**March Newsletter**

The value we are celebrating this March is imagination.

**March calendar dates**

Lent started on Wed 2 March. Trocaire boxes have been handed out as usual and can be returned after Easter.

We are celebrating Book Week. The children will be enjoying lots of fun events and our special guest Mrs Reidy will do a “book-reading tour” of every class. We hope that all families will have time to squeeze in a read at home.

Finglas library is warmly welcoming new readers. Tell them we sent you!

We will celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge from 7th – 16th March. We are resuming our tradition of our St Patrick’s Day parade around the yards. The parade will take place at 9.10 am on Wednesday 16th March so please stay for a few minutes, if you can, to cheer on the children as they march. Children can dress up warmly and wear green, white or orange for the day.

**School will be closed Thurs 17, Fri 18 and Mon 21 March.**

Mothers Day mini-raffle in the yard on Friday 25 March. Details below.

**School lunches**

The new lunch menus have finally arrived. Ham and jam (fruit spread) are back on the menu. Milk and water are the only drinks allowed in school. Our school lunches are provided by Glanmore Foods under the Healthy Ireland nutrition guidelines and are given to children in Junior Infants to First class. Early Start children bring a packed lunch. They get fruit, water and milk in school.

Our Healthy Eating policy is available to view on our website.

Before Easter, we will be trying out “bricfeasta beag” in the classroom every morning. Children will be offered a mini-breakfast of buttered roll/banana and milk in their classrooms in the morning with a little chat “as Gaeilge”. Of course they will continue with their normal full breakfast at home, but may choose a mini-breakfast as a top-up.

**Covid Measures**

As schools do not have to do pods and bubbles any more, the children will now be able to play with other classes in the yard and to enjoy shared activities. We are introducing yard toys and music to liven up outdoor play time.

Sanitising and ventilation will continue as usual. Children should dress warmly.

We will continue with the staggered opening/ closing times for now.

All parents are still requested to be symptom-aware as Covid is still circulating.

**School activities in March**

* Book week events with our special guest Mrs Reidy
* St Patrick’s Day Parade and Seachtain na Gaeilge
* Music Generation lessons for some classes will continue
* GAA skills with Laura from Erin’s Isle for Junior Infants
* Soccer skills with Ian from Finglas Celtic for Senior Infants and First class
* Erin’s Isle and Finglas Celtic will soon be welcoming new members.
* Outdoor Education workshops for Spring with Red Squirrel
* Early Start mindfulness classes with Grainne from Barnardos
* Mothers Day raffle 25 March. Every child who fully completes their homework/ gets reading signed will get their mam’s name into the drum for a spot prize in the raffle (hometime Fri 25 March). Nannies and aunties can also be nominated by a child!

**Other school news**

Our Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying policies have been revised and are available to read on our website.

Our school inspector visited us just recently and observed a number of lessons. He was very complimentary about the children’s good behaviour and interest in learning. The Department of Education is encouraging all schools and families to focus on learning.

In March we will be noticing children who are in school, on time, every day, ready to learn, play and use their imagination.

Pope Francis has asked us to pray for families in Ukraine.