



Feb/ March
2016

BREAKING NEWS -

SCHOOL TOUR, PARENTS COMING!!!

As you may know we were invited by Lt. Barrett to visit Hawlbowl Naval base when she presented us with the Irish flag in Nov. We have booked this as our school tour this year. At the time a number of parents expressed an interest in joining us on the day. We would be delighted to have you with us. The date is June 14th. We will be leaving the school at approximately 9.30am and returning at about 4pm. We will need to book buses so it would be great if you could let us know as soon as possible if you are going to join us. Parents will NOT be in the role of chaperone unlike the trip to the RDS for the Primary Science Exhibition and so do not need to be Garda Vetted. Send a note or a text and we will put you on the list. On this occasion we will not be

able to cater for younger siblings.

It is hard to believe that the midterm break is upon us already. The children have settled back into the routine since the Christmas break despite the nasty virus which has done the rounds. We are ready for a small break to recharge the batteries.

We have had a very busy half term with more to come; Larry and Ita are back with International Folk Dancing, Ian is coming on Tuesdays this term to take 3rd - 6th for tag rugby. The infant class has started Literacy Lift Off and are enjoying taking a book home each night. They have also been making good use of the costumes that Ms. Walsh spotted in the sales -

IN THIS ISSUE

MasterChef here we come!



Dates for your Diary this term:

Midterm break Feb 18th and 19th. School closes 2.50pm.

March 10th : 1916 commemoration drama. Darrara Community Centre 7.30pm. Children 1st - 6th Class to be there at 7pm.

Monday March 14th our second annual Folk Dancing Exhibition takes place in the Community Centre at 1pm. We had so much fun last year especially when the parents

joined in. Come and see what we have learned!

Tuesday March 15th raising of the Irish Flag at the school. The flag will be raised at 9.30am (weather permitting). The children will sing the National Anthem and return to class. Parents are welcome to join us for this ceremony.

Wednesday March 16th : Easter Holidays. School closes at 12.00pm. Re-opens Monday 4th April at 8.50am.

Management News

We have a new BOARD OF MANAGEMENT for the term December 2015 - November 2019.

Our Board of Management for the next four years has been approved by the Bishop and appointed by the Minister of Education.

Chairman : Fr. Eddie Collins

Secretary : Ms. Bláthnaid Breslin

Treasurer : Mrs. Sinead Boyle

Maintenance Officer : Mr. Mike Crowley (Community Nominee)

Health and Safety Officer : Ms Yvonne Walsh. (Teacher's Nominee)

Community Nominee : Ms Fiona Deasy.

Parent Nominees : Ms Linda Coyle and Mr. Seán Ruddy.

We will be creating a four year plan for the school and are looking for ideas and suggestions from parents and the wider community. We welcome submissions from all

interested parties. Deadline for these submissions is Friday 8th April. At a later meeting of the board these submissions will be discussed and a final plan will be put in place.

You may send your suggestions by email to scoildhairbhre@eircom.net, by post to the school or send it with your child - no texts please.

On a very wet and cold afternoon in October, 11 students from Darrara Agricultural College came to the school and turned the soil on our vegetable patch. It is part of their course to work in the community and we are thrilled that they came to us this year. The plan for the patch is to set a mixture of shrubs and trees this time. We will set willow to help drain the patch. We will plant fruit trees and other shrubs to create a garden rather than retain it as a vegetable patch. We always have an issue with vegetables ripening during the summer break and not being harvested. Can you help with fertilizer or plants or give some of your time to help us maintain it this season?

Primary Science Fair at the RDS

As with previous years we had a very successful trip to Dublin to bring our project to the Primary Science Fair. Mr. Coppinger and the senior class received high praise from the judges.



Just a few of the happy faces from the day. The rest of them must be exploring the projects or at one of the shows.



Why do crabs walk sideways?

