




KNOCKANEAN NATIONAL SCHOOL
ENNIS, CO CLARE



Easter Newsletter 2026





Sports Quiz



The Cumann na mBunscol quiz took place in Scoil Chríost Rí Cloughleigh at the start of this term. The team that went from our school were Niamh, Caoimhe, Jacob and Seán from sixth class. Colm came with us on the day. When we arrived we went into the hall where everything was set up. The quiz was all about sport and there were eight rounds in the quiz. The questions were related to many aspects of sport like players, darts, soccer, and more.

We participated in four rounds and then had a break before competing in the final four rounds. The questions were quite tricky but we knew some of the answers. At the end of the day the winners were announced. First and second place got through to the All Ireland stage of the competition. We enjoyed our day out at the quiz and it was great to test our knowledge of all kinds of sports.

By Niamh O'Reilly and Caoimhe McMahon.



Chess Tournament

On the third of February the chess club from our school travelled to Scoil Chríost Rí for the Féile Fichille tournament. Leading up to the tournament we practised chess at lunchtimes in school in Conor's room. Around thirty pupils from the school attended the tournament on the day. We went with Conor and Crea. When we got there we found a table to sit at and then we began our matches. We each played six matches in total. There were lots of other schools there on the day.

After each match the adjudicators took note of which pupil won each match. If you won the match you progressed to the higher ranking. A lot of our pupils progressed to the higher ranking, and three pupils from our school got into the top ten on the day! There were no prizes but it was great fun getting to practise our chess.

By Seán Hassett.





Valentine's Day

Photography Competition



The Student Council and Green Schools Committee organised a Valentine's Day Photography Competition again this year, inspired by the IFA Photography Competition. The winners of this year's competition were: Fionn Franks Senior Infants, Clara O'Brien 2nd class, Aoibhín O'Brien 4th class and Louis Ryan 4th class. Well done to all who entered and captured love in nature!



Safer Internet Day

In early February the sixth class pupils received a visit from Maureen Griffin, who is a psychologist. She came to the school to talk to us about phones, social media and being safe online. She showed us a powerpoint on the day, and explained some of the dangers of the internet to us. She also got a group of four pupils to go up to the top of the room to engage in an activity. They had to describe animals, but they could only use the facts that AI gave them about each animal. They could not say anything else. This made it difficult for them to describe each animal, and showed us how AI is not always right and cannot always be trusted.

We have also been learning a lot about the internet and bring safe online in class. We marked Safer Internet Day on the 10th of February in school by encouraging all pupils to think of different ways of how to spend time away from screens. The active schools committee worked with Shona for this project, and some great ideas were thought of by our pupils, for example doing jigsaws, art, crafts, cooking, cleaning and more.

By Ellena McMahon.





Seachtain na Gaeilge



Bhí coicís iontach againn le haghaidh Seachtain Na Gaeilge 2026. Bhí comórtas ealaíne trí 'Seanfhocal a léiriú' sa scoil. Bhuaigh Niamh O'Reilly, Michael Kennedy, Ciara O'Reilly, Ava Ryan, Mollie Barrett agus Eille Kerr an comórtas sin! Ghleas gach duine suas le haghaidh 'Lá Domhanda na Leabhar' ar an 6ú lá de Mhárta agus bhí dioscó sa chlós ag am sos. Ghlac gach duine páirt i 'Réaltóg' ar 12ú lá de Mhárta agus bhí Lá Glas againn ar 13ú lá de Mhárta. Tháinig Gary Brennan Ó Choláiste Fhlannáin go dtí rang a cúig chun scileanna peile a mhúineadh. Bhain gach duine an-taitneamh as na himeachtaí a bhí ar siúl i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge! Maith sibh!



World Book Day

On the 6th of March we celebrated World Book Day in school. Everyone dressed up as their favourite character from a book or a movie. We also brought our favourite books into school to read in class. There were so many different kinds of costumes, for example, Horrid Henry, superheroes, Willy Wonka, and more Roald Dahl characters. At break time we had a disco outside in the sunshine. We played our favourite songs like Killeagh, Lush Life, What a Wonderful World and more.

In the infant classes we also had Reading Buddies with the sixth class pupils. Every infant is paired with a sixth class pupil and we read books together. On World Book Day the books we read were in Irish for Seachtain na Gaeilge. The sixth class were so good at reading Irish! We also read some of the books that we brought in for World Book Day. It was such a fun day at school and the best part was getting to see everyone's costumes at lunch time.

By Seán O'Dwyer.



