

**Parents Association
St. Mary's National School,
Ballygunner**

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**Newsletter
Issue 48 – Easter 2017**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been an extremely busy second term here at St. Mary's National School and I wish to thank you all for your continuing support as we approach the Easter holidays on Friday 7th April.

What a proud week it has been for our whole school community as we enjoy the success of our school show 'Charlie's Chocolately Adventure'. On behalf of the Board of Management I wish to extend sincere thanks to everyone who was part of, or assisted in any way with this critically acclaimed production. They are all truly outstanding!

I wish to acknowledge all our school staff. They are the single and most important asset to our school. Their commitment and hard-work ensures that our pupils are always striving towards their full potential. Please remember teaching staff are available by appointment via Anne Quealy our school secretary on 051 878388.

I continue to fully support the ongoing work in the areas of literacy and numeracy as part of our School Improvement Plan. The introduction of the New Primary Language Curriculum in classes from junior infants to second class has commenced. In term three teachers will be reviewing their pupils' oral language attainment levels while considering and reflecting on progression milestones.

Sincere thanks to our Parents Association

who continue to work tirelessly in support of our school. Work on our School Library is ongoing. We had a very successful quiz night recently with proceeds going towards our school garden and science resources. Also we have received great Parents Association assistance with the following; School Bus Service, School Garden, Internet Safety Talk and Tesco Blue Tokens.

I wish to compliment our pupils on all their hard work and achievements this term. There were many notable successes. Special mention goes to ALL the cast and backstage crews of 'Charlie's Chocolately Adventure' and our recent success at Cuman na mBunscol I.N.T.O. Mini-7s hurling and camogie county finals in Fraher Field Dungarvan.

Our Board of Management held two scheduled meetings this term. The Board has ratified our revised Code of Behaviour Policy and submitted a response to The Minister for Education and Skills consultation paper on School Enrolment Policy. The Board has received confirmation of our Special Education Teacher Allocation for 2017/18 school year and the Board has sanctioned the establishment of a 'working group' to plan for ICT development in our school 2017-2020. Finally the Board wishes to compliment pupils on their superb attendance record this year.

Our 2nd and 6th class pupils and their teachers continue to prepare for the sacraments of Communion (Saturday 27th May) and Confirmation (Friday 19th May). I wish to extend a sincere thank you to Fr. Liam Power P.P. and Olive Ruane Parish Catechist for all their support. Both ceremonies will take place in St. Mary's Church Ballygunner.

Finally on behalf of the Board of Management and Staff I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Principal Teacher
Killian O'Reilly

What's going on at School...

* **World Book Day**

Huge thanks to all parents for the great Book Character Day that we had this term. The children had a really enjoyable day. We distributed book tokens for the whole school and showed the children the selection of free books that were available through the Book Centre.

We also had a handwriting competition throughout the school where children wrote their favourite poem or created a poem. 3 winners were chosen from each class. The standard was really high.

Well done and I hope that you all enjoyed celebrating World Book day!

Ms. O'Shea

* **Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl sa scoil seo againne ón 13ú lá go dtí an 17ú lá de Mhí Márta. Bhí comórtais, tráth na gceist, am scéalaíochta, dramaíocht ,céilí agus ceolchoirm ar siúl i rith na seachtaine.

Tá súil againn gur bhain na páistí sár-thaitheamh as na h-imeachtaí go léir.

Maith sibh!

Ms. Glynn

* **School Play**

The atmosphere in school is electric, as we anticipate the opening of the school show! This year's musical is 'Charlie's Chocolatey Adventure', a name chosen by Eoin Furlong, amidst a heap of great suggestions. The script was written by Emma Tallon, and is an adaptation of Roald Dahl's infamous tale. The show combines the traditional story with modern pop songs that will have the audience bopping along. This year, all 5th and 6th class pupils are involved in some way - compiling programmes, designing sets, completing projects, dancing their socks off, singing their hearts out, and of course, taking on the roles of the Chocolate Factory workers and visitors! The lucky Charlie Bucket is played by Oisín Cooke, while George Lyons brings the quirky Willie Wonka to life. They are joined by a stellar cast, and supported by energetic choruses. There has been so much hard work done by staff, parents and pupils to bring the show to the stage. Well done to all involved, and BREAK A LEG!!!

Aoife Piper

* **Cake Sale**

The 6th class cake sale was a great success and €2,630.16 was raised for local charities, The Cancer society, Pieta House and Solas Centre. Thank you to all who supported this event. Well done to 6th class and their teacher!