As always the students really enjoyed the trip. Having worked so hard on their own project and bringing it to the event on the day I feel it is also a great opportunity for them to see the range of projects submitted by secondary school students - some of them past pupils of Darrara NS. We met Orla O'Driscoll who had a project exploring whether Brass instrument players really do have greater lung capacity than those who don't play. Congrats on a great project. The children also enjoy the 3D cinema and the Robot shows. Even the bus journey and stopping for food is a learning opportunity for them. Thank you to our parent chaperones who rose early and joined us on the day - we could not do

it without you. Thanks also to the Irish American Partnership who supported us with €450 dollars towards the cost of the bus.



Forty winks on the way home

Missing Books

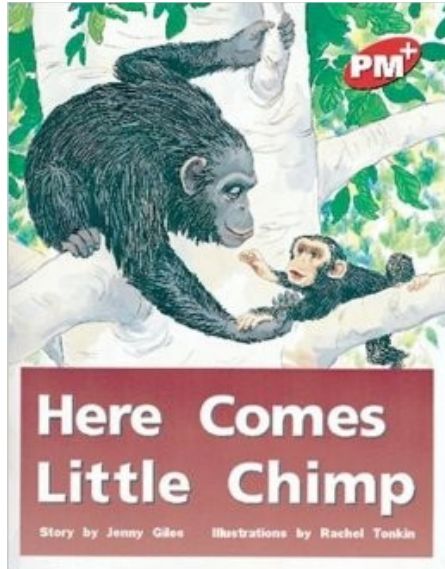
As you are aware the BoM has made a substantial investment in readers for the Literacy Lift Off programme in recent years. A number of these books are missing from both this year and last. We would be grateful if you could keep an eye out for them at home as they are expensive to replace. Below is a list of the books. They should all have the PM+ logo on either the front or back covers.

Level 1

Look at the house (1)

Level 3

Here comes the little chimp (1)



The big Hill (1)

Baby wakes up (1)

Level 16

The mice have a meeting (1)

Level 22

The Japanese gardens (1)

Credit Union Schools Quiz 2016

We are very proud of both our table quiz teams. Dylan Hayes, Lucy Hodnett, Orlaith Deasy and Fionn Magee came 3rd out of 20 teams in the under 13yrs group. Well done for an excellent score of 54.



Seán Coakley, Cillian White, Lauren Graham and Jay Hayes came 2nd out of 20 teams in their group and will progress to the regional final in Cork on

Sunday 28th February. We are so proud of you and wish you the best of luck.

GREENSCHOOLS - BIODIVERSITY

On February 5th 2016, Sandy McGroarty came to visit the school and see the progress we had made in our action plan. We informed her of all the new things we learned and how we put the information we learned into action.

In October, the Greenschools presented a PowerPoint to all the classes. Also in October the Greenschools Committee had a meeting about making a new Action Plan.

In November the whole committee set up a new notice board to inform others about biodiversity.

Then in December and some of February we started typing the Action Plan.

In December we made up a slogan to do with the topic of biodiversity

'What does BD mean to me? Everything to do with Biodiversity. Fish, bugs, trees and weeds, caring for nature is what we need.'

In January, five volunteers made a big Habitat Map of our school.

On January 28th, Rachel Collins, a local bird expert visited our school to inform us of all the native birds in our environment. We learned a lot from her.

On January 29th Catherine Daly came to our school to talk to us about furry animals and native wildlife.

Coincidentally on the same day all the children were dressed up as native Irish animals, raising awareness for biodiversity. She was surprised with how much we already knew.

Sandy McGroarty was so impressed with the work we had done, she even said we were the best biodiversity school she'd ever seen.

We learned so much about Biodiversity.

The application paperwork is going in in March 11th, we have our fingers crossed for our 5th Green Flag.

Ms. Breslin and the staff are planning a ceremony late in June to celebrate 30yrs of our school, to bless the new extension, to raise the green flags and to say farewell to 6th class - more details to follow

By Nollaig Walsh 5th Class.

