

Easter Newsletter
March 2016



Principal's Note

Happy Easter to all the pupils, staff, parents and Board of Management of Arles N.S. We hope you enjoy reading our Easter Newsletter. Don't forget to check our new website www.arlesnationalschool.ie for up to date information on what's happening in our school. Thank you to the Staff, Parents, BOM and Pupils for your continued support and the work you do for our school. Míle Buíochas.

New Board of Management

The new Board of Management for 2015-2019 is as follows:

Patron's Nominee & Chairperson: Mr. Declan Fenlon

Patron's Nominee: Fr. Pádraig Shelley

Principal: Mrs. Annette Fitzpatrick

Teacher's Nominee: Ms. Catherine Lawlor

Parent's Nominee: Mr. David Dowling

Parent's Nominee: Mrs. Veronica Fitzpatrick

Community Nominee: Mr. Gearóid Brennan

Community Nominee: Mrs. Jackie Mooney

Parents Association

Thank you to all the parents who expressed an interest in being on the Parent's Association Committee and to those willing to help organise events for the PA Committee. We hope to have a meeting after Easter to elect the new committee. Also, thank you to the parents of 5th class and the parents of 1st class who organised refreshments after the Confirmation and First Confession recently. Your help and support is very much appreciated.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week took place from 31st January to 6th February. This year's theme was "Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy". We were delighted to celebrate Mass, as a whole school on the Monday in Arles Church and to celebrate Grandparents Day on the Wednesday. Thank you to the Grandparents who visited our school and shared their stories with us.

Swimming & PAWS Programme

Swimming will begin on Wednesday 6th April for 2nd-6th classes. The Junior Room and First Class will complete the PAWS Water Safety Programme in school.

Tag Rugby

Thanks to Wesley who did Tag Rugby again with 1st-6th classes. 1st class really enjoyed taking part and they are eagerly awaiting their next session.

Athletics

Athletics began on 24th of February in St. Abban's Athletics Hall for 4 weeks. Thanks to Jimmy and Majella who are our coaches this year. We are very lucky that all pupils in our school, from Junior Infants to 6th Class, get a chance to go to St. Abban's each week. Thank you to Laois Sports Partnership for organising this too.

Irish Dancing

Junior Infants to 6th Class did Irish Dancing for 6 weeks. We were very happy to show off our Irish dancing to the parents on the morning that we raised our Irish flag. Thank you to Rachel who was our dancing teacher.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

Well done to the pupils of 4th, 5th and 6th class who took part in JEP for the 2nd year in a row. This year, their company "Classic Chocolates" made chocolates of various shapes, sizes and flavours and was another success. Every pupil had a role and were part of the one of the following teams: Design and Production, Marketing, Finance, Sales and Storytelling. They learned so much about what it means to be an entrepreneur and setting up their own business.

First Confession

Second class celebrated their First Penance on Thursday 10th March in Arles church. It was a lovely ceremony and the choir sang beautifully. The Parents' Association kindly provided refreshments afterwards. Congratulations to Second Class at this special time in their faith journey.

Confirmation

Congratulations to the 6th Class pupils who received the Holy Spirit on their Confirmation Day, Sunday 28th February. Thank you to the choir, servers and parents who organised refreshments afterwards. A lovely day was had by all.

BT Young Scientist

On Thursday 7th January, 5th and 6th class pupils went to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS Dublin. The pupils had a great day attending the various science shows and displays. "Titan the Robot" was excellent as was the 3D Space Show.

Peace Proms

An impressive 18 pupils (from 2nd to 6th) performed in 'The Kilkenny Peace Choir' alongside The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland, conducted by Greg Beardsell, in the Hub on Saturday 5th March.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. O'Carroll also attended the event. It was a great experience for all, including those who were in the audience! Well done to all and thank you to Mrs. O'Carroll for preparing the pupils so well. Go raibh maith agat.

