



Scoil Muire Bannrion



October, 2015

Issue: 20

Gilroy Avenue, Edenderry.

Phone 046 9731478

Email: info@edenderrybns.ie

Website: <http://www.edenderrybns.ie>

Welcome to Our Newsletter!

Welcome to our parents newsletter! We have had a very busy and productive start to the school year with lots of exciting events to look forward to. We hope you enjoy reading all about our first two months. We wish you all a very safe and happy break and look forward to seeing you all again on the 3rd of November!

Literacy Development

As part of our ongoing literacy strategy, all of our classes focused on two particular genres of writing for the months of September and October. In September classes produced some excellent writing samples in the 'Writing to Socialise' genre which are currently on display on the school notice boards. Our pupils are currently studying 'Recount Writing' and are preparing their writing samples for publishing.

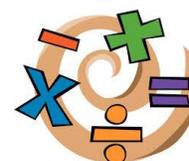
We have spent €5000 to date on new reading books and novels for our pupils. Pupils from second through to sixth class are currently using these books as their reading scheme. We added to this in September by spending a further €1500 on fact books. Pupils in all of our classes are currently benefiting from our ongoing investment in new reading books. We ask that you encourage the children to mind these books carefully.



We would also encourage you as parents to bring the children to Edenderry library if you get a chance over the mid term break so that your children might develop a life long love of reading.

National Maths Week

Last week, 12th- 16th October all our pupils participated in a range of activities for National Maths Week. All classes made a special effort to earn as many points as they could on the online maths programme *Mathletics*. Many of our classes succeeded in reaching the leader boards and were named in the top 50 schools in Europe. Well done to all 77 boys in the school who received a certificate during the week.



On Friday some of our classes took part in a maths trail around the school grounds. Our 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes also took part in a traffic survey.

Again this year, the 'Guess How Many Sweets Are In The Jar' riddle was the star attraction of Maths Week! There was a 4way tie this year with Lennon, Kenneth, Killian and Said all coming closest.



Mathletics

As part of our varied maths programme, once again this year all pupils will be using the on-line maths programme Mathletics. This program covers all areas of the maths curriculum. It helps children to enjoy maths while at the same time also improves their mathematical reasoning. All children will be using this programme in school with their teacher. This programme can also be used at home and we ask parents to encourage their children to use this program at home if possible.

Our School Band!

Trials for this year's school band will be taking place in early November. We look forward to seeing who will be selected to be part of this year's band. Our school band will begin practicing after the midterm break ahead of their debut performance at our Christmas concert. We look forward to seeing them in action!!



National Flag

On Friday 23rd of October members of the Irish Defence Forces will be delivering a National Flag to our school. This is to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising and to mark 100 years since the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. The flag will be formally presented to the school in a special ceremony. The children will be taught about how the National Flag should be cared for and the protocol that surrounds this vibrant symbol of our nation. All classes will be completing projects in the new year based on the 1916 Rising. The flag will be raised on the 15th March which is National Proclamation Day and all parents will be invited to attend on that date.

Fun Fact!

The Irish Flag is actually 167 years old and was first flown by Thomas Francis Meagher in Waterford in 1848

School Improvements

Over the summer a huge amount of work has been carried out on the maintenance of our school. Under the Department of Education and Skills summer works scheme all windows and doors throughout the school were replaced. Apart from looking fantastic this work will, more importantly reduce our energy consumption! Five of the classrooms were also painted and have had new furniture installed!



Sports News

Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic Football Competition

Our football panel participated in Division 1 of the *Cumann na mBunscol Offaly* football competition again this autumn. In their first match the boys put in an impressive performance against Rhode but unfortunately they came up short against two very strong sides in Portarlinton and Clara. In their final group match they overcame a Tullamore side and guaranteed themselves a place in the Division 1 Shield Final.

The shield final was played on Tuesday 20th October in Edenderry and unfortunately on the day Rhode proved to be the stronger team. The boys put in tremendous effort at training and also gave good performances in their matches. Well done boys!

We would also like to thank Pat McBride Construction who very kindly sponsored jackets for all members of the football panel.



Coaching in the School

All of the boys are really enjoying taking part in *GAA* coaching with Derek Kelly since September. Our tag rugby coaching with Edenderry and Leinster coach Patsy Gorman is also in full swing. Through this coaching our students are learning the fundamentals of the game through enjoyable game type situations. We would like to thank both coaches for their continued hard work.

