



Excitement and Anticipation as the End is in Sight

It would have been hard for anyone visiting the school in recent days not to notice the air of delight excitement and anticipation and as the Board of Management's recent announcement began to sink in. 20 years of waiting, hoping, longing at last pale into insignificance with the simple phrase "we'll be starting soon". It is hard to imagine that 20 years ago next month, that very first discussion took place with the Dept on the prospect of extra classrooms. Three generation of pupils have passed through in that time. Indeed one of the original pupils in the first Portacabins, is now a parent in the school.

The die-hard spirit of Ollies sustained us over the years but we are now on the countdown to the demolition of the dreaded "Portacabins", too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. Just this winter to go and then heaven looms large. There is little to stop us now. Final documentation has been lodged with the Department of Education and Skills. The Design Team is presently assessing the suitability of interested Building Contractors. Tender Documents and Contracts are being prepared and, if everything goes according to plan, Builders should be on site during the Summer Holidays or early in the new school year.

Why did it take so long

The doubters among us might

say, we have heard all this before. But this is different. To stop us now would have huge financial implications, so the Department of Education and Skills cannot afford to allow that to happen.

Many have asked why it has taken so long when other schools were designed and built within very short time frames. Put simply it was the nature of the site with its steep rise and its restricted size. 3 different design proposals were put forward but each was turned down by either the Dept. or the Planners. Indeed a year's delay was incurred due to the present design going to An Bord Pleanala. All this is now behind us, as we look forward with anticipation to the construction and occupation

of our state-of-the-art school which we hope will be fully built and occupied by
Sept. 2018.



Investiture Ceremony

Our Student Council, The Green Team and Peer Mediators, following their election and training will be invested on Fri Feb 5th in the presence of their very proud parents. The teachers involved Ms Dixon, Ms Magrath & Mr McKenna will explain the reasons why these groups were set up and the work they undertake. Each child will be called by name and presented with their badge. We too are very proud of the children and also those who volunteered or went forward for election who were not successful on this occasion. It shows how much that the children in St Oliver Plunkett School care about the school community. We can be sure that many of these children will play an important role as citizens in the future.



For all drawings and images click [PICS](#)

Advance Information on 2016/2017

School re opens on Tuesday 30th Aug 2016.

Hallowe'en - Mon Oct 31 to Fri Nov 4 (incl)

Christmas closing 12noon Dec 22

and re opens Mon Jan 9, 2017.

Mid-Term Mon Feb 20 to Fri Feb 24 (incl)

St. Patrick's Day - Fri Mar 17

Easter closing 12 noon Fri Apr 7

and re opens Mon Apr 24

May Public Holiday Mon May 1

June Break - Mon June 5 to Wed June 7 (incl)

Summer closing 12noon Fri June 30

Full School Calendar [CLICK](#) [Calendar](#)



Mia from Ms.Brennan's class likes to eat a good breakfast. One morning recently she noticed a special offer on her Cheerios box. So she hurried home after school and drew a picture of her favourite character, popped it in the post and within a short time back came a special package. Cheerios had turned her picture into a lovely toy. WOW that's a neat trick

Wellbeing

We have had a very positive response to our wellbeing survey (1st-6th). Thank you to all our parents who took the time to submit their responses and thanks for the very positive feedback. It seems that we all have a shared vision of helping prepare our children to take their place in 21st century society firmly on their own two feet. At the moment we are analysing the responses and will incorporate these into our SPHE planning for each class level. Classroom programmes and interventions will hopefully develop our children's emotional literacy, social skills, resilience etc. However, these cannot be taught in a vacuum. It is important that there is a shared vision between school and home, that all caregivers are invested in the process of developing independent, self confident children .

So what can parents do?

