Dia daoibh!

It’s that time of the year when the children in our 6th Classes are getting the call to their chosen Secondary Schools. Ms. McDermott & Ms. Carey have already met with some of the Second level liaison teachers to smooth the transition. Best of luck to all – it’ll all go very well for you all.

**Credit Union Quiz -** *‘What’s the oath taken by doctors to ensure they make best effort to look after their patient? ‘The Bora & the Mistral are both types of what?’* Well done to Isobel, Conor, Mike & Gary and to Olivia, Ben, Cormac & Tadhg who came 2nd & 3rd respectively in the Inter-Schools Credit Union Quiz at the Grand Hotel. As you can see the standard is very high so they did brilliantly.

**POD**

Thank you to all those who’ve filled out and returned the Primary Online Database form. Could those who haven’t returned it please do so as soon as you can as Jenny is working laboriously inputting the information into the Department of Education’s system.

**SPORT**

**Lunchtime Leagues**

We’ve re-launched our lunchtime GAA leagues with about 80 children from 4th-6th Classes. While there is a slight competitive element to this we also promote participation, physical exercise, teamwork, resilience, tolerance & respect. A big thank you to Mr. Wallace for co-ordinating this during his breaks.

**THE ARTS** **Peace Proms 2015**

Last year Ms. Hallahan introduced Peace Proms to the School Calendar. We believed the appetite was there to continue with this again this year so after lots of practice 4th & 6th Classes boarded the coaches to the RDS. Parents & Children enjoyed a real WOW night. 2,500 children led the way with the Peaceproms Orchestra. They performed with some of the country’s best known musicians, dancers etc. in front of an audience of thousands. Big thanks the Ms. Hallahan, the teachers & Evert Verveen who helped on the night

**Voluntary Contribution**

The BoM appeals to the Parents each year for a voluntary donation. The Board reviews this annually as the priority needs of the school change. An explanatory letter is attached. Míle Buíochas.

**ePayments**

We are in the process of setting up an epayments facility for those who would prefer to make payments this way. It might take a couple of weeks but as soon as it’s up and running we’ll sent out the details.

**RELIGION MATTERS**

Ms Earls & Fr. Eamonn led some **Catholic Schools Week** activities. This culminated on **St. Brigid’s Day** on which 6th Classes made a selection of the 40, yes 40, styles of St. Brigid’s Cross from all parts of Ireland. Thanks to John Crowley & Pat for sourcing the rushes and leading the making of the Crosses in-class.

Ms. Feeney’s 2nd Class are working towards their Sacrament of Penance on March 10th. Thanks to the volunteer group who meet before each Mass weekend and make sure the Masses are all inclusive.

**SCHOOL AND/IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Tidy Towns Raised Beds**

As part of our ongoing developments we put in a raised bed outside the school gate. We’ll be working this in conjunction with our friends in the Tidy Towns.

**Lamb**

Margaret Stephens of the local ICA is extremely busy. Margaret took time from running a business, lambing season on the farm & putting in a very intensive week in our Literacy Lift Off classes to bring two lambs in. Many children don’t have close access to farm animals so needless to say they loved the chance to get up close and personal before letting the 2 & 4 day old lambs home for a well-earned rest. Thanks Margaret.

**SNA Workshops**

S.N.A.’s are becoming increasingly important members of any school’s staff. The role of our S.N.A.’s Ms. Cullen, Ms. Mannion & Ms. Walshe has changed hugely over the years & is constantly evolving. The Special Needs child obviously benefits but S.N.A.’s have a very positive influence on all children in the wider school environment. Scoil na Coróine Mhuire, Ashford will be hosting two workshops for the S.N.A.’s in local schools. This will ensure that the whole Special Needs area stays fresh and up to date.

**ANTI-BULLYING**

Community Guard Marco made a routine visit to 5th & 6th Classes to discuss the ever-evolving area of Bullying. The staff are working hard with the new guidelines in putting together a plan to implement the new national Anti-Bullying Procedures. We will ensure our policy will meet our specific needs.

**GREEN SCHOOLS**

The Green Schools Committee never seem to take a break. Ms. McDermott, Ms. Russell & Ms. Redmond are putting together the latest Flag application.

**Scoot to School**

The Committee’s latest initiative SCOOT TO SCHOOL began on Feb. 2nd and will continue until Feb. 27th. It’s great to see our bike shed filling up again and hopefully this will continue as we edge towards the more walk/scoot/cycle-friendly Summer months. **Ally Menary** of An Taisce came in to give talks on Climate change. **Jim Callery** delivered the Energy game.This life-size Energy themed Interactive Board Game was in the All-Purpose room and classes were invited down in small groups to have a game.

**PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

Bagpacking days are hard to secure. Thanks to George Mitchell at Tesco, Wickow, the Parent’s Association & to all those who volunteered their time on Saturday last. We’re very grateful. It was very successful.

**HEALTH & SAFETY Administration of Medicines**

**Can we appeal to the parents of those children with chronic illnesses/allergies who have emergency medicines to make contact with the school. We can’t stress enough how important it is that we have medicines that are in date & are totally informed as to your child’s needs. This helps us compile a unique Healthcare Plan for each child with needs.**

**RSA Meeting**

The lights are on & the RSA has already visited the classes. A Parents Information Night unfortunately hit a snag so we launched the system on Monday. While the system is not perfect 60+ cars are getting through the system each morning. The area has very limited capacity and best practice on the part of our ‘car users’ is essential to the safety of our children. Brief guidelines are on the website. Use the facility safely but quickly. Drivers must stay with their cars. Please park carefully on the opposite side of the road from the school to let the bigger vehicles past. We continue to promote our Park ‘n’ Strides - from Avoca & the GAA grounds, cycling, walking & scooting.

**Punctuality**

Punctuality is a very important life skill which we like to foster in the children from the youngest age. Roadworks have been an excuse for falling standards -we are now expecting that each child’s punctuality in settling into class improves greatly. Lateness arriving & collecting is disruptive & disrespectful to others.

**Safer Internet Day AUP**

The whole area of Internet & Social Media is always a concern. The Staff & Board of Management has reviewed our Acceptable Usage Policy. The resources which are available around Internet Safety Day are invaluable to both teachers and Parents. This ties in with Anti-Bullying. A website we’d recommend is ‘webwise’.We ask that Parents might take this opportunity to delve into the resources at home and monitor their children’s activities on Social Media.

**OUR GARDEN**

Our **Garden Project Group** is doing some great work on Thursdays under the guidance of Margaret & Jimmy. We’re all really excited about the various projects they’re working on. Hopefully these will be unveiled closer to Easter.

**DIALANN NA MÍOSA**

Feb. 5th & 12th S.N.A. Workshops

Feb. 10th Safer Internet Day

Feb. 13th Biscuit Sale in aid of Dyslexia Association Ireland

Feb. 18th Ash Wednesday

Feb. 19th/20th Mid-term (School closed)

March 2nd-17th Seachtain na Gaeilge

March 10th Sacrament of Penance

March 13th P/A Green Day Dress Up

March 15th P/A Margadh Cacaí (Annual Cake Sale)

**March 16th/17th** \*\*\*St. Patrick’s Day (School closed)