

*Welcome to the seventh edition of our newsletter for this school year. Term two has galloped past us and it is hard to believe that following the Easter break, we will be in our final term of this school year. It has been a hectic term but a most rewarding one. Competitions were back in GAA and chess and new projects took place with great success! Our Junior Infants will be facing into their final term as the 'new kids on the block' and our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils, who have been amazing role models so far, will join us for their last term of this chapter of their education. But before we somersault into term three, take a few minutes to catch up with all that was completed in the month of March of term two.*



### **From Cluckingham Palace to Hensington Palace- new members arrived at our school community**

The month of March reached new heights of excitement in Piercestown National School! I doubt that the arrival of actual royalty would have even rivalled this event. Ms Sinnott and her class were home to an incubator and some eggs. The process was documented, recorded and experienced near and far throughout our school community!!!! I would say that many, if not all of you, heard about the arrival of our four chicks! The incubator (Cluckingham Palace) was funded by the Tractor run and added the most wonderful teaching and learning experience for our entire school community. Word has it, that the rehearsal of First Confession, was even paused to announce the birth of 'another chick! Having outgrown their first home in 24 hours, the four chicks soon moved to their new home, that of 'Hensington Palace' (also located in Ms. Sinnott's room). Unfortunately, our newest family members will 'fly the nest' at Easter and head off to their forever home on the farm. Many thanks to Ms. Sinnott's class for being so generous in sharing this life experience with us. It will live in our memories for years to come!

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Congratulations to all thirty-four pupils who made their First Confession on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Their preparation, participation and reverence were to be commended. They did their teachers, their school, their families, and their Parish so proud! Special thanks to Ms Sinnott, Miss Farrell, Bryan, Fiona and Pat for all of their work in the lead up to this unique and inspiring event. Many thanks to Fr. Aodhán for his lovely service and reminding us of the warm welcome that awaits each one of us in our church! Thanks to pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> class who worked alongside Ms. Sinnott's class to add to the ambience on the day. Finally, to you the parents and children of 2<sup>nd</sup> class, many thanks for working alongside us as we make the journey of faith with your children towards May 27<sup>th</sup> and that of the Holy Communion. We look forward to this day in a special way.

### **Green Team update!**

This March 22<sup>nd</sup> the Green Schools Committee held our 'Action Day' as part of the application for our Green Flag renewal - 'Global Citizenship - Energy'. This theme gave our school the chance to revise our theme of energy and to look at the issues surrounding energy use in our homes, school and our responsibilities in relation to Climate Change globally. The team have been hard at work the past few months gathering information through surveys, completing projects and generally educating themselves and their classmates on these issues. In preparation for our 'Action Day' we provided each class with suitable resources and lessons on various topics ranging from Climate Change, Energy usage and litter and the impact it has on our planet and ecosystems. We gathered storybooks, picture books and read-alouds to be used in conjunction with these resources. As well as this, the committee have been working on individual projects such as - Marine Environment, Where our energy comes from, Energy miles used in Food and Fairtrade and sustainability which they presented to all the classes. They also had quizzes and interactive games to do with the students. The classes really enjoyed the day and learned a lot from it – which was evident in our revised surveys and questionnaires. The Green Schools committee thoroughly enjoyed the chance to present their work and have massively grown in confidence since starting their projects. We have gathered all of our information and have submitted our application for the flag so fingers crossed we will be successful and have some good news to share in the coming weeks.

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class 'Say Yes to Espagnol!'

It's amazing how much language children can learn in even a brief period, especially when they are highly motivated and engaged in fun activities. This was very evident in recent weeks when 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class participated in Spanish lessons as part of a DES initiative called 'Say Yes To Language.' We were delighted to welcome Montse Walsh into our school each week to facilitate the lessons, and the enthusiasm she had for teaching her native language and working with the children was second to none! Over the course of the eight week programme, the children learned how to introduce themselves and go on to have simple conversations where they greeted each other and asked questions about how they are feeling, where they come from, what age they are and so on. Games and activities were also used to teach the children new vocabulary such as colours, numbers, animals, days of the week, months of the year and more. For the final session, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes joined together for a fun-filled morning in the PE hall. They played lots of games and had great fun competing against each other, with plenty of friendly rivalry between the classes! Afterwards, the children had the opportunity to try some Spanish food, with some delicious homemade dishes made fresh by Montse herself earlier that morning. Before the final adios, Montse gave each class an amazing cake made up of all sorts of sweets, a feast for the eyes as well as for the mouth! Muchos gracias to Montse for all her work with the children. Check out our website for a video of this very successful initiative!

