



Scoil Muire Bannrion



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Welcome to Our Newsletter!

It's a very busy time of the year here in Scoil Muire Bannrion with all of our students working very hard in preparation for Christmas. Our infant classes and our 2nd class have been busy practicing for their Christmas performances. Our choir have also been busy at work preparing for their traditional carol singing around the town for the 52nd consecutive year! We want to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

Parents Association Christmas Raffle

There is an amazing Christmas Hamper valued at €130 to be won this year in our Parents Association Christmas Raffle which will be held next Thursday 20th December. Each child in our school has been given a card to sell lines for the raffle. Lines are €2 each. All cards must be returned to the school by Thursday 20th December. This year there is also a sellers prize of a €30 gift card for Ken Black Toy Store. We would like to thank our Parents Association for organising the raffle and prizes and all people who support us by purchasing lines. We wish you all the very best of luck in the draw. All money raised will be invested in resources for the school.



Literacy

As part of our ongoing literacy improvement strategy, all our classes focused on the Report genre of writing for the months of October and November and they are currently studying Recount Writing for December and January. Our classes produced some fantastic writing samples which are currently on display on our school writing notice board. We ask that you encourage your children throughout this process and to make a visit to Edenderry library over the holidays. You could also encourage your child to write a story or read some books. For some tips on encouraging your child to write creative stories visit our school website where there is a 'Tips for Parents' page.

School Building Works

As we announced in November we have been approved an extension to our school which will include 2 new rooms, new offices and an upgrade to all toilet facilities and a new toilet block. Work is ongoing in the design of this new build and planning permission will be sought in the coming weeks.



Credit Union Quiz

Trials for this year's Credit Union Quiz teams will begin early in the new year so students who are interested in taking part should begin brushing up on their general knowledge and facts over the holidays!



We have been very successful in this competition in the recent past and hope for continued success this year.

Science Week

All classes were very busy throughout Science Week this year (November 11th -18th). On Thursday 15th of November, we held a science exhibition in our school hall where our classes had the opportunity to display their experiments to parents. A big well done to all the classes for creating their experiments and a big thank you to all the parents, guardians and neighbours for coming to see our demonstrations. Our 6th Class took part in the Intel Mini Scientist Competition and the winning project was selected to represent our school in Blanchardstown I.T. for the Intel Mini Scientist Regional Final. A massive well done to Lee, Cian, Daniel and Declan for their creation, 'Self Powered Lighthouse'.

All of our students had great fun participating in Science Week and learned lots about problem solving, engineering and much much more!



Sports News

Athletics Indoor Diversity Games All Ireland Double Champions!

On Wednesday December 11th our Intercultural Athletic team travelled to Athlone IT to defend our 3rd/4th class and 5th/6th class All Ireland Intercultural Athletic Championships. Multiculturalism is a hugely important part of our school environment and the emphasis we place on highlighting the positive diverse nature of our school community can be seen in the huge success we have had in this competition over the

many years we have been competing in it. This year was no different as we swept the board to claim the first prize in both the 3rd/4th class and the 5th/6th class competition. This can only be described as an historic achievement, a "double double", having already achieved the same feat in 2017. A huge congratulations to Finn, Nikodemas, Aronas, Jack, Yasin, Mohamed, Daniel and Dylan who made up the 3rd/4th class team and Lee, Patrick, Daniels, Abdel, Eoghan, Cormac, Declan and Orlandas who made up the 5th/6th class team. A special mention must go to Frank Kilraine for the coaching he provides in our school and through Edenderry Athletic Club.



Santa Dash

Our Annual Santa Dash will take place on Friday 21st December. Children can wear festive clothing and a santa hat on the day if they wish to do so. This is part of our ongoing efforts to promote a healthy and active school.

Christmas Performances

Our infant classes and 2nd class have been working harder than Santa's elves, practicing for their Christmas performances this year. They will perform on Wednesday 19th at 9.50a.m. in our school hall for all parents. We look forward to seeing you on the day.



Decoration Time

Every year we take great pride in decorating our school for the festive season. We hope you take the time to view our trees and decorations before the holidays. Our junior classes were involved in decorating our Christmas trees. Don't forget we also have a post box for any letters to Santa if they haven't already been sent!



