



Easter Newsletter 2024/2025



World Book Day

On Friday the 7th of March, we celebrated World Book Day 2025 in school. On this day we dressed up as different characters from books, movies or cartoons. Some of the outfits on the day were really cool, some people dressed up as princesses, superheroes, villains, sports players and Mr. Curran even dressed up as a traffic cone! We brought in our favourite books to look at in class and we had a disco at break time on the yard. We listened to music like 'Let it Go' and 'Free from Desire'. Everyone wore great costumes on the day and it was the best World Book Day ever!!

By Aideen Skeritt and Noah McGann.



Cumann na mBunscol Quiz



In early January, two teams from the school travelled to Ballyea N.S. to participate in a sports quiz. The first team was made up of Mark, Aoife, Orla and Feidhlim and the second team was made up of Jonah, Lily, Michael and Seán. When we arrived in Ballyea we went into the hall and our teams found their tables. There were about thirty schools there on the day. After a while the quiz got underway and they started asking us the questions.

The questions were all sports-related. They started off easy but they got more challenging as the quiz went on. The quiz was about an hour long in total. There were three winners announced on the day, and unfortunately we did not place but we really enjoyed taking part in the quiz!

By Mark Reynolds and Jonah Harte.



Recent Updates



Building Update

- The OPW are on schedule to commence work on the current Knockanean site as soon as we close for the summer holidays. A contractor is due to be appointed to this project at the end of April/early May.
- The modular build in St Flannan's will be ready for occupation in August.
- Tender for a removal and storage company has already gone out and will be in place in May.
- Tender for a bus company is to go out mid-April.
- We continue to liaise with Clare County Council, local politicians and the Department of Education regarding the appointment of a lollipop person.

Agree to Agree Project

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Maureen Griffin will host a face to face session for the parents of Knockanean National School Monday 9th June 2025. This coincides nicely with our Agree to Agree project. The parent talk "Social Media: Challenges for Parents" will provide an overview of what is currently popular among Irish students, what the potential dangers are and offer practical advice on how to protect children when they are online or using their mobile devices. Issues such as age inappropriate apps; social networking sites; social messaging/chatting apps; video-streaming sites; mobile device safety; screen time & sleep; grooming; gaming and cyber-bullying will be addressed. The parent talk will make you as parents aware of the dangers and highlight some practical tips. The parent talk will last for a little over 1 hour in length with time afterwards for questions and answers.

The next step is to form a draft agreement which we will be seeking your feedback on in the coming weeks. Our actual agreement will be launched in September 2025 and it will be a three year process. Currently, children from 3rd, 4th and 5th class have been asked to design a front cover and a back cover which could be used for our Internet Acceptable Use Policy booklet. We have also asked the children to think of a slogan or saying which can be used in our booklet. Children could also come up with a character which we could use throughout our booklet. We look forward to seeing the designs.



Valentine's Day Photography Competition



To celebrate Valentine's Day in school, the Green Schools Committee and Student Council organised a photography competition. This competition, called 'Love in Nature' encouraged all students to find love in nature and to capture it in a photograph. There were so many great entries, of animals, plants, people and more!

The Committee and Council then chose four winners, which was a very tricky task. The junior school winners were Rua Ryan and Clara O'Brien (first class), and the senior school winners were Teddy Courtney (fourth class) and Beibhinn Curran (fifth class).



Beibhinn Curran
5th Class

Teddy
Courtney
4th Class

Rua Ryan
1st Class

Clara O'Brien
1st Class



Seachtain na Gaeilge



Bhí coicís iontach againn i gCnoc an Éin ag céiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge! I ngach rang, bhí cluichí Gaeilge ar siúl, cosúil le Bingó, Snap, Searáidí, Cearnóga Scéil, Caith agus Abair, agus Nathair agus Dréimire. D'eagraigh na múinteoirí sna hardranganna Tráth na gCeist do na daltaí freisin agus bhí sé deacair! Bhí comórtas seanfhocail ar siúl freisin, agus rinne daltaí ó rang a a haon go dtí rang a sé póstaear iontacha le seanfhocal cosúil le 'Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam' agus 'Ní neart go cur le chéile'.

