**Annagh Hill National School Easter Newsletter 2018**

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Welcome to our Easter Newsletter. We were delighted to welcome everyone back safely on Monday January 8th after Christmas and New Year celebrations. The children have been working hard at their curricular work ever since. They have also been involved in a lot of extra- curricular activities and events, many of which you can find out about further down.

**Sacraments**

**Sacrament of Penance 07/03/2017:** The boys and girls in 2nd class made their First Confession on Wednesday, March 7th. Thanks to Mrs. Hughes for preparing the children for the sacrament. Thanks also to Fr. Mullins for celebrating the sacrament with the children. They are now busy preparing for their First Holy Communion which will take place on April 29th.

**Confirmation Retreat 08/03/2017:**  The 6th class children travelled to Esker on March 8th as part of their preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a lovely day of reflection for them. Thanks to all the facilitators who looked after the children on the day.

**Sacrament of Confirmation 20/03/17:**  Many congratulations to the children in 6th class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, March 20th. It was a very special ceremony and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks to Mr. Greaney, Fr. Mullins and Archbishop Michael Neary for their input in making it such a wonderful occasion for the children and their families. Thanks also to Ms. Heneghan for helping to prepare the choir for the day.

**Sport**

**Cycle Right:** The children from fourth to sixth classes thoroughly enjoyed their first official cycling lesson on Wednesday 10th January. Many thanks to Richard and Leroy from the Cycle Right Training Programme for giving up their time to teach the children the rules of cycling so well. They trained the children over the course of three lessons, concluding on January 26th when the children got to put their cycling skills to the test on the road. This was a wonderful learning experience for the children involved and the school received excellent feedback from the coaches.

**Indoor Soccer Tournament - 25/01/2018:**  Congratulations to both of our soccer teams who took part in a fantastic indoor soccer tournament in Ballygar on January 25th. A big thank you to Coláiste Mhuire, Ballygar, for hosting the event and making our teams feel so welcome.

**Operation Transformation 10 @ 10.** Following the success of RTE’s Operation Transformation this year, on Friday’s we all took part in 10 minutes of exercise at 10 o’ clock in the school hall. Even the teachers took part! It has been very enjoyable.

**Girl’s Soccer Blitz:** Well done to 5th class girls who played in a soccer blitz in Newbridge on Tuesday, March 20th. Despite playing their best, they did not succeed in winning their group but they thoroughly enjoyed the outing and it was a great experience for them in preparation for next year.

**FAI 5 a Side:** On Thursday March 22nd the boys from 5th and 6th classes took part in the FAI 5 a side soccer tournament. They won their first match and lost their second, meaning they could not progress any further in the competition. They played very well, however, and we are very proud of their efforts.

**All-Ireland Champions:** Huge congratulations to the Corofin Football Team on winning the All-Ireland Club football final on March 17th. Thanks to Ciaran McGrath, Michael Ryder and members of the team who visited the school on Thursday March 22nd with the Andy Merrigan Cup.

**Other Events**

**St. Jarlath’s Credit Union Quiz:** Congratulations to our two quiz teams who took part in the Credit Union quiz in Tuam on January 26th. It was held in the Mercy Secondary School. Our under 11 team comprised of Caleb, Caoimhe, Jack Finn and Katie. Shane, Eva, Morgan and Aoife made up our under 13 team. They represented our school very well.

**Grandparent’s Day:** Grandparent’s Day took place on January 31st this year. The children celebrated it by reciting some lovely stories about their grandparents, from which it was very clear that the grandparents of the children in Annagh Hill are very much loved and appreciated.

**Open Day:** Open day for parents of perspective new pupils was held on Thursday February 8th last. We wish to thank all of the parents who attended. It was a lovely day and a great success. Enrolment forms for the 2018/19 school year are available to download from the website and the school office.

**Junior Entrepreneur:** This year the children from 5th and 6th classes have entered the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. As part of this we wish to say a sincere thanks to Yvonne Duffy O’Shaughnessy (The Raw Food Coach) who visited our school to advise the children of 5th and 6th classes about being an entrepreneur. She showed the children how to make healthy energy balls and smoothies. They were all delicious and we enjoyed tasting them. The children have chosen to set up a business selling smoothies, crepes, fruit skewers and energy balls. They will have their showcase day next term.

**World Book Day:** World Book Day took place on Thursday March 1st. Due to Storm Emma, however, all schools were closed on that day so we celebrated World Book Day on Friday March 9th. We all met in the school hall where we were treated to stories written and read by the children. Every class was represented and it was a wonderful success. Congratulations to the children who made a huge effort to dress as their favourite character from a book.

**€50 Contribution:** A big thank you to all who paid the contribution for this term. It is very much appreciated and it plays a vital role in the running of our school. Congratulations to the Gibson family as they won the 50 euro cash back in the draw.

**National Parks and Wildlife:** A big thank you to Carole Reynold’s from Connemara National Park and Wildlife for sharing her wisdom about birds and mammals with all of the children throughout Spring. The children were lucky enough to get up close and personal with some of Ireland’s most beautiful wild animals such as a hedgehog, badger, stoat, mountain hare and pine martin. She intends on bringing 5th and 6th class on a field trip after the Easter break.

**Daffodil Day:** Thanks to all who supported Daffodil Day in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. A total of 371 euro was raised. Congratulations to all of the children who won Easter eggs.

**Upcoming Events**

**Walking Wednesday:** ‘Walking Wednesday’ will resume on Wednesday April 11th. All children are encouraged to walk to school and children coming from the West side are encouraged to walk/cycle to school over the footbridge.

**First Holy Communion:** The children in second class will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday May 5th in Brooklodge Church at 12pm.

**Zumba Classes:** Zumba lessons will take place for all children in the school beginning on May 8th. There will be four classes in all.

**Swimming Lessons:** Swimming lessons will begin for children from 1st - 6th class on Friday, April 13th.

**New infants:** Junior infants beginning school in September are invited to come to our school for an introduction morning on Thursday May 24th from 9.30 - 11.30.

**School Tours:** The Junior and Senior school tours will take place on Friday June 1st.

**Cash for Clobber**: Cash for Clobber collections will continue next term. Many thanks to all who have contributed so far this year. The money raised has gone towards subsidising the cost of busses for swimming and the school tours.

**We wish to thank you very much for your continued support throughout the year. Wishing you all a very happy and safe Easter holiday and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday April 9th.**