* **Nore Valley Incubator Hatching Project**

Three years after we undertook our first successful incubator project in conjunction with Nore Valley Park, we took delivery of seven fertile eggs mid-March. Out of these seven eggs we were very lucky that six healthy chicks hatched out. The chicks will remain in the school until the Easter holidays and will return to Nore Valley Park. Senior Infants will go to visit them in June when they go on their school tour. The children learn all about the Life Cycle of the Chicken, how the incubator works, and they get to rub or hold a chick in their classroom.

Chick Name Competition Winners:

Hatchtag – Lucy Power 1st Class

Mick the Chick– Callum Morrissey-Kearns 2nd Class

Clucky McCluckerson – Donnacha Fitzpatrick 6th Class

Fluffy Mc Fluffwings – Afric Laphorne 1st Class and Clarine Mathew Junior Infants

Charlie Clucket – Joseph Mackey 4th Class & Oisín Cooke 5th Class

Cluckadoodledoo – Emer Donohue 5th Class

A very eggs-citing project!

Nanette O'Connell

Sports

Mini 7s County Finals

March 30th was an historic day for our school as 3 teams travelled to Dungarvan to participate in the INTO Mini 7s County Finals in Hurling, Camogie, and Gaelic Football. All 3 teams had won their respective Eastern titles over the past few months and trained very hard in the meantime.

First up was the hurling team who had a blistering start against Lismore. Some early goals laid the foundation for an 8 point victory. It wasn't all plain sailing as a Lismore storm had to be weathered in the second half. Donagh Cooney became the first ever Ballygunner player to lift the Mini 7s Boy's County Title. Donagh now has the opportunity to play at half time in a match in Croke Park this coming August.

Next up, the camogie team took on Glenbeg. An early Ciara Sherlock goal settled the nerves for what went on to be a tough battle against a very strong Glenbeg team. There was an exhibition of hooking, blocking and tackling from both teams as scores were hard to come by. Laoise Forrest, who will also play in Croke Park this August, settled the game with some fine free-taking.

Final score: Ballygunner 1-6 Glenbeg 0-2.

Lauren Cullen collected the trophy; this is the second year in a row the school has won this title.

The Boys' Football team (having won their first ever Eastern title in October) took on Garranbane to see if a clean sweep could be completed. In what turned

out to be the closest game of the day, the tremendously skillful boys from the West took the honours after extra time. Again, it was an early goal from Ballygunner but in this game it took a last minute goal as well to force extra time. The additional 10 minutes proved a step too far, but everybody gave 100% effort and Dara Kavanagh in goal put on a display never seen before in Fraher Field.
Final score: Ballygunner 4-2 Garranbane 2-14.

Players: Pierce Kennedy, Kieran Caulfield, Tony Brennan, Aaron O'Neill, Donagh Cooney, Harry Sharp, Dara Kavanagh, Charlie Whitty, Oisín Jackson, Eoin Cuddihy, Tony Ethonouye, Callum Sloane, Niall Curham, Jason Healy, Ciarán Goff, Scott Fleming, Bill O'Regan, Vicky O'Sullivan, Sarah Power, Faye Murphy, Laoise Forrest, Kelsie Obanya, Holly O'Sullivan, Lauren Cullen, Ana Cullinane, Emma Berry, Aine Forrest, Alex Healy, Ciara Sherlock.

Conor O'Neill

* Camogie

The Ballygunner Camogie season has gotten off to a flier this year, with all three titles already filed away in the trophy cabinet.

The Indoor Camogie team secured the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Title for the fourth year on the trot, with six fine victories to extend the School's Indoor record to a remarkable 25 game unbeaten run over the past four years on the Indoor Circuit. Captained by Faye Murphy, the team were always in cruise control throughout, with the up and coming Fourth Class contingency gaining valuable competitive experience ahead of the business end of the season.

Indoor Champions 2017: Sarah Abullo; Rachael Flynn, Ewea Oshiogwemoh, Emily O'Mahony; Kelsie Obanya, Faye Murphy (Capt.), Ciara Sherlock; Emma Berry, Alex Healy, Holly O'Sullivan.

The Mini 7s Squad also won the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Mini 7s Eastern Title for the third year in succession at a wet and blustery Carriganore Arena in early March. Captain Lauren Cullen led her troops to a sextet of solid victories to set up a County Final showdown with Glenbeg NS last Thursday in Dungarvan. Inspired by the outstanding Laoise Forrest, the team were crowned County Champions on a final score line of 1-06 to 0-02.

Mini 7s Eastern Champions 2017: Vicky O'Sullivan; Sarah Power, Lauren Cullen, Ana Cullinane, Laoise Forrest, Faye Murphy, Ciara Sherlock; Kelsie Obanya, Holly O'Sullivan, Alex Healy, Emma Berry, Aine Forrest.

