

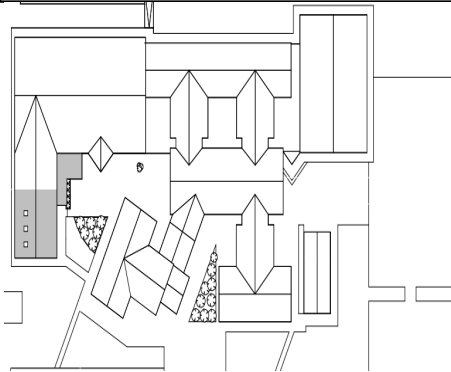


# Callystown News

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March 2019

## New Extension for Callystown NS



The Department of Education and Skills has granted funding for the provision of an additional classroom to the school. The extension is due to an increase in enrolment over the last number of years and will mean that there will be 13 classrooms in the school when it is completed. The new classroom will be built to adjoin the staffroom and a new corridor will be needed to connect the new build with the existing school. Frank McGahan Architects, have been employed to design and oversee the project. It is hoped that the building will be ready for construction before the end of this school year and that most of the disruption will take place over the summer holidays.

### Parents' Council Present 25 Chromebooks

The school has gratefully received 25 new chromebooks from the Parents' Council. The chromebooks are a very versatile IT device as they offer keyboard skills as well as access to apps, internet and educational software. The additional 25 machines will allow greater numbers of pupils to engage with technology throughout the school. The Parents' Council has been fundraising over the last number of years and it is great to see the fruits of its hardwork making a difference to the education of our pupils.



## Confirmation 2019

Last Sunday, 32 of the boys and girls from 6th class joined 14 from Walshestown school in making their Confirmation in St Michael's church. The parish welcomed Dean Kevin Donaghy as the chief celebrant. The sacrament is a special day in the lives of our pupils and the ceremony was a memorable and joyous occasion. The children looked wonderful in their new clothes and they took a full part in the ceremony by way of readings, singing and the presentation of gifts and symbols. The choir sang beautifully and added greatly to the service. Following the mass many families returned to the school hall where the Parents' Council provided a welcome cup of tea and refreshments. A bunch of flowers was presented to Ms O Kane to thank her for all her efforts in preparing the class for this special day. A word of thanks to our choir, its teachers and to all who helped out with the refreshments back at the school.



*Callystown National School, Confirmation Class, 2019.*

## Reading Survey Results



The school is reviewing reading and comprehension in middle and senior classes as part of its School Improvement Plan. A survey was sent out to parents earlier in the school year looking for information that would help the school to make decisions about future developments. 99 parents returned the survey and the following are a number of the results:

- 86% of parents thought their children were good readers
- 76% of parents said that their children read at home for pleasure
- 4% Did not read at home for pleasure
- 81% of parents reported that IT was affecting their child's reading time at home
- 93% of parents talked to their children about what they are reading
- 93% of parents expressed a positive comment about their child's reading fluency and expression.
- 27% of parents said their child worried a little about reading while 4% said they worried a lot.
- 80% of parents said their child enjoyed reading
- 96% of parents said that their child receives good support with reading at school
- 47 % of parents reported that they were unsure of the meaning of their children's Micra T score.

## Dragon's Den

Both Mr. Crosbie's and Mr. Fortune's 5th classes are currently taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The children are now in the process of setting up their own business and have already completed many of the steps on their journey to getting their business up and running. Firstly, the children were divided into small groups to brainstorm and come up with their own business ideas. After some heated discussions and debates, the children planned and presented a sales pitch in their very own Dragons' Den. Following some incredible sales pitches and some gruelling questions the Dragons had the extremely difficult task of selecting a product and business to recommend to the children.



The Children have now been split up into a Sales Team, Design and Production Team, Marketing Team, Finance Team and Storytelling Team. With the children's fantastic work ethic and passion for their business we hope to be ready to go to market in the coming weeks. Keep an eye out for our amazing bookmarks coming to a school near you.

**Child Protection Review** As part of new regulations to do with Child Protection introduced last year, schools are obliged to review its own policy every year. One part of the review is to ask parents if they would like to make submissions with regard to Child Protection issues in the school. If parents have submissions please forward them to [callystown14@gmail.com](mailto:callystown14@gmail.com) before May 10.

## Active Flag

Over the past few months, the boys and girls have been aiming to become more and more active. Whether it's been running laps of the school, dancing in the classroom or just doing their talking while they're walking. Everyone has been making a huge effort to get more exercise and become a little bit healthier. With this in mind, our Active School Committee is looking forward to organising a fun Active School Week in June where the boys and girls will be given a taste of new sports and hobbies and encouraged to put exercise and fitness at the centre of their day.



## Lifeboat Concert

Our school choir had the wonderful experience of performing in front of a large audience at the recent Lifeboat Choir concert held in the community hall. Songs both old and new were sung and the school's fiddlers and tin whistle players added greatly to the performance. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the set and everyone joined in for a great rendition of *Is Clogher head Like It Used To Be* at the end. Well done to the choir and to their teachers Ms Deery and Ms O Kane.