### Big Birthday Shout Outs - April!

We would like to wish the following children a big happy birthday: Daithí from Junior infants; Reuben and Anna from Senior infants; Beth and Kate from 1<sup>st</sup> class; Amelia, Polly and Aaron from 2<sup>nd</sup> class; Aoibhínn F from 3<sup>rd</sup> class; Roan and Tiarnan from 4<sup>th</sup> class; Callum and Rian from Ms. Sinnott's class. We hope you all enjoy your special day!!!



*"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday dear Daithí, Reuben, Anna, Beth, Kate, Amelia, Polly,  
Aaron, Aoibhínn, Roan, Tiarnan, Callum and Rian.  
Happy birthday to you."*

### Student Council – and the successful candidates are.....

As we went to press last month, the elections had yet to take place. On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March, the count was complete, and the results were in. After much campaigning, the school eagerly awaited the announcement. As detailed in the original timelines, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March the Students Council for 2023 were announced over the intercom. So without further delay, we would like to formally congratulate and introduce you to our New Students Council; from 3<sup>rd</sup> class Aoibhínn Field and Donagh McGee, from 4<sup>th</sup> class Izzie Mernagh and Meabh Ahern, from 5<sup>th</sup> class Kelly Power and Seán Power and finally from 6<sup>th</sup> class Olivia Ponzi and Estelle Gooden. The grass wasn't allowed grow under their feet, and they gathered for their first meeting with Ms Walsh on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The parameters were outlined, and the Students Council took the school for their first assembly on March 15<sup>th</sup> to explain their role, how to contact them and their plans for the immediate future. And as of this month, your newsletter input will come from the Students Council themselves. So, without further delay, I will input the first update from Kelly Power in 5<sup>th</sup> class. Well done to Kelly for stepping up to the plate for the first input!

### First Newsletter input from Students' Council – written by Kelly Power

Hello everyone. We would just like to say that as Students' Council, we are the voice of ALL the students in Piercestown National School. We had our first assembly on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, where we introduced ourselves and our current projects, such as the recent safety survey that will go to the Board of Management to inform the 'Child Safeguarding Statement'. Our next immediate project is to set up the noticeboard, that will be home to a suggestion box that everyone can put ideas into. We also have one other project to reveal to you after the Easter break. Watch this space.

### Equestrian Success

Congratulations to Cillian Mooney, Tommy Codd, and Jack Codd who flew the flag recently in the interschools equestrian competitions. Having had our first team enter these competitions in 2021-2022, it was wonderful to see

this being kept up. Not only were the boys extremely competitive, but they also brought home silverware to the school. Well done and keep up the great work. We love to hear of our pupils involved in a variety of activities. We would like to thank them for putting us on the Interschools Equestrian map.

### **‘World Book Day Mania’**

While there might not have been an invitation to dress up, there was great fun had by all on ‘World Book Day’. Ms. Walsh was nowhere to be seen for most of the day, with another (less friendly) principal making her presence felt. Rumour had it there was to be no talking, no laughing, no fun and some children reported hearing quotes from Roald Dahl’s book Matilda, such as, ‘I’m big, you’re small, I’m right, you’re wrong and there’s nothing you can do about it!’ We don’t think Ms. Walsh would have approved of such talk at all! Nevertheless, the two ‘World Book Day’ quizzes did go ahead, and winning teams were selected! The book fair was a HUGE success, and the evening event was blown away by the storytelling from Billy Roche and the finding of the ‘golden tickets’. The true icing on the cake, was the talented Lily Fox performing ‘There’s a hole in your bucket’ with her grandfather Billy Roche! Well done Lily and thank you for sharing your talent with us. There were reading zones and reading buddies assigned over the course of the week, with storytelling taking place in Ms. Sinnott’s class and the infant rooms. The doors in the corridors were transformed into ‘Book covers’ bringing both the creative and competitive streaks of classes (and in particular teachers!) alive. After agonising over all of the entries, Siobhán finally chose Senior infants as the worthy winners. Their door ‘Stickman’ by Julia Donaldson has earned their class an icecream party. The week finished off with some ‘World Book Day prizes’ being presented in the hall, right in time for all things literacy based to be converted to Irish for the Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023!

