

Principals Report for Board of Management Meeting on 21st March 2024

Pupils

A new pupil enrolled in 3rd Class so there are now 69 pupils on roll.

12 children are leaving us in June 2024 and presently we have 19 Junior Infants on our list for the 2024/2025 academic year. This will mean an enrolment of 76 in September 2024.

Child Protection

- Allegations of abuse made against members of school personnel – nothing to report
- Other child protection concerns in respect of pupils in the school – nothing to report
- Child protection concerns arising from alleged bullying behaviour amongst pupils – nothing to report
- Summary data in respect of reporting – nothing to report

Anti- Bullying

Overall number of bullying cases reported to the Principal or Deputy Principal since the previous report to the Board – nothing to report

Policies

The following policies are due to be ratified:

- a) EAL Policy
- b) Leave of Absence Policy
- c) Parental Complaints Procedure
- d) Records Retention Schedule

Deis Improvement Plan

We are currently finalising our Deis Improvement Plan.

Staff Meeting

The school closed at 12.30 on Friday the 23rd February to facilitate a staff meeting.

Work Experience Students

3 5th year students completed their work experience with us between February 6th & 9th. They were a great help in the lead up to Grandparents Day!

OIDE Support

All staff availed of in-school support from OIDE in approaching English as an Additional Language and Team Teaching on January 8th and support in IT on the 19th January. Both days were very informative.

CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES Sports

The children from 4th-6th attended a soccer blitz in Lecarrow on February 22nd. They went to the Connacht GAA Dome on March 6th and competed in a basketball tournament on March 12th.

Peace Proms

The children from 2nd to 6th class attended Peace Proms on Saturday, 3rd February in the RDS, Dublin. This was an amazing experience for all involved.

Swimming Lessons which ran for 7 weeks concluded on February 20th.

Hip Hop The children will be taking part in hip hop lessons after Easter. They will start on April 9th and continue for 6 weeks.

Competitions

Congratulations to Thomas Cox who won a prize at national level for his Credit Union poster.

Congratulations also to Lana Cox who received a prize in Aras on Chontae on February 21st for her short story 'The Ferryman'. This competition was in conjunction with Roscommon Drama Festival.

BLAST

We have been granted 20 hours contact time with an artist as part of the Arts Council's BLAST programme. Our artist, with the help of the children, has started a mural on the side of the school shed. We hope the project will be completed by the Easter holidays.

Junior Entrepreneur Project

Mrs Collins is taking part in the Jr Ent project with the children from 4th-6th Class. She organised Regina from Lanesbrew and Damien Gill from Cloontuskert Stud to come in and talk to the children about setting up a business.

The children then worked in groups to design a product and prepare a business plan. They presented their products Dragons Den style last week to our 3 dragons, Mr. O'Gorman, Mrs. Concannon & parent, Emma Hussey. It involved an incredible amount of work for Mrs. Collins and the class, but it was a fantastic experience for all involved.

Aistear

Ms Feely is currently doing the theme 'The Vet'. Mrs Collins organised for local vet, Pdraig Holmes to speak to the children earlier this week. She also organised local farmer Stephen Mc Gloin to come in and talk to the children about farming during 'The Farm' theme. He brought in a baby goat which was a huge hit with the children!

Heritage Specialist

Tony Kenneally, heritage Specialist, called to the school on the 19th January to discuss birds of prey and garden birds with the children. They really enjoyed his visit.

World Book Day

Past teacher and published poet, Margaret Nohilly did a poetry workshop with the children in 1st – 3rd Class on World Book Day, March 7th. All children also dressed up as a character from a book.

Grandparents Day

As part of Catholic School's Week, we had mass in Ballyleague Church on February 9th to celebrate Grandparents Day. A large crowd joined us in the school afterwards for songs, poems and light refreshments. It was a very memorable day.

Ash Wednesday

Thank you to Fr. Daniel who called to the school to distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday.

First Confession

First Confessions was held in Ballyleague Church on March 5th.

FUNDRAISING

Design A Card We made €152.70 from the Christmas Design a Card project.

Parents Association The PA's Christmas raffle raised €1083.

Vincent De Paul A total of €177 was raised

Tesco Blue Token Collection We received €616 from the Tesco Community Benefit fund.

Read and Raise

The school recently held a fundraiser called Read and Raise. The children are encouraged to read as much as possible over a two week period and get sponsorship for their efforts. Sponsorship letters were sent to both local and national business and we have had a positive response. We raised €4252 and the children clocked up an impressive 47,258 minutes.

Sliabh Bawn & Bord Na Mona Community Benefit Grant

Thank you to Miriam and Lorraine for submitting applications to the Sliabh Bawn Community Benefit Fund & Bord Na Mona for grant aid to purchase equipment to enhance our outdoor learning environment.

STEM Grant

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in securing a Departmental STEM grant. Schools were chosen by a lottery system which was very disappointing to see.

Clothing Collection

We had a clothing collection earlier today which made €480

Treasurer Report

A Treasurers Report was presented to the Board