



Callystown News

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Website Relunched

www.callystownnationalschool.ie

We are delighted to announce that our school website has been relaunched. The site has seen a major redevelopment and facelift! It is a lot more user friendly and looks great on smartphones as well as on computers. The site is a “go to” place for school information, policies and news. Among the many features, there is a school calendar and events guide, where parents can see the activities that are happening in the school. It will also display photographs and stories of what is going on around the classes and throughout the school. We have a group of 5th and 6th class pupils whom we are calling the “Newshounds”, reporting on the different activities in the classes. Thanks to Ms Slevin who has overseen the improvement in the website. It has been a lot of work and hopefully the school community will find it informative and enjoy keeping up to date with the school. So go check it out!!



Builders Begin Work on Extension

Builders, diggers, bricks and mortar are very much part of the conversation in the school over the last number of weeks. Work began on the new extension in the middle of September and it has been full steam ahead ever since. One of the first jobs was to move Fr. Murtagh's tree. It was transplanted to the biodiversity garden and hopefully it will survive and flourish there. Broomfield Construction has the contract and it hopes to have the classroom and ancillary room ready for the middle of January. Thankfully there has been minimal disruption to school life and we look forward to a bright new room early in the new year.



Farewell to Doris!

26 years ago the pupils of Callystown NS stood on the beach to welcome Doris Bleasdale, the new lifeboat to Clogherhead Lifeboat station. It was a memorable and happy occasion for the school. So it was a fitting tribute to the great service that Doris has given to Clogherhead, that 26 years later the pupils of 5th and 6th class once again stood on the beach to bid her a fond farewell. The boys and girls sang “Is Clogherhead Like It Used To Be” to help her on her way. It is also great to welcome Michael O'Brien, the new lifeboat to the station and wish it every success in the years to come.



New Board of Management



On the 30th of November the current Board will formally end and a new Board will start its term on December 1st. Firstly, it is important to recognise the work of the outgoing board and to thank the members for their commitment and service. The Board of Management is made up of eight members, 2 Patron representatives, 2 teacher nominees (one of whom is the Principal), 2 parents' nominees, (one father and one mother) and 2 community members (chosen by the other 6 members.) The process for electing the parents' nominees has begun and Conor Byrne has been chosen unopposed as the fathers' nominee. There are two candidates for the mothers' nominees, Elaine Farrell and Aine Kirwan. A ballot will take place after the midterm to elect the mothers' nominee.

Mr Clifford Moving School

We would like to wish Mr Clifford every success as he moves to Knockbridge National School. Mr Clifford has taught in Callystown NS for the last 5 years and has made a great contribution and will be missed by pupils and staff. He has been a very kind and caring teacher and he has been a great help in working on the school's Active Flag and helping out with the coaching of the boys' football team. We are thankful for his work here and wish him well in his new school..

Second class will have a new teacher after the midterm break.

Aladdin App



The Aladdin App plays an important role in providing a good system of communication between school and home. It is important that at least one parent has the app on their phone. If anyone is having difficulty accessing information on the app please contact the school and hopefully we will be able to get you up and going. The app allows the school to send each family text messages, school reports and show standardised test results. It also allows parents to inform the teacher of absences and a new feature is that it will allow for parents to give permission for trips etc. Each year Aladdin adds new helpful features, so it is important to have the App up and running.

Anti Bullying Campaign Review



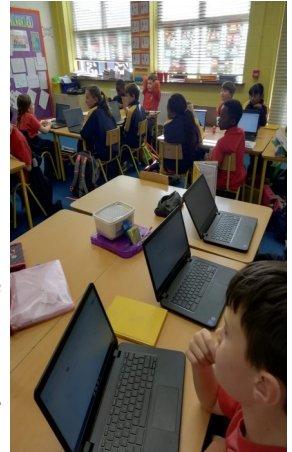
It has been 5 years since the school introduced the Anti Bullying Campaign as a means of raising awareness of the harm that bullying causes among our pupils and a way to deal with incidents of bullying when they arise. One of the key ideas behind the campaign is the philosophy of reform and no blame. This means that pupils who are involved in bullying behaviour will be asked for a solemn promise not to bully again and for that promise they will receive no punishment. Neither the

child's parents nor the principal will be informed. However if the promise is broken then both parents and Principal will be informed. Research has shown that the reporting of bullying is very low due to the consequences of punishment being given to the bully and the fear of reprisals.

The anti bullying programme is taught to all pupils from 2nd to 6th. Pupils are encouraged to Recognise, Reject and Report incidents of bullying.. Surveys are given to pupils 3 times during the year and they are asked to record bullying behaviour that they have witnessed or been involved in. The school's three anti bullying teachers follow up on the surveys and when necessary interview the pupils involved in the incidents identified. The programme has worked very well over the last 5 years and has helped many pupils. The school staff recently reviewed the programme and identified a number of areas that will help make the programme even better. I'd like to thank Ms Lally who co-ordinates the programme and Ms Reilly, Mr Fortune and Ms King who currently are our three anti bullying teachers. To see the programme in full please go the website www.antibullyingcampaign.ie

Information Technology in the Classrooms

Information technology plays such an important part in all of our lives. Preparing children for this ever changing world is a challenge. In school, we are setting out a plan for the development of skills and introducing our pupils to new ways of learning using technology. Thanks to the generous donation of 30 chromebooks from the Parents' Council and the on-going funding from the Department of Education, the school is giving many of our classes an opportunity to learn new skills and to put these skills to use in a meaningful and educational way. Ms O Kane is leading the development of a new digital framework for the school and over the coming years we hope to build upon the foundations that are being put in place. Pupils in 5th and 6th classes have been learning to use Google Slides to do project work while 3rd and 4th classes have been working with Google Docs to write and present their poems. A feature which is very popular with the pupils is the ability to continue and edit their school work at home by using their login details.



