

URLINGFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL

Scoil an Chroí Ró-Naofa

056 – 883 1512

Email: urlingfordns.ias@eircom.net

Web: www.urlingfordns.com

January/ February Newsletter

School Website

We would just remind you that the school website is available at www.urlingfordns.ie and is regularly updated with new content, including photos of recent events and dates for your diary.



'Split the Pot'

For the month of February the 'Split the Pot' fundraiser running in The Urlingford Arms Hotel is for the benefit of Urlingford NS Parents' Council. The Parents' Council are raising money specifically for new noticeboards for the classrooms. They come in a range of striking colours and will enhance the look of the classrooms while providing a vibrant backdrop for the display of your children's work.

Entry costs €2. The winner each week goes home with half the pot of money, the remainder going towards purchasing the noticeboards. Envelopes are available directly from the school, from Urlingford Arms Hotel or from Parents' Council members. This will continue to run beyond February benefiting other community groups around the area, and will return to Urlingford NS Parents' Council later in the year. This way we are working to each other's benefit throughout the year, as per the meitheal tradition, as lámh a chéile.

Mid-term

School closes for midterm at 2.40pm on Wed 20th and reopens Mon 25th Feb.

Aldi Stickers for Sports Equipment

Aldi are giving rugby equipment to all schools that can fill their Aldi poster with Aldi stickers (available with every €30 spent). The school would also be entered into a draw to win a top €50,000 towards development of playing facilities.

We are asking anyone who ALREADY shops in Aldi to give their stickers to the school, simply send them to school with your child. If you know anyone who shops in Aldi you could ask them to keep their stickers for you too.

Other prizes include €2,500 worth of training equipment, a training session with Paul O'Connell including a new set of school jerseys and Aldi branded water bottles.



Health promoting schools



As a health promoting school we have a number of initiatives of note. The **Food Dudes** programme was a great success last term, thanks in no small part to parents for ensuring lunchboxes were healthy! '**Kilometre Challenge**' continues with Mr Doyle at lunchtimes. **Super Trooper** Journals went home to all houses the end of January. Children are practising **mindfulness** in the classroom also, which is a proven approach to improving mental health. A more detailed letter on all these initiative went home with children in January.

Enrolment Open

Enrolment for September is now open. Details and forms are available from the school office or by ringing (056) 88 31512 from 9am to 3pm. Closing date for enrolment is Friday March 29th 2019.

Sacrament preparations

First Confessions take place Tuesday 19th Feb at 7.30pm in Graine Church. The children will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, 12th May.

The Confirmation children, along with parents, began their preparation on Monday nights beginning 11th February. They will receive Confirmation on Friday 5th April.



Green Flag Committee

The school is currently working on their 6th Green Flag which is '**Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste**'. Work by the committee includes reducing waste, having a positive impact on climate change, encouraging responsible shopping practises by buying FAIR TRADE, raising money for global causes and highlighting the importance of being welcoming and inclusive of everyone in our community. A letter was sent home in January highlighting many of the ways parents can help with these areas of development including reducing waste and recycling, remembering to carpool or leave the car at home sometimes or buying Fair Trade.

Couch to 5K

Couch to 5K continues Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7pm - 9pm at Emerald's GAA pitch under lights. It is €2 per person with children going free. The 5k walk/run will take place on Sunday March 3rd at 12pm starting at the Old School.

New Building

The proposed new building is at design stage and the Board of Management are reviewing initial plans. When plans are approved by the Department, the school can then apply for planning permission. Progress is slow but steady!





Football Leagues

Both boys and girls played Football Leagues in the run up to Christmas and with some inclement weather just before the holidays, the playoffs and finals were held in early January. In both cases, the final saw the Reds play the Greens, but there were different results for both. The Reds won the Girls' League after going through the whole league undefeated while in the boys' competition; the Greens timed their run brilliantly to claim a famous victory. Camogie and Hurling Leagues will be starting shortly with the school competitions due to start in March.



Credit Union Quiz

The school took part in the Thurles Credit Union Quiz on Monday February 4th with an Under 11 and an Under 13 team taking part. Teams were chosen over the course of a week and a half practice and while we were not victorious on the night, both teams acquitted themselves very well. Well done to all! (Under 11: Lilly Kavanagh, Cormac Joyce, Jamie Leahy, Bill Cussen; Under 13: Ruth Moriarty, Oisín Deegan, Billy Campion, Conor Gibbons)

Urlingford Library

February is Library Membership month. It's free to join and we are lucky to have a super facility on our doorstep. There's so much more than books available, computers, printing, courses. Check it out. Tel 056 7794182

Christmas Fundraising Drive

Both the coffee morning and raffle were a big success again this year. A huge thanks to everyone who supported both these fundraising events in any way; parents and their families, teachers, children and local businesses. The final net figure raised was €2770. Well done to everyone 😊!

Temple Street Children's Hospital

John Holohan raised a whopping €70,100 for Temple Street Children's Hospital over the Christmas season, a cause that is very close to the hearts of the parents of Urlingford NS. Urlingford NS donated €400 made up from a collection from the children and a donation from the Parents' Council. No one wishes to need Temple Street facilities but we are eternally grateful for the selfless fundraising that ensures top class facilities are available there should we ever need them. On the night the Temple Street representative made special mention of the support for this cause from the people of Urlingford through both donation of time and money.

Some Dates for your Diary

- February 19th:** First Confession
St Patrick's Church, Graine @ 7.30pm
- February 21st/22nd:** Spring Mid-Term Break
- February 25th:** Confirmation Preparation 3
School @ 7.30pm
- March 4th:** Confirmation Preparation 4
School @ 7.30pm
- March 6th:** Boys' Schools Hurling vs Dunnamaggin
GAA Field @ 3.30pm
- March 15th:** Confirmation Retreat 10am-2pm
St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny
- March 18th:** School Closed for St. Patrick's Day
- March 26th:** Ceremony of Light for Confirmation
St Patrick's Church, Graine @ 7.30pm
- April 5th:** Confirmation - 11am
Church of the Assumption, Urlingford
- April 12th:** Easter Holidays @ 12 noon