

**NEWS FOR DUDES EXTRA**

**MARCH 2017**

**www.cashelbns.ie**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Lá Fheíle Padraig daoibh go léir. Happy St Patrick’s Day to you all. **Beidh an scoil dúnta ar an Aoine/School will be closed on Friday.**

Enjoy this extra addition of *News For Dudes.*

*Will Ryan*

Príomhoide

**Blue Star Project and Visit of the Estonian Ambassador**

Her Excellency Kristi Karelsohn, the Estonian Ambassador to Ireland, accompanied by her son Otto, visits our school and 4th classes on Thursday as part of the Blue Star (Learning about Europe) project. This visit follows the very successful visit of Sean Kelly - Member of the European Parliament (MEP) - in February. Míle buíochas to Mrs O’Dwyer and Mr Taaffe for their work with the boys on this project.

**Spelling Bee County Final**

Following an internal school competition involving boys from 5th and 6th classes, ***Hersh Singh*** from Rang 6 came out on top and therefore was chosen to represent the school in the Spelling Bee County Final to be held in our school at 11am this Thursday. Go n-eirí leat Hersh/Best of luck Hersh!

**Reminder re: drop off times**

No boy should be dropped off to the school before 9am in the morning. Supervision of our boys is between 9am and 9.20am only. Ball games/running etc are not allowed as the boys gather for school in the morning.

**Lateness**

School commences at 9.20am. It is important that your son gets to school on time. Too many of our boys are coming to school late and missing either part or all of our Assembly in the morning. Well done to all those boys who are in time for school every day.

**Attendance**

We are currently working on a new Attendance strategy. Thankfully, attendance in our school is generally good although there are some cases where boys are missing too many days without explanation.

**Attendance figures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2016 | 2017 |
| Jan | 92.8% | 95.1% |
| Feb | 94% | 92.9% |
| March | 94.3% | 94.9% (so far) |

**Green Schools**

We are lucky to have a super Green Schools Committee this year under the guidance of Mrs Sheahan and Ms Mullins. Nuala Cahill from Tipperary County Council visited the school this Monday to check if we deserved to get our Bratach Glas/Green Flag for **BIODIVERSITY.** It was a successful visit where she complimented, amongst other things, our ‘unique’ Tree Trail and ‘Five Star’ Bug Hotel.

As part of our ‘Drive For Five’ (Fifth Green Flag), we will hold DAY OF ACTION on Tuesday 28 March. All pupils will be encouraged to *dress up* using the theme of Biodiversity (Plants and Animals) as inspiration. Start getting CREATIVE! More details on our Day Of Action to follow.

**Walk or Park ‘N’ Stride**

As the weather improves, why not walk or park ‘n’ stride to school? Traffic remains a major problem in the mornings and afternoons. We continue to work hard to try and finalise a deal to secure the derelict HSE house next to the school. In the longer term, we hope to turn this space into a carpark/drop-off point to hopefully help alleviate the traffic congestion at our schools.

**Sixth Class JEP Programme**

As well as preparing for Confirmation and their transition to secondary school, Mr Molloy and Rang 6 are working diligently on their Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The boys welcomed Tipperary senior hurling manager, Michael Ryan and past pupil/photographer Denis Vahey to their class recently as part of the programme.

Watch out for details of their exciting product - ON SALE SOON!

Ms Miriam Quinn, Hibernia Teaching student, is currently working with the boys in Rang 6. Fáilte Miriam!

**Swimming**

Tá Rang 3 ag snámh gach Luan faoi láthair i gCluain Meala. 3rd class are swimming every Monday at the moment in Clonmel. The boys are doing very well and I’m delighted to report that all boys are giving it their best shot. Swimming is such a vital skill and a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

**Hurling**

Monday is hurling coaching day for boys from 1st to 6th class in conjuction with Cashel King Cormac’s GAA club. Thank you, in particular, to PJ Dunne and Ruairi Ryan for your work with the boys so far.

U13 Hurling coaching after school on Wednesdays with Mr Molloy, Mr Ó Gríofa and Mr Ryan. Championship usually begins in April.

**Rugby**

As part of the Aldi “Play Rugby” In Schools programme, Coach Matt Brown is back with us on Friday to work on rugby skills with the boys in Rang 5 & Rang 6. This follows a very successful and enjoyable 6 week block of lessons with Rang 4.

**Tin Whistle**

Our Tin Whistle lessons (Rang 3 to Rang 6) with Aidan O’Donnell continue until the Easter holidays. Thank you very muchto all the parents who diligently support us in this initiative. Those boys who are practising are making real progress.

**Parent Association** The next Parent Association meeting will be held in school on Monday 20 March. All parents are welcome to attend.

Thank you to all those who supported the recent bag packing in Super Valu and table quiz in the Brian Ború.

A special talk on **“Social Media Challenges for Parents”** will be held on Tuesday 28 March at 7.30pm in the school halla. Organised by the PA of the three schools, attendance is highly recommended. The talk will be presented by Dr Sinéad Devine and will provide an overview of what is currently popular amongst Irish students, what the potential dangers are, and offers practical advice on how to protect children when they are online or using their mobile devices.

Dr Devine will also talk to classes covering topics such as social networking, chatting online, cyber-bullying and online gaming.

**Ms Mulcahy’s Wedding Bells ☺**

Our colleague Ms Mairead Mulcahy is getting married very soon! We wish Mairead and her husband-to-be Pat the very best of luck, health and happiness on the day and throughout their married life together.

**FRIENDS FOR LIFE**

Mr Ryan commenced the “Friends For Life” programme with both 4th classes on Tuesday. “Friends For Life” is an evidence-based programme which gives the boys practical strategies for building resilience. It will hopefully help our boys to learn ways of feeling more confident and brave when coping with difficult situations.

**Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**

The sensitive lessons in our RSE programme are coming to an end. I hope you took the opportunity to speak with your son at home about the various lessons they completed in school. It’s not too late if you haven’t. This is a perfect opportunity to discuss these important topics with your son.

**First Penance and Communion Preparation**

Many of the pupils in 2nd class had their First Penance on 9 March in our parish church. It was a lovely ceremony. Preparations continue for First Communion on Saturday 6 May.

**Dates for your Diary Up To The Easter Holidays**

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| --- |
| **Thursday 16 March –** Spelling Bee County Final @ 11am and Visit of Estonian Ambassador @12.30pm  **Friday 17 March** – St Patrick’s Day – School Closed  **Monday 20 March** – PA Meeting @ 8pm  **Weds 22 March – Termly staff meeting 2-4pm. All boys finish @ 1:.45pm**  **Fri 24 March –** Mr Ryan will be collecting Hurling Equipment on this day.  **Tuesday 28 March –** Green Schools Day of Action. Remember it’s Dress Up Day!  **Tuesday 28 March –**“Social Media Challenges for Parents” talk @ 7.30pm in the school halla  **Friday 7 April –** Easter Holidays. School finishes @ 12.30pm. |