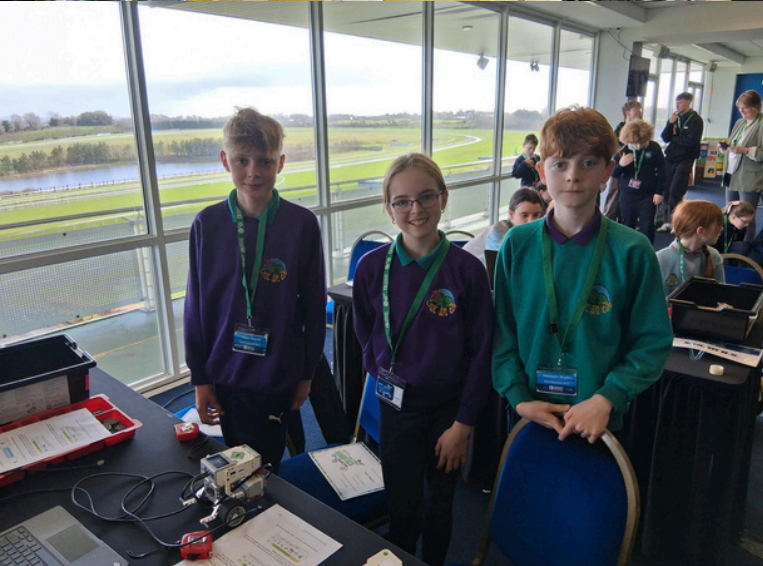


Robotics Final

Two employees from Analog Devices in Limerick came to the school in February to work with the sixth class pupils. They taught us how to make a robotic claw out of lego. We also learned how to programme the claw to move. We worked in groups to make the claws. The two employees from Analog Devices judged our robotic claws and also looked at who was working the best in their teams on the day. They chose our team as the winning team- Donnacha, Adam and Orla. As a result, we travelled to Limerick Racecourse later on in the term to participate in the semi-final of the Robotics competition.

We arrived at the racecourse in the morning time and we went upstairs to find our table. The judges there on the day told us that we would be making a robotic car in our groups and we would have to programme it to go on a track. We then started working on it together and it was a bit tricky trying to programme the car to move. Eventually we figured it out and we made the car move. The judges circled the room to judge the cars and we got to have a few test runs to measure out the track that we would be using the cars on. We had a lunch break in the middle of the day and after lunch different teams were called up to put their car on the track to see how far it would go. We had two attempts and they took the best score. Our car got nearly the whole way and we were happy with this. After this they called out the winners and we came first in our group category and second overall on the day. We really enjoyed the experience and our favourite part was getting to programme the car to make it move.

By Donnacha Mockler and Adam Maguire.



Marion Keane Basketball Tournament



In February the sixth class boys and girls basketball teams travelled to Gurteen for the first round of the Marion Keane Basketball Tournament. There was a panel of thirteen for both the boys and girls teams, and five pupils played at a time. We played against the Gaelscoil, Barefield and Crusheen on the day. The first match for the boys was against Barefield and we lost this match by a few points. Our next match was against the Gaelscoil and we barely lost this match. Our final match of the day was against Crusheen and we won this game by a good margin! This means that we do not progress to the next round as we had to win all matches on the day in order to progress.

The first match for the girls team was against the Gaelscoil and we won this game. Then we played Barefield and we won this game also. Finally we played against Crusheen and luckily we came out with a victory after this game. We now progress to the next round of the tournament as we won all of our matches on the day.

By Alison Dixon and Cillian Malone.





Munster Swim Gala



Six pupils from our school competed in the Munster Schools Swim Gala in the University of Limerick in late January. Albie Johnston, Oisín Fahy, Tom Frehill, Elsie McLnerney, Aoibhín O'Brien and Darragh Cahir all competed on the day. There were some fantastic results from all pupils on the day across many of the categories. Pupils swam in the freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke categories.

Tom Frehill and Albie Johnston have qualified for the National competition in the National Aquatic Centre later this year, and will represent Knockanean on the day. Well done to all of the pupils for representing the school so well on the swimming stage!



Reading Buddies

Every Friday morning for a few weeks the junior and senior infant pupils paired up with the sixth class pupils for Reading Buddies. We met our Reading Buddies and then we got a few books to read with them. Then we went out to the hallway and found a spot to sit. We started by asking them their names and then we read the books together. The sixth class pupils were very good at reading!

We read books about crayons, unicorns and superheroes. When we read the books they asked us questions and we looked for our sight words in the books as well. We really enjoy Reading Buddies every Friday and the sixth class pupils were so nice to us.