Write A Book

The pupils of Arles N.S. are taking part in the Write a Book Project 2016. Each pupil is creating their own book for others to read. These books will be read by pupils in other schools.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

This year we celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge by having a RITH, a Tráth na gCeist, Lá Go Leor Glas don Gaeilge, Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine and a Céilí Mór outside. Great fun was had by all. Maith sibh!

Cumann na mBunscol Quiz

Well done to the Quiz Team from 5th and 6th class who took part in the Cumann na mBunscol Quiz in Stradbally on Tuesday 8th March.

St. Abban's Quiz

Congratulations to the 2 Quiz teams who got through to the St. Abban's Quiz. Maith sibh!

GAEL CULTÚR QUIZ EIRE OG

This year we had 3 Quiz Teams taking part. Maith sibh go léir!

Active Schools

Well done to the Active Schools Committee who helped organise the RITH during Seachtain na Gaeilge. We look forward to our Active Schools Week later in the year.

Green Schools fFag

This year we completed our second year on our Green Schools Programme Global Citizenship-Energy. It has been a great success and our judge Ann-Marie came on Friday 11th March and looked at all the hard work the pupils had put into it over the last 2 years and then spoke to the green schools committee asking them questions on how they gathered the information on it. She seemed very happy with what she heard and seen and it looks as if we will be raising another Green Flag in May!! Well done to everyone. This will be our 7th flag.

The Legion of Mary

Two members of the Legion of Mary came and spoke to 2nd and 6th class on Friday 11th March. Each pupil received a Miraculous Medal and a Prayer Card.

Pancake Tuesday

On Pancake Tuesday we made pancakes and raised €140 for Charity. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Non Uniform Day

We raised €96 for Eist Charity by having a Non Uniform Day on Friday 4th March. Thank you for your donations.

Engineer Visit & Workshop

As part of Engineer's Week, 3rd-6th class went to Carlow IT to attend an Engineer's Show. Also, an engineer came to speak to 4th,5th and 6th class on Friday 4th March. These were both great opportunities for the pupils to learn about the work of an engineer.

World Book Day

We thoroughly embraced World Book Day this year. There were many amazing and creative costumes and favoured books shown off and discussed on the day. Well done everyone who made the effort.

Entrance Exams

6th Class pupils had their Entrance Exams on Friday 4th March.

Proclamation Day

On Tuesday 15th March, on a beautiful Spring morning, Arles N.S. celebrated Proclamation Day. The Principal, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, welcomed all the people who had gathered outside the school: pupils, staff, parents, grandparents, and members of the local community. A special welcome was given to Sgt. Major Paul Maher from the Irish Navy and to Corporal Mary Bambrick from the Irish Defence Forces. To begin the ceremony, the oldest and youngest pupils of Arles N.S. raised the Irish Flag. As it flew high in the gentle breeze, all present stood and sang Amhrán na bhFiann. The Senior Room of 5th and 6th class played the National Anthem on their tin-whistles, violins and keyboards to accompany them. Following this, some pupils from 5th and 6th class read their Proclamation for a New Generation, which was written by all pupils in the Senior Room. It began with "Men, Women and Children of Ireland, We the pupils from Arles National School, in the beautiful county of Laois, are proud citizens of Ireland and are very happy to have Ireland as our country and home". Themes included in this Proclamation were: Equality, Education, Irish Heritage & Culture, Irish Language, Peace, Homelessness, Health, Sport and Music. Next, the pupils from

Junior Infants to 2nd Class performed an Irish Dance for all to enjoy. 3rd and 4th class also did some wonderful Irish dancing for the crowd. The Senior Room danced next and this finished the Irish dancing display. Well done to all the pupils, who displayed their great footwork, especially to those who danced individually. Thank you to our Irish Dancing teacher Rachel too. To conclude the ceremony, the Senior Room Pupils played some Irish Marches and Polkas on their various instruments. Mrs. Fitzpatrick thanked everybody for coming and invited everyone into the school for some refreshments.

Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to the Parents Association who organised the creme eggs. The children had a great time hiding them and looking for them. Go raibh maith agaibh!

School Website

Check out www.arlesnationalschool.ie for News, Photos and Information on our School.