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Presentation Primary School

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News Round- Up March and April 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we reflect on the vibrant activities and achievements of the past two months, it is with great pleasure that I share with you the multitude of enriching experiences that have filled our school with joy and accomplishment. From celebrations of language and culture to milestones in education, sports, and nutrition, our community has truly thrived.

Coicís na Gaeilge: We commenced March with Coicís na Gaeilge, a fortnight dedicated to embracing and celebrating the Irish language. From the 1st to the 15th of March, our school buzzed with enthusiasm as all classes immersed themselves in various activities aimed at promoting Gaeilge and fostering a deep appreciation for our rich linguistic heritage. During Coicís na Gaeilge, our classrooms transformed into vibrant Gaeilge stations, where students actively engaged in language-enhancing tasks and games. The younger students were delighted to welcome their older peers, who adeptly conversed with them using our charming 'pupéidí', enriching their

language skills through interactive exchanges.

A highlight of our celebration was the involvement of Raidió na Gaeltachta, where each class showcased their linguistic prowess by performing songs and poems in Gaeilge over the intercom, captivating the entire school with their talent and dedication.

On the 5th of March, we had the pleasure of hosting Transition Year pupils from the Presentation Secondary School, who treated us to a delightful array of Irish songs and tunes, infusing our school with the joyous spirit of traditional Irish music. The céilí they organised was a resounding success, providing our children with an unforgettable experience.

The culmination of Coicís na Gaeilge was our spectacular Lá Glas whole school concert on the 15th of March. It was heartening to witness every class wholeheartedly participating, with each group delivering enchanting performances in the form of songs, poems, dances, and dramas, all as Gaeilge. The event truly showcased the

depth of talent and the strong sense of community that defines our school. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Kennedy for her exceptional coordination of our Coicís na Gaeilge activities.

Peace Proms: Our participation in the Peace Proms on 2nd March was a highlight for our 3rd and 4th class pupils, who travelled to WIT Arena to join the Cross Border Orchestra in this remarkable event. Under the guidance of their teachers, Ms. Murphy, Ms. O'Brien, and Ms. Walsh, our girls had been diligently preparing, learning songs and choreography. Their performance was nothing short of magical, and I extend my gratitude to all the parents who attended and supported our girls on this special occasion.

World Book Day, celebrated on Thursday, the 7th of March, was a delightful occasion filled with imagination and creativity. Our students arrived at school dressed as their favourite book characters, eagerly sharing stories and fostering a love for literature. A special thank you to all the staff who embraced the spirit of the day by dressing as Gangster Grannies, inspired by the work of David Walliams. World Book Day remains a cherished tradition for our students each year, igniting their passion for reading and storytelling.

Religious celebrations also played a significant role in our school community during these months. Our second class pupils, as they prepared

for their Communion, received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the 6th of March and continued to participate in the 'Do this in Memory Masses'. We eagerly anticipate the upcoming First Holy Communion ceremony for our 2nd class girls on the 11th of May. Additionally, our 6th class pupils marked significant milestones with their Service of Light on the 7th of March and Confirmation Day on the 13th of March. These moments of spiritual significance were made all the more meaningful by the dedication and guidance of Ms. Kirwan and Ms. Prendergast. Their hard work ensured that our girls were well-prepared to receive these special sacraments.

In addition to these religious observances, we also celebrated the diversity within our school community. As Ramadan began on the 10th of March, we joyously joined in the celebrations for Eid on the 9th and 10th of April, honouring the traditions and cultures of our students. I was thrilled to hear about the different celebrations and traditions of our whole school community.

Songs of Praise: Our 5th class students were delighted to take part in a performance at St. Mary's Church on April 18th. This event provided them with a wonderful opportunity to join in singing a variety of traditional hymns alongside other local schools. We extend our gratitude to Ms. Forristal and Mairead Conway for their dedicated efforts in preparing the girls for this memorable occasion.

Open Evening for New

Infants/Students: We were delighted to welcome parents of new infants/students to our school for an Information Evening on the 14th of March. Led by Mrs. Canty and Mrs. Kennedy, the event provided valuable insights into our school community and educational ethos. If you or someone you know is considering enrolling their child in our school, please encourage them to reach out to the office for further information.

Friendship Week, held from the 19th to the 22nd of March, was a heartwarming celebration of kindness and friendship throughout our school. Students engaged in lessons focused on friendship and participated in a whole-school assembly dedicated to the importance of being a good friend. We were thrilled to raise our 'Cinéaltas' flag on the same day, symbolising our commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity and compassion.

Table Quiz: Our school spirit shone brightly as a team of four 6th class pupils represented us admirably at a local table quiz held in Clerihan N.S on the 21st of March. Maria Murray, Farrah Hakki, Holly McCarthy, and Katie Compton showcased their knowledge and teamwork, making us immensely proud.

Say Yes to Languages: In line with our commitment to promoting language diversity, our 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th class pupils are currently engaged in an 8-week block of French lessons through the 'Say Yes to Languages

Programme' with tutor Clarisse. It is heartening to witness the enthusiasm of our students as they greet me at the gate each morning in English, Irish, and French - Bravo les filles!

