIL registration office in Edenderry Shopping Centre on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm. Registration costs €25 per adult with an early bird rate of €20 until March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Swimming

Swimming will commence for all classes on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April for 5 weeks. Dates are: April 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost is €5 per lesson. This price includes the cost of the lesson and the bus. Each child will need swimming togs and a swimming hat.



### School Website and Twitter!

Don't forget to check out our website for updates on school events, pictures and news at [www.edenderrybns.ie](http://www.edenderrybns.ie)

School policies can be accessed (including Department of Education and Skills Procedures on Child Protection) on our website.

You can also follow us on Twitter for all the latest news at [www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS](https://www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS)



### School Notices!

#### School Closures

Easter Holidays: Closing at 12 noon 16<sup>th</sup> March, reopening Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April.  
Public holidays: School will be closed from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of May.  
School will be closed Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June.



#### School Transport 2016/2017

Bus Éireann have advised us of changes in their operation of the School Transport System.. Children are eligible for school transport where they reside not less than 3.2km from their nearest school. You can apply online for school transport at [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie). Applications should be submitted before the last Friday in April. The current annual charge is €100 per child with a family maximum at primary level of €220. Payments can be made in two installments in July and December. Children residing at least 3.2km from their nearest school who hold valid medical cards do not pay. Full terms of the Primary School Transport Scheme are available on [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie).

#### Going Green Dress Up Day

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March children can dress up in green to celebrate St Patrick's Day. There will be no charge for this.

All the staff of Scoil Muire Banríon are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements so far this year.