Bail ó Dhia oraibh go léír! Tá súil againn go bfuil sibh ag baint taitneamh as an aimsir brothallach atá linn.

**GREEN SCHOOLS** *The popularity of scooting to school is evident in our bike shed which is full to capacity each morning with scooters of all designs & colours. Ms. McDermott’s Green Schools Committee have been promoting this area with great success & the school was rewarded when selected for National Scooting Award. Holly Corrigan, Jamie Duffy & Charlie Carter headed to Dublin with Ms. O’ Leary & Ms. Redmon4d to accept a cheque & a beautiful trophy. Thanks must go also to Ms. Russell for her work on this committee.*

*National Spring Clean Day was a washout but as soon as the weather improved our children donned the gloves to give the school a bit of a Spring Clean. Well done guys, the grounds look great.*

*Many of our children obviously love to Scoot. We are always looking for ways to stoke the children’s interests & creativity. With this in mind Mr. Wallace has given up his lunchbreaks to supervise the scooters. It’s great to see the children enjoying not only the physical side of this but also their creative side watching them designing imaginative courses. This is a daily commitment by Mr. Wallace.*

*The children were encouraged to make a special effort during Walk to School Week. The new Pedestrian Crossing & Speed Ramp we fought so hard to get installed has certainly made this a safer walking experience for the children.*

*Louis Johnson, Rhys Whelan & Dylan O’ Donovan of the Green School Committee returned to Dublin with Ms. McDermott & Phyllis Armstrong to be presented with our Travel Flag. This is the 4th flag our school has been awarded & we hope to have a flag raising ceremony in the school …*

*This week is National Bike Week and our bike shed is filling up daily with the children’s bikes. This comes at the end of our Cycling Safety Courses. 3rd class completed a 6 week course with 4th-6th undertaking 3 week Refresher Courses. The courses are pitched at all levels from coaching in best practice for the accomplished cyclist coaching the basic skills to the absolute beginner. Thanks to the Parents association for subsidising this.*

*Also incorporated in Bike Week is a ‘Bling your Bike’ day. A scooter will be raffled amongst the children & we will raise the travel flag. This all goes ahead on Friday 19th of June. We would like celebrate the children’s efforts with activities on the pitch including two bouncy castles from Bouncy Fun. The Skate Shop in Wicklow town also were very generous when we went to source prizes.*

*As you can see the Green Schools Committee is extremely busy. Many thanks again to Ms. McDermott, Ms. Russell, Ms. Redmond, Phyllis Armstrong and all of their hard working group.*

**SPORT**

*Tennis. Our Tennis team were very successful last year & the great news is they’ve won four matches in retaining their trophy this year. Will Kelly, Ross Keating, Dylan Lynch, Dylan O’ Donovan, Simon St. John, Dan Seymour, Cian Garland & Ben Kelly. Míle buíochas to Barbara Kelly for co-ordinating this for us.*

*Féile na Gael is a huge national juvenile GAA competition being hosted by Wicklow this year. Indeed the children of Ashford will be hosting some of the top juvenile Gaelic footballers from different parts of the country in their homes for the duration of the competition. A delegation of County footballers and administrators visited the school to promote the event in the higher classes.*

*Charlesland Sports*

*Each year after Easter we go straight into our preparations for the Inter School Sports at Charlesland. We put a lot of effort into making sure all children get a fair chance before getting selection. All children had competed in qualifier races in-school and those who qualified went on to perform very well when pitted against the other schools.*

**FINANCIAL**

**RELIGION MATTERS**

*May was the month when all the hard work in the Sacraments Classes came to fruition. The Communions & Confirmations were all very memorable days for all involved. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin & Monseignor Dan O’ Connor showed genuine interest in the children on Confirmation days. In advance of the ceremonies themselves the Memory masses, Penitential Services, Retreats & the Service of Light all helped prepare the children for each of their big day. Much thanks must go to the teachers Ms. Feeney, Ms. McDermott & Ms. Carey - who also accompanied the choir on the organ on Confirmation day. Indeed thanks to all the local choirs but especially our school choir who were so well prepared by Ms. Hallahan & Ms. Carey. Fr. Eamon was leading the preparations in Ashford for the 1st time and all are agreed there was a real freshness & vibrancy this year. Fr. Eamon’s developed some links with the Sisters of Magheramore & formed a committee who met regularly in advance of each Communion ceremony to make sure all children received the best possible experience. Thanks to this committee.*

**SCHOOL AND/IN THE COMMUNITY**

*Scoil na Coróine Mhuire, Ashford was the only school in Wicklow selected by the Dept ….. National 2016 Consultation. Aindrias Fallon Verbruggen, Shauna Brett, Olivia O’ Donovan & Cormac Murphy travelled to Collins Barracks in Dublin. Children from all over Ireland assembled to discuss the future that the children of Ireland would like to see for themselves. Naturally enough it took a while to break the ice but it was fascinating to hear how these children viewed their country now & into the future. The information will be collated and built into 2016 celebrations next year.*

*Our school has had links with St. Michael’s House for many years now. Ms. Murphy developed this a bit further by working with some of the older classes to design bracelets which they sold with proceeds sent on to the charity.*