This month perhaps you could help your child become more of a problem solver in his/her personal life. As parents we cannot bear to see our children hurt or struggle in any way. We step in to referee squabbles between our children. We might micro manage our children so well that they can grow up without the important skills of managing their feelings, meeting challenges or reflecting on their own behaviour at all. Maybe this month we could take a step back and rather than solve the little problems, support our children in doing that for themselves. For example if they fall out with a friend, ask them to reflect and try to solve it for themselves. Sorting out little conflicts will give them the skills and confidence to negotiate and resolve bigger problems as they get older.



School Calendar 2015/2016

Midterm break:	Mon Oct 26 - Fri Oct 30
Christmas Holidays:	Tues Dec 22
	Re-open Wed Jan 6
February Mid-Term:	Thurs Feb 18 & Fri Feb 19
St. Patrick's Day:	Thurs Mar 17
Easter:	Fri Mar 18
	Re-open Mon April 4
Public Holiday	Mon May 2
May Break:	Tues May 3 - Fri May 6
June Bank holiday:	Mon June 6
Summer Holidays:	Thurs June 30

First Communion Dates

2nd Classes - Enrolment Masses

Ms Fogarty & Ms Ryan Sun Oct 11

Ms Clinch & Ms Keogh Sun Oct 18

Class Masses Week Commencing Jan 25

First Penance Thurs Feb 25

Ms Clinch & Ms Keogh 6.30pm

Ms Fogarty & Ms Ryan 7.30pm

First Holy Communion Sat May 28

Ms Fogarty & Ms Ryan 10am

Ms Keogh & Ms Clinch 12 noon.

Confirmation Dates

Ceremony of light - Thu, Feb 4 7.00

Sacrament of Confirmation: 11.00

Ms Tisdall, Mr Byrne and Mr Morris - Wed, Mar 9

Mr Molloy, Ms McBride - Thu, Mar 10

Full School Calendar [CLICK](#) [Calendar](#)

LEGO Day

Lego day will be Feb.17, check school bags for information and registration. Start getting yours thoughts and your bricks together



Dogs Trust- Cara, Ben and Niall OS2

In January, Fiona from Dogs Trust came to visit us with her dog. He is a boxer dog and his name is Ollie. Ollie is a really gentle dog who sat on his rug and played with his toys while Fiona spoke to us. She talked about a special dog at Dogs Trust called **WALT** and he teaches us the rules for greeting a new dog.

W is for **walk** - walk slowly up to the dogs face.

A is for **ask** - ask owner if you can pet dog.

L for **let** - make a closed fist. & let dog sniff it.

T for **touch** - gently touch the dog.



Fiona spoke about the saying 'a dog is for life, not just for Christmas'. She told us some different reasons why people give their dogs away to after Christmas. Our class made the puppy promise - never to get a dog for Christmas. She told us that it is now the law to have your dog micro chipped and explained how they put the chip in the dogs neck and how they scan the dog to find it's owner. She showed us a real microchip

and it was tiny. Before Fiona and Ollie left they gave us lots of cool things like wristbands, stickers and certificates to prove we know how to treat dogs.

Think of your Pet

If your dog sleeps outside and it's cold outside, your dog will feel the cold. If you have any duvets, pillows or curtains you can add them to your pet's bed and if you have spares drop them to the office and we will pass them on to the Dog Shelters

Cake Sale & "Bunanza"!!

We need everyone to bake cakes, muffins, apple tarts, rice krispie buns, cupcakes etc. to raise as much money as possible for the school. The cake competition is highly anticipated and will run again this year. However this year entries will be accepted from 3rd and 6th classes only.

There will be prizes for the winning cakes in 3rd and 6th classes and the prize ceremony will take place at 2:00pm. There will be an entry fee of €3 for the cake competition and children should pay the entry fee to their teacher. Cakes for the cake competition should be brought straight to the hall on the morning of the Bunanza.

Children should bring their contributions of tasty treats to the cake sale into their own class on the morning of **Tuesday February 2**



The cake sale for the pupils will run from 9:30 to 1:00. Parents can come and visit at 1:00pm.

