

Spring is in the air! We hope everyone enjoyed the new Bank Holiday!

### Clothing collection

We are holding a clothing collection on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. This is a great opportunity to do some spring cleaning and help raise some funds for our school at the same time! Items accepted include:

Women's, men's and children's clothing, handbags, belts, all paired shoes, - NO PILLOWS OR DUVETS, please. Curtains, bed linen, towels, blankets and soft toys are allowed. Due to limited storage space in the school building, we would ask that you drop your bags to St. Multose Hall on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February in advance of the van coming to collect on the morning of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Bags can be dropped between the hours of 8.50am and 2.30pm. We need at least 60 black bags full. Please support!

### Bills

We would appreciate if any outstanding bills could be paid over the coming week, please. If you encounter any issues with the Aladdin payment system, please contact Katie in the office. **Please contact us in confidence if you are experiencing any difficulties in making payments.**

### Internet Safer Day

On Tuesday, we celebrated Internet Safer Day in school by holding an assembly on how the Internet works. This week, we will consider our screen time and our online wellbeing.

### Internet Safety Talk for pupils

On Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, Cybersafe will visit our classrooms to talk to the children in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class about Internet Safety.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class pupils will explore key topics such as social media and gaming and how to protect their personal information as they begin their online journeys.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils will look at how social media and advertising really works, misinformation and scams. They will also focus on digital responsibility, including cyberbullying and managing their own digital footprint.

### Internet talk for Parents

We are looking forward to hosting a face-to-face parents' talk on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February at 7pm. Please support!

The talk will be informed by a survey undertaken by the pupils in advance. The session will:

- Raise awareness of the main factors to consider around social media, gaming and the online world
- Make you aware of what children are doing online
- Offer practical advice and resources to help
- Take you on a tour through the often baffling world of gaming
- Provide you with the knowledge to make more informed decisions
- Cover the positives and negatives of a now multi-billion dollar industry.

Thank you to the Parents' Association who have very kindly offered to fund the Cybersafe Talks. We are so

fortunate to have this opportunity to educate and empower our school community on such an ever-evolving topic. Please support, it will be valuable time spent!

#### Student Council

We recently held a student council meeting. It was a most productive meeting. The student council voiced their suggestions and proposed some fun activities for the months ahead. Their first suggestion will take place at the end of Friendship week with our...



As part of our Amber Flag, we are going to support the work of Ronald McDonald House Charities. Ronald McDonald provide accommodation and a caring, supportive environment for families whose children are undergoing medical treatment at CHI at Crumlin.

Friendship Week will run from 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February and is a fun chance to encourage our pupils to take part in two acts of friendship a day while raising funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities. On Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, we will hold our 'Crazy Hat Day'. Each child can design and make their own 'Crazy Hat' to wear on the day and bring in €2 to support Ronald McDonald House Charity.

#### Science in a Box

On Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class began week one of a ten-

week series of the STEAM-based initiative Science in a Box. Science in a Box is a hands-on programme which allows pupils to interact with real scientists. It greatly encourages children and young people to consider STEM careers and to progress to second and third-level education. We are incredibly lucky that this series is being sponsored by Eli Lilly. The first 5 sessions are presented by Dr Balaji Rokade, a chemist based in Eli Lilly. STEAM Science-in-a-Box includes a series of fun, interesting and creative curriculum-linked introductions. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class will focus on an Introduction to Human Biology and the Building Blocks of Biology. In week one we looked at the respiratory system. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class certainly kept Dr Balaji on his toes with lots of great and thought-provoking questions. We look forward to the next 9 sessions.

#### Creative Cluster Robotics Project

We are involved in a very exciting 'Creative Cluster' project with Kinsale Community School, Bandon Grammar School, Kilgarriffe NS, and Bandon Bridge NS. This is a two-year project where the focus will be on the area of 'robotics' It's a wonderful opportunity for our schools to collaborate with other schools and to have links with secondary schools. 6<sup>th</sup> class children have recently taken part in a VEX Robotics competition in MTU where they had to drive their robot with teams from other schools to gain points. They did extremely well on the day and it proved to be such an invaluable experience. The Junior classes have been working with the Senior classes to build robots using recyclable materials such as cardboard and metal. The judging for the robot will take place this Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> February. The creativity from the children has been wonderful! We have booked Beebots for hire in March for Junior classes and Lego Wedo in May for Senior classes. Beebots are exciting

robots designed for use for younger children and Lego Wedo involves children building, programming and modifying objects using lego. Watch this space!

### Chess

The last chess lesson with Ms Hadden will be on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February.

We wish Tom, Fred, Oscar, Charlie, Attila, Mia, Adam and Toots the very best as they represent our school in the Féile Fichille Competition on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 in Ovens.

### Ukulele Teacher

We are searching for a Ukulele teacher. If you know of anyone locally interested in teaching Ukulele lessons to our pupils, please let us know!

### The Community Games Chess

Tournament is also running on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. If your child is interest in competing in the Community Game Chess tournament, please see below for details:

Venue: Riverstick Hall

Date: Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> 2023

Time: 2-6pm.

Entry: €5

The tournament is for individual students (not team based) Children must attend with their parents on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>. No teachers will be attending.

[Click here for registration](#)

### Table Tennis

Ms Hadden has very kindly offered to take up coaching table tennis on Wednesday afternoons from 3:45pm in St. Multose Hall. Please get in contact with Alan Hurley on 087 6689775 if your child is interested.

### After School

Mary Witty continues to provide after school care for children from Monday – Thursday from 1:30pm – 5:30 pm. If you

are interested, please contact her on 085 275 3919.

### Lunches

A reminder that we promote healthy eating and that the following items are not permitted in school lunches:

- Crisps
- Sweets
- Bars including cereal bars
- Cakes
- Biscuits
- Lollipops
- Chocolate,
- Chocolate spread
- Winders
- Frubes
- Nuts (due to allergies)
- Popcorn (due to mess)

Please ensure your child can open the food items in their lunch box by themselves.

We are also a Green School with a Green Code. We discourage all single-use packaging coming into school, especially in lunchboxes.

While we will be looking at our healthy eating policy this year, please keep in mind that the 'Friday treat' is supposed to be one very small treat. At the moment, it seems to be spiraling out of control and treat sizes vary from one child to the next. If you are giving chocolate, please give one fun-size bar rather than the larger chocolate bars. We also encourage healthy treats like strawberries, raspberries, greek yoghurt, etc. We will conduct surveys for parents and pupils on this very soon.

If you are looking for lunch box inspiration, please click [here](#).

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Inter School Sports Association

The Inter School Sports Hockey Blitz will run on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March. More details to follow.

**Dates for your diary:**

- **February mid-term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**
- **PA AGM – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 8pm**
- **Clothes collection - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**
- **Friendship Week 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February**
- **World Book Day – 2<sup>nd</sup> March**
- **Coicís na Gaeilge: 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March**
- **St Patrick's Day: 17<sup>th</sup> March (no school)**
- **Inter School Sports Hockey Blitz: 25<sup>th</sup> March (proposed date)**