Rainbows

Rainbows is a programme that a number of teachers have been running in the school for the last ten years. Rainbows works to enable children who have experienced significant loss through bereavement or parental separation to access peer support. The programme has been significantly revised this year and 5 of our teachers have voluntarily trained themselves in the new methods and regulations. The programme takes place in the term after Christmas and runs as an after-school club, once a week, for 10 weeks. Children have previously accessed the programme due to bereavement, however it is very suitable for children who maybe experiencing difficulty in coming to terms with parental separation. More information on the programme will be given out later in the year.



Fleadh and Fiddle

It was another exciting summer at the Fleadh in Drogheda and our school musicians were very much to the fore. Both children and staff members were to be seen playing and singing in different venues around the town. It is a testament to the great work that is being done in music throughout the school and in particular with the Music Generation fiddle programme.. Thanks to Emma Kiernan and her great work. This years 'classes have begun and there are still a small number of places left in 3rd class.



A Little Princess

The story of the A Little Princess is one that is not as well known as many of the other classics. However, the Frances Hodgson Burnett's tale of a little princess who is sent to a harsh English boarding school during the war, was wonderfully portrayed in this year's production from M&M Theatre Company. The show held the attention of the pupils and they were entertained by some super acting, a beautiful set and a great story. We look forward to next year's production of Oliver Twist.

Keep Fit A Thon

Wow! What a work out! Tired bodies returned to their classes after this year's Keep Fit A Thon. The trainers from Me Time Training had pupils and teachers working hard on their fitness while having some great fun. Well done to all the girls and boys who did their star jumps, squats, ran on the spot and jumped up and down. The juice was a welcome treat at the end of the event. Thanks to everyone who supported the event by returning sponsorship cards.



Parents' Council

The Parents' Council held its AGM at the end of September. Helen Sweeney stepped down as chairperson and we are grateful for all her work in that role over the last few years. Ciara Farrell takes over the role and we wish her all the best. The new committee is posted on the website and we look for-

Summer Works

The summer saw quite a bit of work around the school. Ms Brodigan's and Ms Neary's classes saw a major facelift and they are now very bright and airy. The small hall also saw a significant new storage unit built into the alcove space. This has allowed us to store school equipment and the teachers' library in a more effective manner and has freed up some additional classroom space.

New Mobile Interactive Board



Drogheda Brass Band The school enjoyed the wonderful music of the Drogheda Brass band recently. Three members of the band visited the school to play some popular music and to talk to our pupils about the instruments they play and about the band. Hopefully some of our students will join!



Sports Report: Both boys and girls competed in the local Cumann na mBunscol competitions. Both teams also put in great performances winning a number of games in their divisions. It looks as if we will have strong teams for the spring leagues. Ms King has been organising Running Club on Tuesdays with help from Ms Booth and Ms Lally and they have a good number of budding runners. The 6th classes are competing today in the annual Garda Sports day in Drogheda. It is usually a good day's fun and friendly competition.

Notice Board

Dates for the Diary:

Zeeko, Internet Safety

Talk for parents. Tues January 14th @ 7pm.

Another date for your diary!!

First Communion and Confirmation talk for parents

of children making these sacraments. Thurs. November 28th. The talk will be given by Fr. Barry Matthews. More information after the midterm break.

Family Masses will take place on the second Saturday of every month between October and Easter. The mass takes place at 7.30pm

Recycling of Clothes: Thanks for the great response to our clothes recycling appeal

Attendances 2018/19: The attendance statistics for last year were: 23 pupils missed 20 or more days (a rise on the previous year) and 7.95 days was the average number of days missed per pupil (a slight decrease on the previous year).

Please Make an Appointment! If you wish to talk to a teacher regarding your child please make an appointment through the school secretary.



School Holidays

Oct.'19 Mid Term Break

Closing Fri Oct. 25th
Re-opening Mon Nov. 4th

In-Service Fri Dec 13th

Christmas '19

Closing Fri Dec 20th
Reopening Mon Jan 6th

February Mid Term '20

Closing Fri Feb 14th
Re-opening Mon Feb 24th

St. Patrick's Day

Closing Fri March 13th
Re-opening Wed. March 18th

Easter '20

Closing Fri April 3rd
Re-opening Mon 20th Apr

May Bank Holiday '20

Closed Mon. May 4th

June Bank Holiday '20

Closed Mon June 1st

School Closed Fri 19th June

Summer Holidays

Closing Fri June 26th

Confirmation/Communion Dates

Confirmation Day: Sunday
17th of May @ 2 pm

1st Communion Day: Saturday
25th April @ 11.00 am.