It would be much appreciated if baked goods could be brought into school in cardboard boxes or on trays that can be reused/recycled in the school.

We are really looking forward to a fantastic array of baked treats at Bunanza!!



Science Week - Liadh Tobin

During Science week my teacher Ms. Brennan did an experiment with an egg. I thought it was so good I decided to try it myself at home. My dad and I put an egg in a plastic container and filled it up with white wine vinegar. We left the egg in the container for 48 hours. When we took the egg out of the container it felt squishy and looked like a bouncy ball. I was really surprised and happy that my experiment had worked so well. I brought the egg in to school to show my teacher and my friends, they were all really impressed. I can't wait for science week next year!



Gibneys Wine Night

Back in November parents sold raffle tickets at the Gibney's wine night which benefited the schools in Malahide. A huge thank you to Niamh Langton, Miriam Byrne, Deirdre Goodman and Linda Duffy who raised €405 from the sale of the raffle tickets. Well done ladies and thank you.

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH

Swap Shop

Normally runs first Tuesday of each month but due to Bunanza on Tuesday it will be open on Wednesday 3rd February from 9am to 9.30am approx. Items for donations may be brought along on the morning or left in the office. Ensure all donated/swap items are clean and in good condition.



Winning the league - Ben Kelly & Alex Mooney 4th

We were very happy winning the league. We thought we played very well and we had lots of very good players. We played five games in total which consisted of four wins and one loss, one of the hardest matches was against Rush. We tackled hard, played as a team and gave it all till the final whistle was blown in every game. Our hard work and determination paid off. We won.



Our New School Project

At the top of our news this month is the delightful announcement that our new school building has at last a clear road map to construction. Read the full announcement [here](#).

Will there be more Information.

As we go through the various stages outlined in the document, the school will issue notes updating you on progress. At this point we do not have the exact dates so this information is not available. As soon as school has a definite time-line it will issue a Question and Answer type update answering all the questions parents will have such as:

- Will there be disruption to classes?
- Will children be in school as buildings are being knocked?
- Will children have playareas?
- Will children have normal playtimes?

There will be many questions and we will try to anticipate all these and answer them. If you have any particular question you would like answered, please email it to buildingcom@stop.ie

Health & Wellbeing

Please go through basic hygiene with your children and the importance of washing hands properly after the bathroom, not sharing drinks, not sharing hair brushes etc. Talk to them about why it is important to keep all long hair tied back. Please keep checking and re-checking for head lice as we are **not** yet winning the battle. It is also extremely important to keep emphasising the importance of drinking lots of water throughout the day.



Help stop the flu from spreading!

Catch it!



Always cough or sneeze into a tissue

Bin it!



Always throw the used tissue in a bin

Kill it!

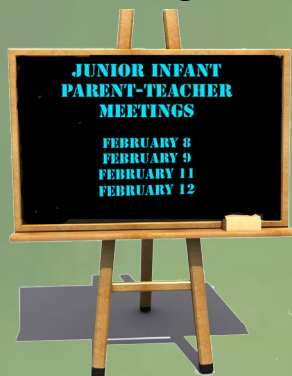


Always wash hands with soap and hot water

Follow these 3 steps and help stop the flu from spreading!

Junior Infant Parent-Teacher Meetings

Junior Infant Parent/Teacher meetings will take place Feb 8, 9, 11 & 12. Meetings will be held in the computer room. Parents will be notified as usual by note and we ask you to check the school-bags for your child's time and date.



Swimming Fun



Jack Lynch and Sean Butterly go to PSLC every Monday for swimming lessons. They have worked very hard and have had great fun learning to swim. Jack got a gold medal and Sean got a lovely trophy and a bronze medal. Well done boys.

Insurance

Reminder to parents; children are covered for most accidents under our student policy (24hrs a day 365 days a year). That includes dental accidents, swift clinic, public hospital charges, physio, etc. Dangerous sports or activities eg skiing, horse riding etc are not covered but you can take out extra insurance to cover such sports. Claim forms are available from the office should you need to claim.