Comhghairdeas do na daltaí seo a leanas a bhuaigh an comórtas seanfhocail: Kara Hogan agus Ellie Kerr, Rang a hAon April Duggan, Rang a Dó Michael Quinn, Caoimhe Ryan agus Megan Downes, Rang a Cúig.

Ar an Déardaoin, 13ú Márta, bhí Lá Glas againn ar scoil. Chaith gach dalta éadaí glasa. Ar maidin, bhí céilí beag againn sa chlós agus bhí rang a sé ag damhsa. Mhúin siad 'an Dreoilín' don scoil ar fad agus bhí an ceol go hiontach! Ar an iomlán bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge den scoth againn, lán le himeachtaí éagsúla!

Coding Buddies

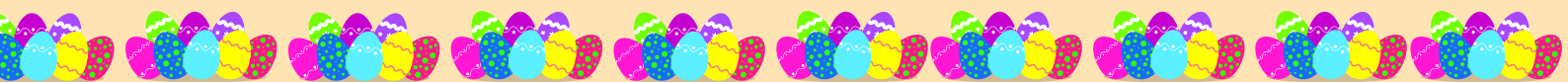


All of the senior infant pupils got to work with Colm's fifth class pupils during Coding buddies. We worked with them every Friday for six weeks. During each Coding buddy session, we were paired with a fifth class pupil. We used the iPads to do the coding. Some of the things that we did included creating characters on Scratch Junior and designing houses for them. You could change what your character looked like, what place they were in and you could also make them move and speak!

SCRATCH

The fifth class pupils showed us how to do this and they were very good at explaining. We also did other games after this during free time on the iPads. We chose themes that we were looking at in class like 'The Building Site' and 'Spring'. Overall, it was so much fun and we really looked forward to the coding buddies each week!

By Eve Russell and Faye Kennedy.



Chess Tournament



On Wednesday the 19th of February around fifteen pupils from the school went to Ennis N.S. to compete in a chess tournament. There were around five or six schools there on the day. When we arrived we found our seats and we began to practise before the competition began. Then we went to check who we would be competing against and we found our new seats. We played against pupils from all of the other schools, and every chess game was twenty minutes long. In total we each played six or seven games.



After each game we went to our school group and had a quick break before the next game began. When all of the games were over, we congratulated our opponents and took a school group photo. The tournament was lots of fun and it was cool to see how good the other schools were at chess! We got back on the bus and returned to school around hometime.

By Michael Kennedy and Owen Chandler.



Seven Aside Girls Camogie & Football

On Tuesday the 4th of March, the girls seven aside football team travelled to Gurteen to play some matches. We brought twelve girls on the day and Michelle and Louise came with us. Our first match was against Barefield and we won this game by a good margin! We then played the Gaelscoil and we won this match also! We were delighted with our performance on the day and we now progress to the next stage which is the semi-finals in a few weeks. As a treat we got lollipops to celebrate and we came back to school then around lunch time.

By Alison Casey and Megan Downes.

On Monday the 3rd of March, the girls camogie team participated in a series of matches in Gurteen. Michelle and Louise accompanied us on the day. Our first match was against Barefield and we won this by a good few points! Then we went straight into our second match against the Gaelscoil and we knew this would be the decider-match.

Unfortunately, we didn't win this match but we played really well. Our final match of the day was against Ruan-Toonagh and we won this game also. Unfortunately, we do not progress to the next stage but we played some great camogie on the day and it was an enjoyable day out!

By Grace Garvey and Lillie Ryan.

Seven Aside Boys Hurling & Football

On Tuesday the 4th of March, the boys seven aside football team went to Gurteen for a day of matches. Twelve boys from the school attended on the day. Conor, Cillian and Colm came with us also. Our first match was against Barefield and we unfortunately lost this game. We then progressed to the second match against Crusheen and we narrowly lost this game also.

We had a break after this game to re-fuel and eat our lunch. Then we played Doora and we won this game by a good margin! Unfortunately we are now knocked out of the tournament, but we had a fun day in Gurteen and we look forward to participating again next year!