By Tara Keane and Clodagh Moloney.





NPWS Talk

On the 12th of February four speakers from the National Parks and Wildlife Services came to our school to talk to each class. They spoke about biodiversity, mammals and more. In our class they brought in stuffed animals like rabbits, squirrels, hedgehogs, pine martins, badgers and birds. It was so cool to get to look at the stuffed animals and we thought that they were alive!

We also got to feel the hedgehog's spines which were really spiky! They showed us a video about all of the animals that we have in Ireland and they asked us questions as well. They also told us a cool fact about their eyes. The stuffed animals' eyes are made of glass beads, they can't leave in their real eyes because they will rot. We really enjoyed seeing all of the animals and it was so fun!

By Tomás Madden and Alex Callinan.



Mini 7s Camogie and Football



Our first Mini 7s football game of the season was against Ennis National School, and we came out with a win after this game. We then progressed to playing against CBS and we won this match also. After our two victories we played against the Gaelscoil and we came out with a win on this day as well.

After these matches we qualified for the next round of the competition. A few weeks went by and then we played against Barefield and we won this game. In our next games we played against Miltown Malbay and Newmarket and we came out with two victories. Due to winning all of these matches we qualified for the final against Moveen/Carrigaholt/Kilbaha. This game was played in Clarecastle. The game began with a few scores by each team. Then we got ahead and we played really well. In the second half we had a great lead and we emerged as champions at the end. We were the Mini 7s girls football champions in Clare and we were so proud of our team!

By Megan Downes and Alison Casey.

In the Mini 7s camogie tournament we began by playing Ruan. We won this game by a good margin. After this we progressed to playing Barefield and we won this game also. In our next match we played against the Gaelscoil and we won this game also. We got through to the next stage as a result and we played games against Crusheen, Clonmoney and Broadford. We won against Crusheen but unfortunately we lost to Clonmoney and Broadford. As a result we did not progress to the next stage of the competition.

By Lillie Ryan and Alison Dixon.





FAI Soccer Blitz



Pupils from fourth, fifth and sixth classes travelled to Lees Road to compete in a soccer tournament in late March. We left at around nine and got to Lees Road shortly after. When we arrived we played a warm up soccer match and then we started playing the official games. We were divided into teams of boys and girls and the boys teams played against other boys teams and girls teams played against other girls teams. We played a few matches against other schools.

In the end, two of the girls teams from Knockanean got through to the semi-final and we had to play against each other! Our match went to extra time and no one had scored so then it had to go to penalties. Then one of the teams came out on top. This team played against Clonmoney N.S. in the final and they lost. However, they still will progress to the next stage of the competition against other schools in Clare. The boys teams also played really well on the day but unfortunately will not progress to the next stage.

By Lillie Ryan.



Mini 7s Hurling & Football

The Mini 7s boys football team began their season with a game against Barefield, and we won this game. After this game we progressed to playing against Doora and we came out with a victory from this match also. In our next match we played against Lissycasey and we came out with a draw. As we drew with Lissycasey we had to play against them again in a replay but unfortunately we lost in the end. That was the end of our matches in the Mini 7s football tournament.

Our first Mini 7s hurling game was against Toonagh and we won this match. We played Clooney in a game after this and sadly we lost this game by a few points. After this Toonagh played against Clooney and we were knocked out of the Mini 7s hurling tournament.

By Conor Donnellan, Adam Callinan and Jack Lehane.





Easter Bake Sale

Sixth class pupils organised an Easter Bake Sale on Thursday the 19th of March. Pupils brought in all kinds of baked goods- from buns, to cookies, to fresh popcorn and more! The bake sale took place throughout the day, with each class getting a chance to buy delicious treats from the wonderful sixth class entrepreneurs. A total of €1294.75 was raised by the bake sale, which will go towards 'Cora's fundraiser for Hospice Jinja' and our Green Schools' programmes.

Congratulations to Seán O'Dwyer, 2nd class, who was the winner of the raffle on the day. Many thanks to all parents and pupils for donating baked goods for the very successful bake sale!



Lots of Socks- World Down Syndrome Awareness Day



On Friday the 20th of March, we wore odd socks and colourful socks for World Down Syndrome Awareness Day. This was to spread awareness about Down Syndrome in a fun way. Pupils wore all types of socks on the day- some with stripes, some with polka dots, some with wavy lines and more!

We also all got to colour in our own pair of odd socks. We added designs like wavy lines, stripes, dots and lots of different colours. It was such a fun day and we loved wearing colourful socks to school.

By Cara Mangan.







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 term beginning on April 13th.

Yours sincerely,