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023**

‘Is fearr gaeilge briste ná béarla cliste’ and never a truer word said! In many ways, as a nation we are unique in that our mother tongue is not in most cases, that of our national language. ‘Seachtain na Gaeilge’ gives us a chance to embrace our language in a fun and stress free way. It also allows us as a school community to reflect on how we teach and promote Irish and to plan for the future of our language. Over the course of the week, the children made their best efforts at the ‘cúpla focail’, they found Gaeilge in the environment for competitions, and rang 3 go dtí a 6, were ‘ag imirt cluiche biongó thar zoom’ which was brilliant use of technology and gaeilge and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our Lá Gaeilge, on the 16<sup>th</sup> March never fails to disappoint. Junior infants took inspiration from Ms. Sinnott’s chicks and performed a song about ‘Sicíní’. Senior infants were in full flight with their action song. 1<sup>st</sup> class whetted our appetite for Gaeilge and break time with their rendition of ‘Bricfeasta’. 2<sup>nd</sup> class performed ‘Leipreachán ins shuí faoin gcrann’ and we had an Irish dancing performance also by some of the girls in 2<sup>nd</sup> class. The older classes were not going to be outdone with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class whipping out the damhsa like never before and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class performing ‘Bí thost is damhsa liom’ together. 5<sup>th</sup> class entertained all classes with their rendition of Babáí Siorc ar an bhfeadóg stáin alongside a piece from the movie Shrek, after performing ‘Ireland’s Call with 6<sup>th</sup> class, accompanied by Ms. Sinnott on the low whistle. The day finished off with a prize giving ceremony to acknowledge those who gave it their best shot and left us with food for thought as to how to harness this fun approach and embed it into our daily lives to make us all more competent, confident and comfortable speaking our native language. Míle buíochas to all the family members and parents who gave the cúpla focail a go every morning at the meet and greet at the front of the school!

### **Chess Update Ficheall Competitive action!**

Our chess teams, the Masters and Buds, received an invitation following their high level of participation at the first Ficheall tournament to head to Waterford on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to compete at the highest level. Never to shy away from a challenge, Ms Hearne and the sixteen players, fifteen boys and one girl (shout out to Meabh!!) hit the road early to see what lay ahead. And they didn’t disappoint. Ms. Hearne was in touch regularly throughout the day with updates, and by lunchtime both teams were leading. The intensity continued into the early afternoon, with the buds being beaten in a small number of games but still returning with silver medals. What an achievement. The Masters blew the teams away and remained at the top of the leaderboard bringing home gold.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March saw Mr. Eamonn Barrett, former principal, arrive to school to present our chess winners from our school competitions, and for the first year, present the Eamonn Barrett plaque to the overall winner. The gold medal winner from 3rd Class was Santiago Fortune, with Eoin Durnan and Donagh McGee in silver medal spot and James Devereux picking up a bronze medal. In Fourth Class Meabh Ahern was flying the flag for the girls in gold medal position, with Rogan Suntar and Tiarnán Quigley in Silver and Daniel Jordan and Jack O'Hanlon in bronze medal position. From 5th Class Joseph Collier received gold with Jack Suntar receiving silver and Seamus Shinkwin and Sean Power getting their bronze medals. In 6th Class John Kenny was in gold medal spot, Charlie Tenanty in silver and Luke Kelly and Tommy Codd jointly in bronze medal position. Congratulations to John Jenny in 6<sup>th</sup> class. This plaque follows on from the Fr. Curtis trophy which is now homed in Ms. Walsh's office. This is a wonderful record in history of all the winners since the 1980's. We look forward to the Eamonn Barrett plaque continuing for many decades to come as we continue to uphold this much loved tradition in our school. Many thanks to Ms. Hearne. Without her commitment and chess (and maths) prowess, our pupils would not still have this amazing skillset.

### **Mini 7s and Rackard League- Update**

The Rackard league came back into focus in March as the many various weather conditions caused havoc in organising and executing games. The month began with our first day out in Mini 7's. In a very tough group we lost out to our rivals Rathangan (who had knocked us already out of the football too) before we defeated a gallant Rosslare team. There was great effort and skill shown by the boys after losing the first game to take pride in. In Rackard league eventually we had our first game after 2 weeks of organising against Blackwater at home. On a wet, cold, horrible day the boys pushed through the conditions and came out on the winning side by 4 points against a very good Blackwater team. The weather conditions made a fast game difficult as we came out 2-5 to 1-4 victors. In our second game we were home again to host Castlebridge. With some of our senior boys out injured and sick it was going to be a difficult occasion. However our boys rose to the challenge and played a superb game first against a strong breeze before in the second half slowly pulling away. The final score was 3-10 to 1-4 with all our boys getting a chance to show their stuff and more importantly keep up the momentum. With that win we have now qualified for the quarter finals of Roinn A with one game to play. The Rising stars also took to the field this month to take on both Rathangan and Rosslare. In two tremendous back and forward games against Rathangan we came out on top in one game and lost the other with all the boys getting some time on the field. In our second game versus Rosslare, we won by a single point as the boys battled all over the field to stay in the competition and show that the reserves of talent in our younger classes show promise.