By Hugh Garvey and Michael Quinn.

On Thursday the 6th of March, the seven aside boys hurling team from the school travelled to Clooney-Quin for a day of matches. Colm and Conor came with us on the day. There were sixteen of us on the team, and you could play seven on the field at a time. Our first match was against Stonehall N.S. and although we tried our best we lost this game by a few points. We then progressed to the next match against Kilfenora N.S. and we drew this game.

Our next match of the day was against Barefield N.S. and we unfortunately lost this game as well. Our final match was against Quin N.S. and we lost this game by a few points. Unfortunately we won't progress to the next stage of matches but we had a great day out and we are proud of the team!

By Dylan McInerney and Daniel Kelliher.



Credit Union Schools Quiz



On Friday the 7th of February a junior quiz team and a senior quiz team from the school travelled to the Inn at Dromoland for the Credit Union Schools Quiz competition. The senior team was made up of Abi, Aoife, Eve and James. The junior team was made up of Ciara, Katelyn, Oisín and Adam. We arrived at around half five and found our tables for our teams. Colm came with us on the night and our families came along too to support us. They gave us mentos before the quiz began to get our brains going! There were twelve rounds in the quiz in total, and six questions per round. The questions were about a lot of topics, some about sport and a lot of general knowledge ones also. We noticed that the questions became more challenging as the rounds went on!

At the half way point, they showed us the scores and the senior team from our school were in first place and the junior team from our school were in second place! We knew at this point that we had a great shot. Then the next stage got underway and at the end of the quiz we found out that our senior team placed 6th overall and our junior team placed 4th overall. Clare hurler Tony Kelly presented the awards to the winning teams on the night. We were very proud of our performance and it was a great opportunity to practise our quizzing skills.

By Abi O'Donnell and Aoife Kirrane.



Basketball



In February the sixth class girls went to Gurteen for a day of basketball matches. All of the sixth class girls formed a basketball team. When we arrived we went to the changing rooms and we had a snack for some energy. Then we had our first match against Crusheen N.S. and we won this game. Our second match of the day was against Barefield N.S. and we won this game also!

Following this, we had a break and recharged. We found out that we had made it to the final which was our team playing against the Gaelscoil. This was a very challenging game and sadly in the end we did not emerge as champions. Overall, we had a nice day out playing basketball and we were delighted to have won two games.

By Zoe Speak, Eve Davern and Ellie O'Keefe.

In February the boys basketball team also travelled to Gurteen for a day of basketball games. All of the boys in sixth class formed a team. When we arrived we got changed and ready for our day of matches. Our first match was against the Gaelscoil and we beat them by a few points. Then we progressed to the next match against Barefield and we beat this team by a good margin. We had a short break then and we played our final match of the day against Crusheen. We also won this match by a good few points.

As a result of this great day out, we progressed to the next round which was in March in Ennis N.S. On this day we played against Ennis N.S. and we unfortunately lost this game by a few points. Then we played another team and won this game. Our final match was against Cloughleigh and we beat this team also! Unfortunately, it was the only the top team on the day that progressed to the next round, and we did not win all of our games on the day.

However, we really enjoyed playing basketball and we are very proud of our boys basketball team.

By James Cosgrove, Callan Urquhart and Fionn Farrell.

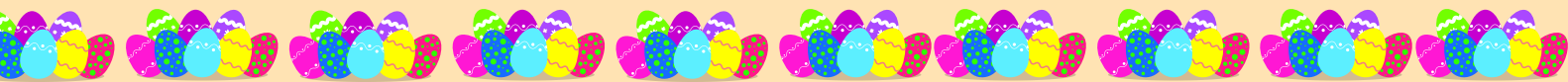


Lego Workshop

On the 26th of February, Colm's fifth class participated in a Lego Robotics workshop with LegoWeDo and Intel. Mervyn and Skye were the two people that came from Intel to provide the workshop. When they arrived, we were split into groups of two or three. They gave each group a touchscreen laptop and a lego kit. Our theme for the day was 'Under Water', and Mervyn and Skye told us a story about a diver who lost his arm while diving and he received a robotic arm which enabled him to return to his job. As a result of this story, we began to learn how to make a robotic hand during the workshop.