Red and White Day

A special well done to all of our past pupils that were on the panel that won the *Offaly Senior Football County Final* with the Edenderry *GAA* team. We would also like to thank them for bringing the cup in to the school to show us. We wish them continued success and we hope to see many more of our pupils on future *GAA* teams! The boys in the school took part in a red and white themed non-uniform day in order to celebrate the wonderful performance of the team. The money that was raised on the day was donated to both the Red Cross and the Syrian Refugee Crisis.



Fire Safety

National Fire Safety Week

During National Fire Safety Week, our pupils learnt how to keep themselves safe from fires at school and at home. Children discussed fire hazards and were given advice on strategies and procedures to follow if they encounter a fire. Children also took part in a school fire drill.



Visit from Edenderry Fire Service

On Monday 12th October, our Ms Tyrell's 2nd and Ms Blain's 2nd/3rd class received a visit from Gabriel and Seamus from Edenderry Fire Service. This workshop showed the children many ways of staying safe both in the home and in the local community with particular attention being paid to the dangers that may arise during the Halloween festivities. This visit was organised as part of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum which allows our students many opportunities to explore various ways of keeping themselves safe in various different circumstances.



Halloween Fancy Dress

On Wednesday 21st October, our students dressed up in their Halloween costumes. There were some fantastic costumes on display on the day and we would like to say a special well done to the 7 boys who won the best costume prize in their classes. Check our website and Twitter account to see some of the photos.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Over the coming weeks we will be promoting our annual Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal. Over the years we have been hugely fortunate to have tremendous support from parents and students in promoting this hugely worthy cause. We hope that this year will prove to be no exception. If you are interested in getting involved, we ask that you fill a shoebox with a range of simple gifts and drop them into school before Thursday 5th November. We know that these small gifts will make a massive difference in the lives of the children that are less fortunate than ourselves.



Red Cross Visit

Members of the Edenderry Red Cross came to our school on Thursday 8th of October to teach the boys about First Aid. We would like to thank them for their help.

Secondary School Play

St. Mary's Secondary school are preparing for the production of the popular musical *Grease*. The boys have been invited to attend a matinee show at a cost of €5 per child. The date has yet to be confirmed but adequate notice will be given. We are sure that the performance is going to be electrifying!

A visit from the OSPCA

We had a 'purr-fect' day when the OSPCA came to the school on Thursday 15th of October. All classes were visited by Siobhán who works with the Offaly Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Siobhán informed us of the work that the OSPCA do in our community. It gave the boys 'paws' for thought when she advised them on how best to care for their pets and other animals that live in the local environment. She also brought along a four legged friend named Mibi who proved to be a star attraction with all the boys!



Communion and Confirmation

Communion

The Communion preparation programme 'Do this in Memory' is currently underway. The following is a reminder of the dates for the various 'Do

This in Memory' masses:

17th /18th October (Enrolment)

21st/22nd November

12th/13th December

23rd/24th January

20th/21st February

9th/10th April

Corpus Christi Mass 29th May at 12 noon.

The First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 21st May.

Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Sunday 10th April.



Welcome!

We would like to welcome all the second class boys in Miss Tyrrell's and Miss Blain's class to our school. The boys joined us in September from St. Mary's Primary school. We hope that they have a very happy and successful 5 years with us!



School Website and Twitter!

Don't forget to check out our fantastic website for updates on school events, pictures and news at www.edenderrybns.ie



You can also follow us on twitter for all the latest news at www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS

School Notices!

Scoil Muire Banríon will reopen after the Halloween midterm on Monday 2nd of November.

Upcoming Events

- The school will close at 2pm on 9th November to facilitate a staff meeting
- Science Week will take place from 9th-13th November. A special emphasis will be placed on science this week with each class preparing a science project and experiment. Parents will be invited to come into school in November to see the children's science projects, displays and experiments.
- Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on 24th and 25th of November, times will be given to parents closer to the date.

Overdue Book Rental and Art and Photocopying:

A number of book rental and art and photocopying fees are still outstanding. Parents are asked to send any overdue book rental or art/photocopying fees into their child's class teacher as soon as possible.

All the staff of Scoil Muire Banríon are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements this term. We would like to wish all our students a safe and Happy Halloween.

