



22nd April 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

FANTASTIC NEWS: GREEN SCHOOLS!

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Eastern Midlands region 'Water of the year' award. This award is a direct result of all of the school's efforts towards achieving a 3rd Green Flag! Eight schools (Primary and Secondary) were awarded this.

Before Easter, the Green School Committee met with Jim Callery from Wicklow Environmental Office. He inspected them on their work for this year's Water Flag and was very impressed with what they (and the entire school community) have done over the last few years. The school had fantastic work on display on the day and he noticed all the water experiments that had gone on in the various classrooms. He must have given a glowing report to 'An Taisce', as they chose the winners!

As a result, we have won €750 for the G.S. committee to spend on our next flag (which is on the topic of Transport). The Awards Ceremony is taking place during the May mid-term break at the An Taisce offices. The overall winner will be announced and they will receive an even bigger prize! That could be us!

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone involved with teachers Emma and Caitriona.

SCHOOL CLOSURE:

Following introductory workshops for school principals last term, and in advance of whole school professional development to be delivered by PDST in the 2016/2017 school year, PDST is offering a further seminar to Principals to provide participants with opportunities to become familiar with the rationale for and structure of the new Primary Language Curriculum/Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile and to actively explore the curriculum using samples of children's work and support materials and to prepare for an initial exploration of the curriculum with staff in school. This 'initial' presentation of the new curriculum and how it will be phased in over the next number of years, will require a school closure for one day so that all staff may be familiarized with it and introduced to the learning outcomes of the oral language strand.

This full school day training for staff will take place on the 29th April and, therefore, the school will be closed. This is the Friday leading up to the **May Mid-term break**. From September 2016 the Oral Language strand has to be implemented from Infants to second Class. There will be a further full day's closure in the school year 2016/17.

School Photos:

The school photographer will be here on the 10th May (and possibly the 11th) to take individual and siblings photographs. This applies to the following classes, Junior Infants, 1st classes, 3rd classes, 5th and 6th classes. Classes are photographed on a rolling basis every two years.



Sports Day:

This is booked for **Senior Classes for the 2nd of June**. We are delighted to inform you that Templecarrig will facilitate us using their school grounds this year. We will keep you updated. Junior Classes will have their Sports Day in the **Junior Yard on the 3rd June**.

Soccer Success!

Luke brought 3rd and 4th class teams to Bray Emmett's yesterday where our school won all three matches with Ciaran Duggan from 3rd class scoring 3 goals and ALL players giving their utmost. Teacher Luke was very proud of them. He is now considering the possibility of having an Athletic Club in GETNS in the mornings, starting at 8.30 a.m.! More about that later!

Hair Lice:

It is very important that children's hair be checked regularly for signs of hair lice and the note that is sent home requesting action to be taken, to be complied with immediately.

Write a Book Winners:

Congratulations to our Write a Book winners this year, Ellie Jane Marshall Baugh & Ferdia Punch 3rd class, Isabel Johnson 4th class, Lucy Dunne & Emilie Fahy 5th class and Rhianna Meagher 6th class. They will attend the award's presentation on Monday 25th April in Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel Killiney, Co Dublin.

Finally:

On Thursday 28th we will close for the mid-term. We hope you all have a lovely break and we will see you all on May 9th. We then have our Induction Days for 2 new classes of Infants on the 17th and 18th May. Unfortunately, the Department of Education have not contacted us yet with regard to offering places to the children on the waiting list, to make a 3rd class for September.

Catherine.