*Transitioning to Secondary School can be a very anxious time for these children. We’ve put together a group who are working with Margaret Kelly of Crosscare, Arklow to develop some practical skills to ease the transition. This is a new initiative which we hope to continue in future years.*

*6th classes really enjoyed their 5 week Healthy Foods Course. In each 90 min session the children discussed & experimented with all kinds of healthy foods from the soil to cooking some tasty & nutritious meals. From what we’re hearing these skills are being practised at home since.*

*All classes 3rd – 6th will either take part in a Cycling Skills Course or a refresher Course.*

*Laura McWatt returned to the school as part of her Teacher training course. Laura was mentored by Ms. Boyce in 1st Class over the past number of months & has now come to the end of her Placement. It can only be a good thing for our own staff to see the latest practises coming out of the Training colleges as they prompt lots of healthy discussion. Laura did very well & we wish her all the best.*

**CURRICULUM**

*Ms. Hallahan attended a Literacy Course at Blackrock Education Centre. Many new programmes & strategies were discussed. A new angle on the teaching & learning of spelling is an area we’ll be having a look at.*

*Ms. Mannion bought some great ideas back from a course on ASD course. This upskills Ms. Mannion in her SNA work in the Senior classes but also the information shared around the school will be of benefit to all teachers and special needs children.*

**PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

*While most of us are winding down for the year preparations are underway to welcome in our new Junior Infants for 2015/16. We’ve invited them all to Teddy Bears Picnic on the day of the Fun Run – please look after them. Parents will attend their introduction night on … The children themselves will then come into their new classes the following week.*

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

*Anti-bullying is of highest priority in Scoil na Coróine Mhuire. We are trying to promote a whole school co-ordinated approach. ‘Friends for Life’ is a very highly recommended programme for fostering Self Esteem & coping skills in children. A license is required to deliver the programme & some of our teachers offered attend a course to gain this license. Ms. Daly, Ms. Murphy & Ms. Hallahan attended a course recently to gain a license to lead this programme. Feedback was excellent. We hope to introduce this in the Autumn initially from 3rd class up.*

*All classes have organised tours in the last term. Please follow the various rules & guidelines as directed by each class teacher. Phones etc. are not allowed.*

*The 5th & 6th classes have completed their Accord programme. We feel programmes such as this are becoming more important as children have to cope with many anxieties.*

**PUNCTUALITY**

*Can parents please ensure that their children are getting to school on time.*

**OUR GARDEN**

*Fiona is working away at our Infants Vegetable Raised Beds. We’ve planted carrots, kale, spinach etc. which will be ready for harvesting by the Infant Classes after the Summer. One problem we have is watering the vegetables over the Summer. If there are any families living locally who would offer to water a couple of times a week over the holidays we would love to hear from you. We have easy access to water so maybe it’s something which could be linked in with playground visits!*

**POD**

*We would like to thank all those returned POD forms or explanatory opt out letters. Concerns around data are understandable but we’ve had a very high return rate & the collation of this data will be of benefit to the children as they move through the education system.*

*The sun came out again this year for our annual Fun Run Day.* *All the usual stalls, rides etc. were generously supported. Thanks to everyone who supported on the day either by volunteering their time or donating. Special thanks to Cathal O’ Gara & Boswell Equestrian Centre for providing the pony, the Macauley family of the Irish Popcorn Company for their ever popular Popcorn & Slushies and the Deehan Family of ‘Bouncy Fun’ for providing the bouncy castles.*

*As you will probably have heard by now Ms. Cahill will be moving on from us after 13 years. Ms.Cahill has been successful in securing a Principalship at Avoca. Ms. Cahill’s has contributed hugely to Scoil na Coróine Mhuire in her time here. Launching Literacy Lift Off this year is one of many such projects which Ms. Cahill has taken on*

*Thank you for your generous support of the Parents’ Association’s Copper Day & indeed all Parents’ Association Fundraisers over the course of the year. Karen … have put in a great year, much appreciated. Our final outing is the very enjoyable Marathon Relay on Saturday at the GAA field. Please drop in for a few minutes.*

*It’s important to stay current on all the latest developments in Special Education. Ms. Jones attended the IATSE Conference (Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education) the school will benefit from the insights taken from and networking connections made at this conference*

*Our 6th classes made the short trip down to the Heritage Centre. They enjoyed the Séamus Heaney Exhibition & the Webb Exhibition. Thanks to Julie for her invitation & time on the day.*

*The children love their Sports for All Days. At the time of writing the weather looks like it’s going to be spectacular as ever for us. We’d like to reiterate the need for sunscreen & plenty of water. Junior Infants to 2nd on Wednesday 3rd – 6th on the Thursday*

*The End of Year Mass for 6th class takes place this year on the 23rd of June. Fr. Eamon will celebrate Mass in the church before we return to the school for the usual events. A balmy Summers evening such as last years’ would add hugely to the occasion.*

**DIALANN NA MÍOSA**

9th-12th Junior Infants 2014-’15 Class Visits

10th/11th Books/Uniform Suppliers visit to the School

15th National Bike Week

17th/18th Sports for All Day for Junior & Senior Classes respectively

19th Raising of Travel Flag

20th Marathon Relay

21st/22nd Final Communion Class Celebration Masses

23rd End of Year Mass 6th

26th SCHOOL CLOSED 12 noon