The laptop told us all the instructions and we followed them to create the robotic arm. It was fairly straightforward to put together. It was a competition to see who made the best robotic arm on the day. The four pupils that get to progress to the next stage in the Limerick Racecourse are Orla, Mia, Feidhlim and Rian. At the end of the workshop, they gave us a lego medal each that we could assemble ourselves. Overall, it was a really cool workshop and we are looking forward to the next round of the workshop later in March!

By Orla Brooks and Mia Hedigan.



Girls Seven Aside Football Final



On Wednesday the 19th of March, the girls seven-aside football team travelled to Clarecastle Astro Turf for the final stage of the seven-aside football tournament. Twelve girls from fifth and sixth class attended on the day. Michelle and Louise were our coaches, and we had a lot of support from parents there also. Our first match got underway and we won this by a good margin. Then we progressed to our second match which we also won! At this stage we were delighted and we were proud of our playing so far. Our third match was against C.B.S. and we thankfully won this game as well. We then had a break to recover after our first three matches.

Our last match of the day was the ultimate final. This was against Kilbaha/Carrigaholt/Moveen. We were losing this match in the first half, but managed to bring our way back up to one point in the difference. We then tried our best to overcome the team, but they ended up scoring a goal in the last minute. We were disappointed to have lost this game, but we still received a medal and we got to go to the shop afterwards to celebrate our great work leading up to the final!

By Megan Downes and Orla Brooks.



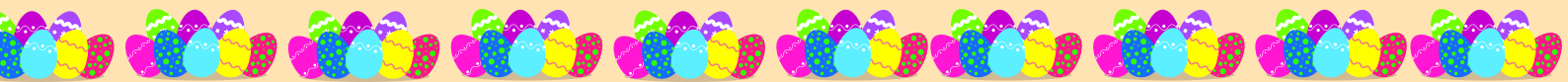
Soccer Blitz



On Thursday the 20th of March pupils from fourth, fifth and sixth classes went to Lees Road for a soccer blitz. We were divided into teams of eight and there were boys teams and girls teams. We began by playing matches against other schools. Some of the schools there were Lissycasey, Clonmoney, St. Aidan's and a few more. We all got the chance to play four matches on the day. Then the winning teams from the beginning matches progressed to the semi-finals and three of our teams got through to the semi-finals.

Unfortunately, the three teams did not win their matches and therefore did not progress to the finals. We were there for most of the day and the weather was gorgeous and really sunny. We came back to school around two o'clock and overall had a great day out playing soccer!

By Alison Casey and Rian Deegan.



World Down Syndrome Day & World Autism Awareness Day



On Friday the 21st of March we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day at school. On this day we all wore odd socks to show our support and celebration of those with Down Syndrome. There were some fantastic socks on display on the day!



On Wednesday the 2nd of April, we celebrated World Autism Awareness Day. We all wore a variety of colours in celebration of those with Autism. Everyone wore all the colours of the rainbow and the school was a sea of colour!



Lego Robotics Semi-Final



On the 21st of March, four pupils from Colm's fifth class attended Limerick Racecourse for the Lego Robotics Munster Semi-Final. These four pupils were Feidhlim, Mia, Orla and Rian. We arrived at around nine in the morning and we found our table. There were forty schools attending the semi-final on the day. Our first task was to construct a vehicle out of a lego set and instructions that they gave us. We had a few hours to build it and programme it to move. We spent an hour figuring out the instructions and then we had a lunch break. We went back to work after this and finished off the vehicle. While we were constructing, judges came to our table to look at our poster that was called 'How can we help the ocean with technology and humans?' We had completed this project in class before the semi-final. We explained our poster and we had a slide-show presentation showing the robot turtle that we had made to help the sea. Our idea was to send the robot turtle to the bottom of the ocean to collect rubbish and to clean the water.

The judges seemed to really like our project, and we received full marks on it. After about three hours of constructing and coding, our vehicle was complete.