35 girls from Second Class are also taking part in an internal Camogie League that runs right up to Easter and it is a great opportunity for these young girls to

have a lash with the stick of ash in a non-competitive environment.

24 Fourth Class girls are also training three times a week as they prepare for League Action. They are due in action on the 26th April against Gaelscoil na nDeise at an away venue yet to be confirmed.

Colin Breheny

PA Activities

The Parents Association has been busy this term.

* Parent Talk

We would like to thank everyone who came and supported the Parent Talk on internet safety in February. It, along with the 6th class workshops was a huge success and received very positive feedback from children, teachers and parents alike.

For your information: www.webwise.ie

* Fundraising

The Tesco Blue Tokens raised €350 for the Autism classes which was gratefully received by Mr. O'Reilly, Dylan Flanagan and Cian Byrne Doyle on Monday 27th in Tesco.

Our annual fundraiser table quiz was on Friday 24th March and raised €2001.70 for the school garden and science resources.

Thank you again to all parents and local business' for their overwhelming generosity, it is hugely appreciated. We would also like to thank Killian O'Reilly for his support and encouragement. A special thank you also to Anne and Tara in the office, who often had their office invaded by the PA in preparation of these events. Again their assistance with notes, finances etc has been invaluable.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter, enjoy the break from packed lunches, uniforms etc,

Bronagh Peelo
Catherine Power

Dates For Your Diary

Fri 7 Apr	School closes from 12:00 for Easter Holiday
Fri 19 May	6 th Class Confirmation
Sat 27 May	2 nd Class First Communion
Fri 9 Jun	6 th Class Disco
Fri 30 Jun	School close



PA Sub Committees Updates

* New School Bus System

-----IMPORTANT BUS NOTICE-----

Due to on-going health and safety concerns on the school bus, there have been some changes made. There is now a school bus committee set up to help with all concerns. All students now wishing to use the bus must read through and sign with their parents/guardians a code of behaviour which was sent out to them last week. Bus tickets will now be purchased from the school on a Monday morning at a weekly cost of €5 each way per week. The bus driver will no longer accept cash. Each student will be given their ticket for the week from the school. The double decker will no longer be in service and is being replaced by a coach. Anyone wishing to use the bus in the future must contact the committee via the office and have their names added to the waiting list. If your child has not brought home the form and is currently using the bus, please contact the office for a copy of the form. From September tickets will be purchased on a term basis.

AS AND FROM MONDAY 24TH OF APRIL THERE WILL BE NO PARKING IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL AT 2PM. THE BUSES WILL BE PARKING PARALLEL TO THE SCHOOL WALL IN THIS AREA.

We would appreciate your support on this matter as we are sure you would all agree the safety of our children is of the utmost importance. Thank you.
Bus Committee: Sinead Nevins and Ruth Curran

* Garden News

The Garden Committee has been busy painting anything that doesn't move following Errol Flynn's cleaning spree of all the raised beds. Errol and Vinny Rafter has been conditioning and turning the soil. We are looking for donations of seedlings & plugs if any green fingered parents have some to spare.

Brian Upton has met with the garden committee and has been given their wish list for the garden. A big thanks to Brian Upton Landscaping, who made a large donation of flowers, herbs and vegetables. We are looking for a volunteer to install a water butt in the garden. We are all ready to go - just need a handy person!

Second classes have their potatoes sprouted and ready to plant. Many more classes will be planting after Easter. Children and staff are delighted to see the garden make-over and look forward to spending time out there with Daisy, our cow. Thank you to Adrienne Walsh-Ramahal for donating Daisy. We understand that a Big Pig composter is on its way and a wormery also to help produce our own compost. We really appreciate the wonderful support of Maura Upton and the garden committee, who volunteer their valuable time. If anyone wants to get involved in garden, please contact Carol Chapman through the school office.

Garden Committee: Carol Chapman and Maura Upton

* Library news

Library books were purchased and lasted on the shelves all but 5 minutes. The children have created some fabulous art work in the book covers displayed in the senior library. The children have been busy reading and reviewing the classics with enthusiasm. The only criticisms being tiny writing and no pictures! Please remember donations of books, particularly for 8 years and upwards, are always welcome. Thanks to Mr. D O'Neill, Therese O' Shea and the library committee for all their hard work.

Bronagh Peelo

Kids Corner

Q. What did the Easter Bunny say at the start of the Easter holidays?

A. Eggs-cellent!

Q. What day does an Easter egg hate the most?

A. Fry-days.

Q. What kind of bunny can't hop?

A. A chocolate one!

Q. How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?

A. Eggs-ercise.

Q. What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

A. Bugs Bunny!

Q. Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?

A. It might crack up!

Q. How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself?

A. With a hare-dryer!

Q. Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road?

A. Because the chicken had his Easter eggs!