Santa Claus

On Friday 14th December we were very lucky that Santa Claus took some time out from his Christmas preparations to visit all the classes in the school. He will be talking to the teachers to update his naughty and nice lists too! He brought each child in the school a little treat for all the hard work they have done since September. Thanks Santa!



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Our school once again participated in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We were delighted with the response we received from students and parents with over 80 boxes being brought into our school. A big thank you to all who supported!



Christmas Cards

This year each of our pupils had the opportunity to design and print their own professional Christmas Card. Cards have been ordered and are currently being distributed to families who decided to purchase them.



Christmas Eve Mass

Due to the very large crowds that attend Christmas Eve Mass there will be a Mass at 7.30pm for the children and families of students in our school.

Christmas Panto

Our infant classes attended a Christmas Panto in Birr this year called Elfie Saves Christmas. They really enjoyed the show and even ended up on stage at the end of it! It was a fantastic day out!



Painting Workshop with Ian Jackson

Our 6th class had a very special treat this year when author and illustrator Ian Jackson visited our school. He showed them how to create stories using computers and Microsoft Paint. After they had created their stories including illustrations they were given the chance to tell their story to some of our younger classes. It was an excellent experience for all involved!

Road Safety Talks

We consider Road Safety to be one of the most important topics for our students to learn about. All classes received a talk about Road Safety from Vivienne who works with the Road Safety Authority. Winter can be a dangerous time for all road users with darker mornings and evenings. For more information visit their website.



Parents Association AGM

The Annual General Meeting of our Parents Association took place on Monday 10th December. We would like to say a massive thanks to those who attended and have volunteered to form a Parents Association. The Parents Association play a very active role in supporting the running of the school and we are very thankful for all the hard work they put in.

School Choir

The school choir has been very busy preparing for the Christmas season. On Thursday 6th December they performed in Edenderry Library where a large crowd gathered to listen to them. We would like to thank the library for extending the invitation to our choir to sing on the day. They also sang at the carol service in Saint Mary's Church with choirs from other schools on Sunday 16th December at 5pm.



On Thursday, 20th December, our choir will sing carols at various locations around the town. This will be the 52nd consecutive year that our school have been part of this tradition. They will begin at Castle View @ 6.45pm. The next stop of the evening will be in Dunnes Stores before continuing on to Blundell Wood, Brady's Spar and finishing in Tesco.

Stay Safe Talk for Parents

The Stay Safe Programme is a personal safety skills programme for primary schools. Its overall objective is to prevent child abuse, bullying and other forms of victimisation. We are organising a Stay Safe information talk for Parents which will take place on Tuesday 29th January at 7.30p.m. This is an extremely important talk and should be attended by all parents.

MS Readathon

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our students from Mrs Martin's, Mr Foran's and Mr Murphy's who took part in the MS Readathon this year. A fantastic €657.75 was raised. Aoife from MS Ireland spoke to the classes involved about how people with MS can be affected by the disease.

School Notices!

Scoil Muire Banríon will reopen after the Christmas Holiday on Monday 7th of January.

Book Fair

A Book Fair will be visiting our school from February 7th-13th. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to choose books of interest to them to read.

School Opening Times

Please note that our school gates open at 9am. Children should not arrive at school before this time nor should they be left unattended outside the school premises before this time. School starts at 9.20a.m.

School Absences

If your child is absent from school for any reason please be aware that a written note must be provided to your child's teacher to explain this absence. This is a requirement of the Department of Education and Skills and TUSLA.

School Uniform and Coats

Already this year there have been a large number of jumpers and jackets going missing in the school. **Please make sure that all of your child's uniform and coats are clearly labeled with their name to help to prevent this.** We encourage all of our students to look after their own belongings but if your child is missing any items please call to the school office where our 'Lost and Found' is located.

Overdue Book Rental and Art and Photocopying

A number of school fees are still outstanding. Parents are asked to send any overdue fees into their child's class teacher or the school office as soon as possible.

Collection During School Day

As part of our new Child Protection Procedures it is school policy that parents collecting their children from class during the school day will have to sign them out at the office. Please call to the office before collecting your child from their class.

School Twitter

You can follow us on Twitter for all the latest news at www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS.

All the staff of Scoil Muire Banríon are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements this term. We would like to wish all our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.