Professional development remains a priority for our staff, and I am pleased to report that on the 17th of April, we welcomed Niamh Gleeson from NCSE to facilitate a training workshop on the Autism Good Practice Guidance. Additionally, we have scheduled a school closure day on Thursday, the 9th of May, to facilitate staff training in the new Primary Maths Curriculum. Our school also continues to engage in the SSE process, focusing on Gaeilge, Wellbeing, and EAL provision. Our School Improvement plans are available on our website for your review.

Sporting Achievements: In the realm of sports, our Cumann na mBunscoil camogie teams have demonstrated outstanding skill and teamwork. Our Under 13 and U11 teams showcased their prowess in April, with notable successes in their matches. We are immensely proud of their efforts and look forward to cheering on our Under 11 team as they progress into the County semi-final. Thank you to Mrs. Skehan and Ms. N Fitzgerald for coaching our girls.

Football training continues to be a highlight of our sporting activities, with Brian White leading our students each week. We extend our gratitude to Rachel Connelly for volunteering to coach our classes in football also and

for securing a generous donation of footballs from the Clonmel Óg football club. Go raibh maith agat Rachel!

Our soccer team are also busy preparing for the FAI Munster finals on 15th May and they are really growing from strength to strength. Thank you to Darren Murray, Mr. Connery and Ms. Kirwan for training the girls and preparing them for the big day!

Athletics: We also have a number of students participating in the Track and Field Athletics event which will be held on 15th May. Thank you to Ms. O'Brien and Mrs. Skehan for co-ordinating this event.

Fyffes Fittest School: The excitement continues with our participation in the Fyffes Fittest School Competition, where our children have been honing their Fundamental Movement Skills and skill development. Under the guidance of Ms. Curran, our students have excelled, earning us a place in the live finals in Dublin on the 24th of May. Congratulations to Ms. Curran and all our students for their hard work. As we advance to the live final, the school will receive at least €1000 worth of new sports equipment. A selection of pupils will represent the school on the day in a team event with some classes selected to travel as spectators. More information to follow.

Creative Cluster: We are currently in Year 2 of our Creative Cluster project. We have recently purchased 25 ukuleles for the school as part of this initiative. Our 3rd class pupils will begin

a block of 5 week's lessons with Seamus Hennessy on 16th May. This is something that we plan on rolling out to other classes from next year.

Our **Hot Meals** program, which began on the 22nd of April, has been a resounding success. The children are enjoying a variety of foods, and we anticipate that by September, each child will have a good understanding of their preferences. We recommend continuing to provide extra snacks for your child as they adjust to new foods. If you need to adjust your child's meal order, please do so before midnight each Wednesday for the following week. If you encounter any issues, please contact the school office for assistance.

Student Attendance: Our ongoing goal is to enhance attendance in every class on a monthly basis. At the conclusion of each month, the class demonstrating the highest overall attendance and the most significant improvement in attendance will receive a special reward as recognition for their dedication. Should your child be unable to attend school due to illness, please ensure to provide the reason for their absence through the attendance return feature on Aladdin. It's important to note that students who accumulate more than 20 days of absence will be automatically reported to the Tusla Education Support Service.

Important dates for your diaries:

- 9th May: School Closure for staff training.
- 11th May: First Holy Communion at 11am followed by refreshments in St. Mary's Parish Hall.
- 15th May: FAI Munster Finals for our soccer team and Track and Field Day for participating students.
- 16th May: 3rd class will begin ukulele lessons.
- 23rd and 24th May: Junior Infant Open Days 2.00pm-2.50pm.
- 24th May: Fyffes Fittest School Live Final in Dublin.
- 28th May: May Procession for 2nd class.
- 30th May: Senior Infant and Ms. Fitzgerald's Speech and Language class school tour to Leahy's Open Farm. Also, 3rd and 4th class school tour to Wexford Heritage Centre and Splashworld.
- 5th June: 5th and 6th class school tour to Dunmore East Adventure Centre.
- 6th June: Junior Infants school tour to Marlhill Open farm, and 1st and 2nd class and Mrs. Skehan's Speech and Language class school tour to Fota Wildlife Park.
- 7th June: School Closure for local elections. The children will not have school on this day.
- 12th and 13th June: Sports Days.
- 14th June: Open Day for our Speech and Language classes.
- 19th June: 6th class Graduation Mass in the Convent Chapel at 7pm followed by celebrations and refreshments in the Lunchroom afterwards.
- 21st June: School closes at 12.30pm for summer holidays.
- 24th June - 5th July: Summer Programme for selected pupils.

Please note that **standardised testing** for all classes from 1st - 6th class occurs throughout the month of May. Please ensure that your child is present every day unless they are sick and unable to attend school. Results from these assessments will be shared with you on summer report cards.

As we reflect on these past months, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the vibrant tapestry of experiences that enrich our school community. Thank you to all our staff, students, and parents for your continued support and participation in the life of Presentation Primary School.

Tanya O'Brien