The judges told us to stop working and then the challenge part of the competition started. This was when we had to put our vehicle on the track and test out whether we had coded it properly. Our vehicle made one wrong turn in our first go, but we re-coded it and it flew through the track the next time. After this, we waited to see the results of the competition. We were so amazed when we heard that Knockanean had received the highest points and that we would be progressing to the next stage of the competition which is on the 5th of April in Analog Devices in Limerick. Overall it was a great day out and we had so much fun building and coding!

By Feidhlim Sullivan and Mia Hedigan.



Drumadore



On Thursday the 3rd of April and Friday the 4th of April, Eimhin from Drumadore came to our school to engage each class in a drumming session. We each got our own drum and he also gave us some drum sticks to use. He had covers on each of the drums to make sure that they didn't sound too loud! He taught us how to play the drums for about an hour. He taught us how to play one beat, two beats and beats up to five! He called the double beat 'chips and beans'! He called the five beats together 'I want to eat sweets!'

We also played the drums to songs like 'I'm a Gummy Bear', 'Free from Desire' and 'APT'. It was so much fun! We even got to drum on the floor and on the side of the drums. At the end of the session, we took the covers off of the drums to hear the really loud sound. He was really funny and it was such a great day!

By Ella Garvey and Danú Skerriitt.

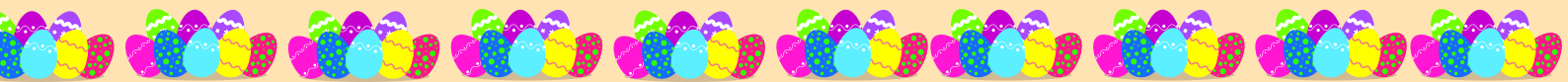
Cycle Training



On the 7th and 8th of April, Leeroy and Damien from CycleRight came to the school to engage the sixth class in a cycling workshop. On the first day we learned theory about cycling; like hand signals, turning signals and more. We also learned about road signs and speed. Then after small lunch we headed out to the yard to have a go on our bikes. Firstly, we started off with the basics like learning to go left and right, then we learned about turning on the road and how to do so safely. The first day was mainly about getting used to the bikes.

On the second day we learned more skills and it got a bit more challenging. In the morning, we had to attempt to do a sharp turn on our bikes which was very difficult! We then progressed to learning about how to navigate crossroads, and there was a large area of the yard covered with cones to do this. After big break, we finished the day with practising navigating roads. We really enjoyed the workshop and the weather was gorgeous on the two days which made it even more enjoyable!

By Mary Slattery and Sarah Mockler.



The talented fifth class coding team of Feidhlim, Mia, Orla and Rían who made it to the Munster Final of the Lego Robotics Competition on April 5th. They finished in the top eight and made it all the way to the quarter-finals!





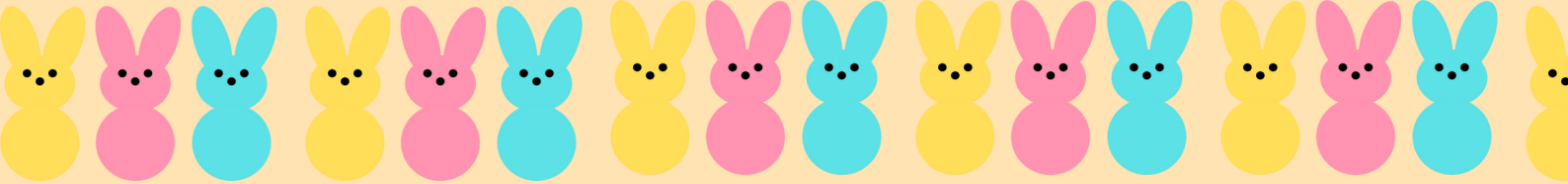
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As we come to the close of term two, we look back on the many events that have brought our school community together so far this term and academic year. From sporting achievements to exciting classroom projects and memorable trips, it has been a busy and exciting term two.

We want to thank the students, staff, Board of Management and families for their continued dedication and support throughout the term. As we head into the Easter holidays, we hope you find time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the well deserved break. Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter, and we look forward to seeing you all back for another exciting term beginning on April 28th.

Yours sincerely,

Visit out our website knockaneannationalschool.com for more!