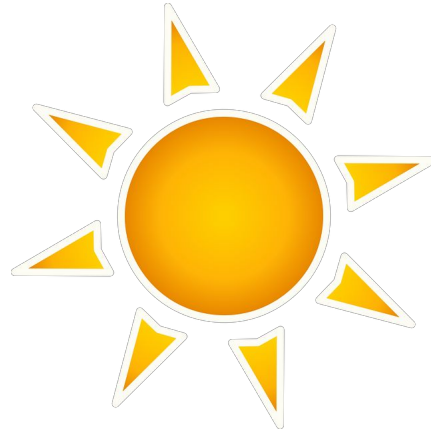


# Summer Newsletter 2015



## **Principal's Note**

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. We have been very busy since Easter as you will read below. Thank you to the Staff for all their hard work this year. Thanks too to the parents for your continued support. I hope you all have a great summer and enjoy the holidays.

## **Board of Management**

The Board of Management consists of 8 members: 2 nominated by the patron, 2 Parents, 2 from the Community, Principal and Teacher. A new BOM will be elected in October of this year.

## **Note from the Parents Association**

The Parents Association is for every parent. Its main role is foster cooperation between parents and the school management, support school activities and assist with the provision of teaching aids through fundraising. Meeting are held depending on what activities are required and all are welcome to attend and take part. Your help in whatever way is wanted and appreciated.

Last year the Parents Association with your help achieved the following:

- Annual Halloween Walk fundraiser. A great fun day with refreshments afterwards.

- Easter Cake sale. This was a great success with great baking skills on display. Thanks to everyone who donated cakes and items for the raffle. Your generosity is really appreciated.
- Subsidised swimming lessons in Graiguecullen Pool for children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class.
- Celebration of the first holy communion in the hall with the help of the parents of the first class. A great day was had and thanks to all involved.
- Celebration of Confirmation. A great spread was put on for Arles and Killeen children and families. Thanks again to all involved.
- Dave's Jungle visited all the classes in the school in June thanks to the parents association. It was a fun and educational event and all the children enjoyed it.

We welcome all new ideas for activities and fund raising ideas always.

The current committee comprises: Anna Downes Chairperson, Maria O'Toole Secretary, Sean O'Raw Finance Officer. This committee has been in place for two years and we now need to elect a new committee. Going forward we would like to see at least one member of the committee from each class if possible. This will give us fresh faces and ideas. An AGM will be held at the start of the school year in September to elect the new committee. If you are interested in going forward to the committee please let us know. Feel free to contact a member of the current committee to have a chat about it.

Yours sincerely  
Maria O'Toole  
Secretary

**Book Fair**

This year we had Celtic Travelling Books again to our school. There was a special offer: buy 3 books for the price of 2.

The book fair raised €870 altogether which entitles the school to €515.50 to spend on books (60% of total)

The teachers then chose what books they would like for the classroom and we will also be purchasing Supplementary Readers for each class level too, from the money raised. Thank you to everyone who helped organise the Book Fair and to all who bought books.

### **"Go Blue" for Laois Hurlers**

To support the Laois Senior hurlers in their Leinster Semi-Final match against Galway, the pupils wore Blue/white tops or their Laois Jerseys to school on Friday 19th June. Thank you to all who supported the day.

### **Yeats Competition**

Congratulations to Amy Kelly in Junior Infants who was one of four winners in Co. Laois in the Yeats Art Competition. She won €50 prize money and received her award at Laois Education Centre. Well done Amy!

### **Carlow Mental Health Competition**

Congratulations to Ben Slattery, Méabh Gallagher, Sophie Kennedy and Sarah Whelan who won prizes for the bookmark they each designed to promote positive mental health. This competition was organised by Carlow Mental Health Association. Well done to the 4 pupils!

### **Write A Book**

Congratulations to all the pupils from Senior Infants -6th class who won a Merit and Highly Commended in this year's Write A Book competition. An Awards Ceremony was held in The Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise. Well done to all who took part.

**First Holy Communion** - 2nd class received their First Holy Communion on Sunday 24th May; huge congratulations to all ten of you. Thank you to the children who sang in the choir and to the Parents Association who provided lovely refreshments afterwards in the hall. Thank you.

### **German**

Sybil Kehoe taught German to 4th, 5th and 6th classes this term. Each class got 30 mins for 4 weeks. Vielen Dank Frau Kehoe.

**Confirmation** - Congratulations to 6th Class who received their Confirmation in May. We were delighted to have Bishop Denis Nulty at the ceremony. Thank you to the choir, readers and the servers. Many thanks also to the Parents Association who served refreshments for all afterwards in the hall.

### **JEP Flag**

On Thursday 23rd April, the Senior Room went to Portlaoise to receive our JEP Flag (Junior Entrepreneur Project). Arles N.S. was one of 6 schools in Co. Laois who participated in the project. We were delighted to receive it and really enjoyed our "Delightful Doughnuts" project. We raised the flag after the Graduation Mass.

### **Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class School Tour**

On Friday 12th June, Junior Infants, Senior infants and 1st class went to the National Reptile Zoo in Gowran, Co. Kilkenny with Mrs. O'Carroll, Mrs. Cox and Ms. McGill. We were all well prepared for the questionnaires after our introduction to some of the creatures with Dave's Jungle! There was great excitement on the day and we're very proud of how well behaved all the pupils were, especially Junior infants (who luckily all survived their very first school tour!). After learning lots and having great fun at the Reptile Zoo we stopped off in Graiguecullen park for treats and play before returning to school.