School Tours

The months are flying by and before we know it the school tours will be upon us. We would encourage you to get the children to do odd jobs around the house and save that money towards their school tour. The school credit union is also a great way to encourage the children to save towards their trips.



Sen Inf - Imaginosity - Tues May 24
1st - Wooley Ward Farm - Tues June 14
2nd - Zoo - Tues June 7
3rd - Viking Splash /GAA - Tues June 14
4th - Causey Farm/Bog - Thurs June 9
5th - Malahide Yacht Club - TBA
6th - Wicklow Way - Thurs June 17

Library Visit - Jack O'Connor 1st class

After school one day before our Christmas Holidays, I went to the library and the librarian said that they would be making sock snowmen upstairs. What's a sock snowman I wondered. So I went upstairs to take a look. I thought there would be snow but it was much better. It was great fun. Here's how to make one. Get a (clean) sock and cut it. Fill the long bit with rice. Tie a knot at the top and the middle. Then glue on a mouth and 2 eyes and 2 buttons. Put the hat on him and hey presto you have a sock snowmen. Great fun and a lovely present.



Tennis Competitions - Lisa Ryan

I love Tennis and play as often as I can for fun, for fitness and in competitions. I have just come back from Holland where I played in a Tournament. We had to fly to Amsterdam and take two trains to get to Gendringen which is on the German border. I played many different nationalities. I played a girl from Holland, Finland, Germany and even a girl from Barbados. I won two of my matches, lost two and got one walkover. There was a bit of waiting around so we played lots of card games. The trip was great fun and a great experience.



Once again the Board of Management wishes to thank all parents who have supported our Club Draw. The Club Draw is one of the most important sources of finance for the Board. Without it many areas of development within the school would not be possible due to the shortfall between the Capitation Grant and the Expenditure each year. Thank you for your support. And the winners are:

November	December
€400 Duff Family Ref 891	Doyle Family Ref 119A
€150 McStay Family Ref 172A	Walsh Family Ref 734
€150 Plass Family Ref 95A	Nannery Family 277A
€150 Collins Family Ref 825	Skudis Family 211A

Spelling Demons

The children in E4 have been working very hard to conquer their spelling demons. Well done to: Holly Hickey, Caoimhe Mulcahy, Emma Lidwell, Ruby Quinn, Joshua Clarke, Abbie Butterly, Karl Tuohy, Tom Morton, Joe Quilligan, Leo Pierce, Edward Stenson, Niamh Lynch, Isabella Crilly, Aidan Gillooley, Robert Hussey, Lucy Fennelly and Seán Lynch.



Cursive Writing

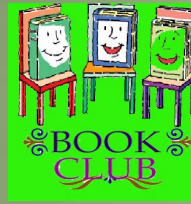
Congratulations also to the following children whose cursive writing featured on our board of honour recently: Leo Mullen, Alannah Dodds, Conor Scott, Mia Nicholson, Luke Barry and Aoibhin Morton (R8), Mila Degand, Sean Mitchell, Adriana Wu (R2), Rocco Byrne, Marcus Fitzpatrick, Catherine Purtill (R1), Keeva Byrne, Conor Langton, Max Keogh (R9), Conor Mc Gahan, Tori Cuddy, Reme Morgan (E7), Anna Price, Sam Robinson, Leah Kilduff (E6), Rian Doran, Kate Duff, Leah Whelan (E1), Ellie Doyle, Chloe Ross and Conor Mac Aogain (E5).



Amelie Law, Mia McLoughlin, Tom Clarke, Tom Monaghan
Also awarded but not pictured is Sophie O'Gorman.