Infant Room

LLO is well under way in the infant room - it is so lovely to see how fast the children's reading improves. They are learning all their familiar words and are charming teachers and 6th class with their positive approach to each task.

Mr. Whelton has finished his teaching practice and we will miss his gentle presence in the classroom.

We are a bit tired after all the excitement and hard work of the last few weeks and are looking forward to our break.

1916 and the Middle and Senior Room

Pupils from the middle and senior rooms have already started work on their 1916 commemoration workbooks and are learning the National Anthem. Jack Lane and Fionn Magee have worked on Diarmuid Kingston's great script and we have just begun rehearsals for our play which will be on stage in the Community Centre on March 10th at 7.30pm. 6th class will direct, stage manage and will be in charge of wardrobe for this show.

Raising of the Flag

We will raise the Irish Flag and read our own modern version of the Proclamation at 9.30am on Tuesday March 15th. This is the government designated day when all schools in Ireland will raise their flags. We would be delighted if as many parents and community members as possible could join us. We will have tea and cake afterwards and then return to normal classes.

If I created Hagrid the Giant

Hagrid is a man who is extremely tall. He has a shaggy beard and really big shoulders. His hands are really big. He knew everything about Harry Potter's family. He also has magical powers. Hagrid is very strong, he can take a door off its hinges. He has a very weird accent. If it was up to me I would say he is a bit scary. He also said he was the keeper of the keys at Hogwarts. His clothes were a bit rough as well. He also had a pointy hat that was grey. His shoes and all of his clothes are black. Hagrid is a bit

weird. One of his powers is that he is able to turn into a pig. And his real name is Jebadis. And he can turn into a chicken. He eats little poodles his mother is a troll. And his eyes are black. Hagrid is evil.

By Jay Hayes 4th Class

AISTEAR

Aistear is the new early childhood curriculum framework for children from birth to six years in Ireland. Because early childhood marks the beginning of children's lifelong learning journeys, this framework is called **Aistear**, the Irish word for journey. It is a play based learning curriculum where children develop language, literacy and social skills through guided play.

Again we are looking for these items:

- Puppets - all kinds
 - Miniature road signs
 - Blocks and Lego (big and small)
 - Unwanted microphone
 - Camping chair
 - Real household equipment, clean and in good condition but electrical items do not need to be working (phones, toasters, kettles, pots, pans, utensils, jugs, cameras, video cameras, landline phone.)
 - Toy doctor set
 - Dress up costumes - all themes and ages
 - Dolls, doll's cots, dolls buggies
 - Toy cash registers, shopping trolley, grocer's scales, play money
 - Plastic baking bowls
- Have a look around and spread the word you never know what you'll find!



Black and Gold Reunion Dinner Dance

We had a wonderful night at the Dinner Dance. Inchydoney was the perfect venue and the room looked spectacular, decorated with balloons supplied and sponsored by Pauline Coakley.



It was lovely to see past staff and pupils, parents and friends of the school. After a great meal the dance floor was full all night. We waltzed and jived to the Showstoppers and then boogied into the wee hours with Joe Hodnett on the decks.

We celebrated the history of the school in style. Huge thanks from the Board of Management and myself for your support. We hope those of you who made it enjoyed it as much as we did.

CORK CITY SPORTS

This is a great day out for the children who qualify. This will be our 4th consecutive year to take part in the event. Every year at this time we receive raffle tickets from the organisers. Their arrival often clashes with the annual swim and Doffodil day so I am slow to send the tickets home. We should really support this great event - ticket money goes towards medals, trophies and administration costs. Tickets cost €2 each - please send money to the school in an envelope and we will send your tickets home.

School Accounts

Attached to this edition of Acorns is a copy of the audited accounts for the most

recent year of the previous board. It is best practice to audit the accounts at the end of the term of a BoM. Parents and interested parties always have access to this information. Usually it is available on request but the Board of Management, at a recent meeting felt that it was prudent to make this information widely available so that parents can understand the pressure that schools are under between utilities and the day to day running of the school.