## **2nd-6th Class School Tour**

On Monday 22nd June, 2nd-6th classes went to Daingean Co. Offaly first. There, they got a tour of Mount Lucas Wind Farm and got to see Wind Turbines up close. They learned a lot about the turbines were made and how they work. Also there, was a Fulacht Fia (used for cooking long ago). From there, they went to Belvedere House where they did an orienteering trail around the grounds of the house. Kingdom of Sports in Mullingar was the last stop. The children had a great time trying different skills at various sports such as basketball, golf, football, hurling, baseball, rugby, tennis and soccer. A great day was had by all. Thank you to the teachers who organised the trip and went with them. Mile Buíochas.

## **Rounders**

Thank you to Ms. Bennett who organised Rounders this year from 4th-6th. The Senior Room also had three teams take part in Emo for a competition. One of the teams got to a Play-off on the day which was fantastic. Well done to all who took part. You represented Arles N.S. very well.

## **Graduation Mass**

The Graduation Mass this year took place outside, in the Shelter, on Thursday 25th June at 2pm. Thank you to Fr. Pat for saying the mass and to the parents for organising the refreshments afterwards. We wish the 8 pupils in 6th class the very best of luck in Secondary School.

## **New Junior Infants**

The new Junior Infants came to visit the school on Wednesday 24th June with their parents. There was a "Teddy Bear's Picnic" for the children while Mrs. Fitzpatrick chatted to the parents. We are looking forward to having them join our school in September.

## **Football**

Thank you to Eddie, Denise, Colm and Rosemary for continuing to organise the football throughout the year. This term we had football training each Monday for 2nd-6th. On the last Monday, which was during Active Schools Week, we had a Blitz organised by the club up in the pitch. A great time was had by all. Thank you to all involved.

### **Swimming, PAWS and Ocean Safety Competition**

Swimming was once again enjoyed by all from 2nd-6th class this year.

While most pupils have been swimming, Junior infants, Senior Infants, 1st Class and others have been completing the PAWS programme with Mrs O'Carroll. Thanks to Laois Water Safety for lending us 2 ring buoys to practice throwing and simulate land rescues. We have learned all about water safety and such things as what to do in an emergency.

### **Green School/Garden**

We continue to work hard on our green school. This year we concentrated on our vegetable garden. The green schools committee dug, fertilised and sowed the garden under the supervision and help of Brian Miller. Many thanks Brian! Your help and advice is greatly appreciated.

### **Dave's Jungle**

On Friday 5th June the whole school got an introduction to (and up very close to, in some cases) snakes, lizards, spiders, a scorpion and a caiman when Dave's Jungle visited the school. All pupils, and staff who wanted to, got to touch and handle some or all of the creatures! Everyone got a Certificate of Bravery and undoubtedly many pupils will long remember the little gift one of the lizards left on the GP room carpet!

Thank you to the Parents Association who funded this for the pupils to enjoy.

### **GAA Trials**

Congratulations to Sarah Whelan, Darragh Murphy, Graham Maher, Patrick Rogers who were selected to represent our school at the Skills Day in Stradbally. Well done to Graham who was chosen to represent Laois at a football competition in Kilkenny. Maith sibh!

### **Athletics Competition Tullamore**

Well done to Cody Corrigan who represented the school at a recent Athletics competition in Tullamore.

### **Active Schools Week**

Well done to all the pupils who participated in Active Schools Week. If you had fun then you're a winner!

A big Thank you is due to the Active schools committee who ran some wake-up and shake-up mornings; set up and supervised/demonstrated games and activities for all classes; attended meetings; conducted surveys; made posters; organised and arranged equipment for the sports day and water play - Well done and thank you for your help Patrick Rodgers, Sarah Whelan, Sophie Kennedy, Niall Kealy, Aodhán Lowry, Keelin Kelly, Maya Brennan and Jack Behan.

Thank you to Breda Daly, Conor and James for coming to Athletics with all the school and to Wesley for coming to do Tag Rugby Blitz for 1st-6th,

Laois County Council Sports Section came to give us a talk on Water Safety on the Friday. Mrs. O'Carroll organised the sports day, the visit from Carlow ladies hockey club for a taster of hockey, the water play and music for wake-up and shake-up during the week. Junior, Senior infants and 1st class were introduced to mini-basketball in after school sessions with the help of some of the parents and staff who supervised as a part of our active schools policy. Active Schools week was a success thanks to the class

teachers, committee members and all pupils getting so involved and making 'being active' more about fun than competition! Míle Buíochas to Mrs. O'Carroll too for organising such a great week.

### **Voluntary Contributions**

This year the school collected €882 from voluntary contributions from parents. You have received a receipt if you contributed to this. The school is very grateful for your contribution. Thank you.

### **School Calendar 2015/2016**

School re-opens on Tuesday 1st September at 9.30am. Junior Infants will go home at 12.30 for the first 2 weeks.

### **Discovery Primary Science and Maths Award of Excellence**

This year, all classes worked very hard on compiling a Science Folder of all the activities, lessons, experiments, visits etc. that we had. We are delighted that we received an Award of Excellence for our work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Maths). Throughout the year we had: Science Week, Maths Week, Visit from an Engineer, took part in Mini Scientist Competition, visited BT Young Scientist and did lots of science experiments and Maths Trails. Well done to everyone involved. We are thrilled with this award.

### **Irish Aid Regional Finalists**

Congratulations to the Senior Room who were Regional Finalists in this year's Irish Aid Awards. The pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th did a project on "Hobbies in Developing Countries". They learned about the culture and geography of the countries that Irish Aid works in and compared hobbies of those countries with Ireland. Well done!