Book Club - Zoe Flynn

Ms Dempsey, Ms Cox and Ms. O'Connor (N)run a Book Club after school. It is on the second Tuesday of every month. There is a great selection of books to choose from. In Ms Dempsey's room we split up into groups and talk about our book. We hear what other people are reading and so we can decide would we like to read that too. It is very interesting to hear how people can have such different views on the same book. Sometimes do a drama or turn the story into a film scene and other fun things. Here are some reviews:



"David Walliams books are very creative. Rat Burger is very exiting" - Sofia Sullivan
"Considine Curse is very mysterious and is an amazing book to read" - Niamh Lynch
"Counting Stars tells a lovely relationship between friends during war" - Caoimhe Mulcahy
"The Boy in the dress is strange at times but it's exciting as well" - Holly Hickey
"Demon Dentist is very interesting and so are all of David Walliams books" - Ellie Doyle
"Charlotte's Web is the best book I've ever read and everyone should read it" - Anna Martin
"The Guns of Easter is about a family trying to survive through a war" - Zoe Flynn



Green Team

The Green Team together with the Student Council arranged the Santa hat/jumper day on the last day of school before Christmas. It was a usual a huge success and they raised over 800.00 which was delivered to the local shop so it could be used over the Christmas. Well done everyone.



Walk On Wednesday (WOW Day)

Our next WOW day is Wednesday Feb 3. Please encourage children to Walking all the Way, Park and Stride, Cycle/Scoot or take Public Transport. Details to follow regarding walking buses.





Gaeilgeoir Na Miosa

Mi na Nollag



Junior Infants

Ms Holland - James Sinay & Zara McGahan

Ms Hudson - Josh Reynolds
Ms McGrath - Aoibhinn Han-nigan

Ms Leahy - Gwen Dinnegan

Senior Infants

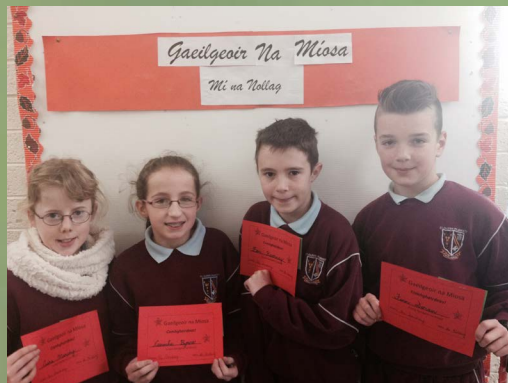
Ms Greene - Eloise Champ
Ms Church - Ben Hogan
Ms Dunne - Laura Coffey
Ms Campion - Martha Canning

Rang a hAon

Ms Brennan - Michael Donnelly
Mr Mc Kenna - Tom Monaghan
Ms White - Ian Howard
Ms Quinn - Madison Hughes

Rang a Dó

Ms Fogarty - Reuben Jordan & Juilanne Coleman
Ms Keogh - PJ O'Toole
Ms Clinch - Tommy Corroon
Ms Ryan - Matthew O'Leary & Darragh Gough



Rang a Trí

Ms Dempsey - Clíodhna Rushe
Mr Eagney - Ruby Small
Ms McIlvenna - Cara McGee
Ms Dignam - Zoe Donnelly

Rang a Ceathair

Mr Lynch - Zara Troy
Ms N O Connor - Lucy Fennelly
Ms Healy - Ailish Debish
Ms Markey - Joanna Berry

Rang a Cúig

Mr Morton - Ciara Murphy
Mr Fortune - Caoimhe Byrne
Ms Keary - Finn Doran
Ms Dixon - Ben Kearney

Rang a Sé

Ms Tisdall - Gemma Devally
Mr Morris - Sean Ennis
Mr Byrne - Laura Burke
Ms McBride - Aimee Heary
Mr Molloy - Aisling Ni Laighléis



Is liom Gaeilge





Our Senior choir rehearsing for Peace Proms in the National Show Centre. They will perform in the Peace Proms on Feb 6th in the RDS with over 2000 other children from school choirs around Leinster.