**School will close for the Easter Holidays at 12.30 on Friday April 12th and will reopen on Monday April 29th.**  
**We hope you have an enjoyable break.**



## Green Schools Supports Trocaire



With one Friday to go the arrow stands at €914 well in excess of the €500 target that was set at the beginning of Lent. This year's Lenten campaign has been in aid of Trocaire who run aid projects in developing countries. The projects this year are to help children who belong to families who have lost their homes due to serious infringements of land rights. Our pupils have been learning about Roni (Uganda), Maria (Guatemala) and Maya (Syria) and how they have lost their homes. These stories are closely aligned with our Green School theme of Global Citizenship. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

March is the time for our annual Seachtain na Gaeilge. It was great to hear the classrooms resound with the music, song and sounds of our native language. Everywhere you went there were children trying out their cupla focail and they all have to be commended for their efforts and the use of the language. The highlight of the week as always is the Lá Glas assembly and as usual it was a great mix of entertainment and music that saw all the pupils in the school taking part. Congrats to all who helped make the week a success and especially to Ms McClean and Ms Reilly who co-ordinated the events.



## Wellbeing Week

Well done to Ms Slevin for organising the school's first Wellbeing Week. Bright coloured balloons, flowers, treats, motivational signs and plenty of positive thinking was the order of the day. Staff and pupils were encouraged to look on the bright side of life and were reminded that we should always be mindful of taking care of our emotions. The week ended with an assembly full of positivity, kindness and hope for a happier and healthier future.

## Sports Report

Firstly, a word of thanks to Eoghan Mc Evoy who coached basketball to the boys and girls of 5th and 6th. Great numbers turned up for the Wednesday sessions and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Our soccer teams took part in the FAI 5 a side national tournament in DKIT last month. Although neither of the teams qualified past the county stages they won a lot more games than they lost. GAA coaching is back this term and the Cumann na mBunscol leagues start after Easter.



## Board of Management

A Board of Management meeting was held on January 31. Topics for discussion were Child Protection, the New Relationships and Sexuality programme and the new school extension. The next meeting will take place in May.

## Safety Issues

A number of safety issues have been brought to the attention of the Board of Management and it would be grateful if all parents would take note of the concerns.

- 1. Walk Throughs:** People are forbidden from using the school to walk through from John Kirk Estate to Callystown Rd. (or vice versa) at anytime and especially not during school hours.
- 2. Dogs:** Dogs are forbidden from school grounds as many of our children are afraid of them.
- 3. Parking:** parents are reminded to park with care when picking up or dropping off pupils, especially at the new Oriel Cove fence.

# Grandparents' Day

The excitement is building as the school welcomes our pupils' grandparents on Friday. The day is a celebration of the important role grandparents play in all lives. It will be a day of music, song and story. The children are looking forward to performing and showing their "nans" and granddads their school and classrooms. A lovely way to finish off the term.



Callystown National School

## Grandparents' Day

Friday, April 12th, 2019

Light Refreshments between 10 and 10.30 a.m.

**School Assembly 10.45 am**

**Parents' Council Notes:** The parents' committee was delighted to present the school with 25 chrome-books recently. The funds were raised over the last number of events and we were delighted to help with the IT facilities in the school. Thanks to the many helpers who gave a hand at the recent Confirmation gathering. It was great to see so many families back at the school and there was a great array of cakes and sandwiches to refresh them. The Parents' Council will also be helping out at the Grandparents' Day on Friday and we are delighted to be able to support the event.

## Book Rental

The Book Rental Scheme will continue for 2019/20. The cost of the scheme is €70 per pupil (€40 for the rent of books and €30 levy for the homework journal, copies, photocopying, art materials, novels etc. There is a reduction in the levy for families with 3 or more children in the school. Payment must be made before Fri. June 7th. Families may pay by e-payment or on the following days between 8.45am and 9.30am and 1.45pm and 3.15pm Wed. May 8th, Wed June 5th and from 1.00 pm to 3.15pm on the tracksuit fitting day Tues May 21st.



**Congratulations** to Ms Brodigan and Mr Crosbie who tied the knot last weekend. All at Callystown NS are delighted to wish them every happiness in their future lives together.



**Credit Union Quiz:** The annual Credit Union quiz took place in the school at the beginning of February. 36 teams from Callystown NS and Walshestown NS took part. Walshestown took the U13 grade while the honours in the U11 went to Callystown. The team was Cameron Mc Guigan, Yvie Sharkey, Jamie Kiernan and Ciaran Maree

**New Projector:** A new projector and screen has been installed in the sports hall. This will help with the quality of presentations for assemblies and workshops.



## Notice Board

**School Closures:** The school will be closed on the following days :

**Curriculum Planning Day :** Monday May 13th

**Referendum Day:** The school will be closed on Friday May 24th.

**Clothes Recycling Drive:** Hold on to your old clothes! There will be a clothes recycling collection in the school during the week of the upcoming Referendum. The referendum is on May 24th.

**Tracksuit Fitting :** Tracksuit fitting will take place on Tues. May 21st between 1pm and 3.30pm. The tracksuit cost is €46, which must be paid for on the day.

**Internet Safety:** Zeeko presented workshops to classes from 2nd to 6th on staying safe while using IT.

**Catholic Schools Week** took place at the end of January. The theme this year was Celebrating the Work of our Local Catholic School.

**Confirmation Video and Photograph:** Both are still available through the secretary's office.

**Enrolments:** If you are aware of any child who is due to start school this coming September, please ensure that they have been enrolled.

**New Infants** will visit the school on Tues. May 21st .

**First Penance:** Congratulations to all the boys and girls who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last month.

**First Communion:** Sun. May 12th @ 11.30

**School Stars:** Well done to all our boys and girls who took part in the recent School Stars in the TLT Theatre. We had dancers, singers and musicians representing the school and they did us all proud.