

# Newsletter March 2025

Welcome to our March Newsletter. What a busy term we've had since Christmas! I hope you enjoy reading about all the different activities and workshops we have had in school over the past few months.

*Cora McGorry*  
*Principal*

## **Safety at Drop Off and Pick Up**

A concerned local motorist contacted the school expressing concern regarding the risk of parents and pupils crossing the road through the traffic. Also of concern is motorists allowing pupils to alight while still in traffic. In the interest of safety and setting good example please park and encourage use of the pedestrian crossing.

## **Aquatics**

Aquatics is a module of the PE curriculum. Since the closure of the Maynooth University Swimming Pool we have not been able to facilitate this. This year, with the support of the Parents' Association, we are trialling a four week block in the Glenroyal Leisure Centre for 4<sup>th</sup> class.

## **School Enrolment**

We continually have enquiries from new residents in the area seeking school places, and thus have waiting lists for some class levels.

If you are relocating and know that your daughter will NOT be attending Presentation Girls' School next year, please let the office know as a matter of urgency.

## **Music Generation**

Míle buíochas to all of you who have already submitted the €25 per family contribution for the Music Generation. The payment link remains open for any parent who has not yet had the chance to make a remittance. Hopefully with your support we will be able to continue to offer this wonderful opportunity to our pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. We also hope that our newly formed orchestra, still in its infancy, will flourish over the next few years.

## **Electronic Device Policy**

As you are aware the above policy prohibits pupils from having SMART PHONES in school. This policy also includes SMART WATCHES. We request your co-operation with this policy.

## **Coicís na Gaeilge: 10th-21st March**

Coicís na Gaeilge is currently running in the school. A number of activities are happening over the fortnight including a Lá glas, Céili, Quiz, a Gaeilge trail, a visit from the MEC Traditional group, a GAA Blitz, Cartoons in Irish afternoon and various competitions encouraging the girls to speak Irish as much as possible.

### **Confirmation**

Congratulations to all the girls who received the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. The sun shone for them and it was a wonderful occasion for all. Well done to the 5th class choir who sang at the ceremony. We are, as always, so grateful to our wonderful Parents' Association who hosted a lovely party for the girls and their families in the school hall after the ceremony.

### **National Children's Choir**

The school choir had their second rehearsal in Scoil Uí Dhálaigh, Leixlip last week. The Kildare Regional concert will take place in the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght on 9th April. The girls are looking forward to singing with five other Kildare school and performing with an orchestra. Tickets for the concert can be ordered through the school.

Well done to the girls on working so hard on learning the repertoire throughout the year. What a fantastic opportunity for the girls to sing with other children and perform with an orchestra.

### **Curriculum Evaluation**

Our school had a curriculum evaluation of Visual Arts in early February. This involved a detailed examination of school plans, assessments and some mandatory school policies. The team also visited fifteen classrooms to observe an art class in progress and to interact with the pupils. The team also met with school management and with a student focus group.

The inspection team from the Department of Education was highly impressed with the work being done in Visual Arts in our school and commended both the teachers and pupils for their superb efforts. The full report will be available on the Department of Education website in due course. Well done to everyone involved!

We were delighted with the comments and reported findings and we were very proud of our school – both pupils and staff.

### **School Debating Team**

The debate team took part in the semi-finals of the Kildare Concern Primary Debating competition, opposing the motion, 'We should only buy Fairtrade products'. The girls hard work and determination was evident in the incredible performance they gave, but unfortunately the result did not go their way. A massive well done to Katie, Grace, Jodie, Seána, Anna and Olivia for their effort this year.

## **Green Schools News**

Our Green Schools Committee has been very busy doing Litter Picking around the school grounds and monitoring energy use in the classrooms, making sure that unused appliances are switched off. Pictured below is our Green Schools Committee at our new raised beds, which were installed last month thanks to the Education for Sustainable Development Grant.



## **Engineers Week**

Last week, we continued our exciting journey in STEM with a fantastic Engineers Week celebration, building on the success of our STEM Week in January. We were delighted to welcome three volunteers from Intel, who delivered engaging workshops to our 3rd Class pupils, sparking curiosity and creativity. Across the school, more classes explored engineering concepts using our new Spike Lego equipment, bringing hands-on learning to life. To round off the week, all classes took part in a reflective lesson, which included watching a special video from STEM Week featuring many of our female parents working in STEM fields—an inspiring reminder of the endless possibilities in science and engineering. A huge thank you to everyone who made this week such a success!

## **Art Competition to Promote our Green Schools Code:**

This month, children across the school participated in our Green Schools Art Competition to promote our Green Schools Code:

*It's our Duty to protect our Planet's Beauty.*

We look forward to announcing the winners before the end of this month.

### **Spring Seed Sowing:**

Last week we started our Spring Sowing. Classes from across the school received guidance from school garden expert, Paddy Madden, on how to sow seeds including mangetout, peas, beetroot, potatoes, rocket, scallions and carrots. We look forward to Paddy's return visit in April when we will learn how to transplant our seedlings outdoors to our new raised beds.



### **Eirgrid Wind Turbine Workshop: 3<sup>rd</sup> Class**

Following classroom work learning all about Renewable Energy in February, 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes got to take part in an exciting workshop with Eirgrid. Following an interesting talk with the three visiting Eirgrid Employees who chatted about their jobs in Eirgrid, what Eirgrid do and how wind turbines work, the children got to test their engineering skills by building their own wind turbines. This fun group activity was topped off by generous and eco-friendly gifts from Eirgrid.

### **World book day**

World Book Day took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The girls had the opportunity to dress as their favourite character from a book. We were truly amazed by the costumes and creativity shown - the standard was incredible. We would like to extend our thanks to our wonderful Parents' Association and to Maynooth Bookshop for providing prizes for our raffles. Well done to all who dressed up for the occasion. We hope you enjoyed the day.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Class trip to EPIC**

On 12<sup>th</sup> February all 5<sup>th</sup> classes took a trip to the EPIC museum and took a tour on board the famine ship "The Jeanie Johnston". 5<sup>th</sup> class were learning all about the famine and the effects it had on the Irish population so we thought the children would gain a lot from this trip. The children really enjoyed their tour. A big thank you to parents who assisted us on the day.

### **Tesco Community Fund Maynooth**

Presentation Girls' School is included in the current round of the community Fund. If you, or your family or friends are shopping in Tesco, Maynooth over the next few weeks, we would really appreciate if you voted for us using the blue tokens.

### **Reminders:**

#### **Uniforms**

A reminder to parents that the school uniform is to be worn every day, except on P.E. days.

#### **Nuts and Fish**

No nuts or foods containing nut products and no fish products permitted.

#### **Dates for your diary**

Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Lá Glas – pupils are invited to wear green
28 <sup>th</sup> March	First Confession
11 <sup>th</sup> April	School closing early for Easter Holidays
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Re-opening