The girls kicked off their Rackard league camogie season with a trip to Rathangan on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. The girls from Murrinstown and Piercestown quickly gelled together and put in a very strong performance to emerge as comfortable winners on the day. Following on from this, on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, they faced a sterner test as they took on the girls from Barntown. The Piercestown girls were looking to reverse the result from the mini 7s and in torrid weather conditions they didn't come up short and won on a scoreline of 3 – 5 to 4 points. They battled the wind and the rain and even a hailstone shower on the day and still the improvement from our first session together was evident. The remaining group game against Bannow has unfortunately been called off due to adverse weather and playing conditions and will be rescheduled to take place on the first week back after Easter. We look forward to the knockout stages post Easter as we will progress into the quarter finals of the 'A' competition either as group winners or runners up following on from the fixture against Bannow. They will hold a training session over Easter in preparation for this and the girls are keeping the dream alive of going one better than they did in the football Rackard League competition where they were beaten in the final of the competition.

### **Basketball League**

March saw us stage the quarter and semi-finals of the basketball lunchtime league with extra time even required to split two of the semi-finalists. This Wednesday we held the final of this competition in front of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class. It was a tightly fought game with the victors winning on a scoreline of 8 points to 4. A huge well done to all the children from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class who chose to take part and for many it was their first taste of playing a new sport and it was great to see their skills progress throughout the competition. A special congratulations to the winning team of Alex Frayne, Seamus Shinkwin, Cora Roche, Ava Quirke, John Kenny and Lucia Moore. We look forward to continuing

our lunchtime leagues post Easter when hurling season is in full swing with the knockout stages of our Rackard Leagues and our much-loved hurling lunchtime league commences.

### **School Books Announcement from the DES for school year 2023 2024**

You will probably have heard the good news in the news or on social media, about the school books grant for all primary schools for September 2023. In essence, parents will not have to pay for textbooks, workbooks or copybooks. This is a welcome announcement for all involved. Guidance was issued to the school last week on how this will operate and we look forward to working on this in the coming months. We will issue communication to you the parents in the coming week to keep you in the loop.

### **School calendar 2023 2024**

In preparation for the next school year and to facilitate parents of new children starting, the work behind the scenes on our school calendar took place and the return date and dates within were ratified by the Board at its recent meeting.

**Our return date ratified by the Board of Management is Wed 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 for all pupils.** We will issue the calendar shortly after Easter when the dates for our sacraments have been pencilled in.

### **Primary Curriculum Framework – all schools to close for ½ day this year – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Minister Foley launched the Primary Curriculum Framework for all primary schools. Schools received a circular on that date outlining a timeline of when information would be made available to them. In accordance with this circular, **one half day must be taken by all schools before the end of this school year in order for schools to take the first step in familiarising themselves with the Primary Curriculum Framework. The chosen date is Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> – school will close at 12.30pm.** Many thanks for your co-operation and understanding. We look forward to finding out more about the new framework. The current curriculum was published in 1999, which literally can be described as the last century. In brief, at present, we know the revision of the Maths curriculum is imminent, curriculum will be recategorised as follows: Languages (English, Irish and Modern Languages); Wellbeing (Social Personal and Health Education and Physical Education); Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) Education, Arts Education (Music, Drama and Art) and Social Environmental Education (History and Geography).

### **Camán Everybody – back up and running!**

With hurling season back in swing for term two, Junior infants were eagerly awaiting the arrival of their 'camáns' as part of the Camán Everybody project as ran by Seamus our GPO coach. We were delighted on 9<sup>th</sup> March for Vanessa Kirby, Kevin Waters and Seamus to arrive to our class to present the boys and girls with their camáns. Many thanks to the Kirby family, who part sponsor the little hurleys. Ms Walsh was on hand on the day to commend and thank Ms Hearne and Mr Murphy and Pat Quigley, for all they do within our school for hurling from lunchtime leagues to Rackard league, Mini 7s and so on. Hopefully, by working alongside our local club St. Martin's the future of hurling is safe and some of us will once again experience the joy of 1996 within our lifetimes!

### **Rounders Returns**

Term three will see the return of the much-loved rounders competitions between schools. Again, rounders is another tradition associated with our school enjoyed by many. Rumour has it 6<sup>th</sup> class use the competition as intense training for when they host the parents match on graduation day!!! Many thanks to Ms. Lyttleton, Mrs. Walsh, Ms. Brady and Trish Jordan who have all offered their services this year in ensuring we can enter a boys and girls team in the competitions!

### **Daffodil Day Fundraiser 2023**

Congratulations to the school community of Piercestown NS who raised a whopping €899.20 for Daffodil day. This was an incredible amount to raise and goes to support a cause that is close to many of our hearts. Many thanks to Ms. Lyttleton for organising this event on behalf of our school. It is always nice to be able to reflect at the end of the school year on times when we were able to 'give something back' to society.

### **Educational Tours were back!**

After two long years, we have hit the road again and revived one area that we pride our school in, that in our participation in educational tours. Many thanks to the parents for funding these. As we know that term three, has the fun school tours, the school supplemented the cost of all the educational trips to ensure that they did not go over €10. First to head off, were 4<sup>th</sup> class utilising the local amenities and environment by making a trip to Wexford library and do a walking tour with Wex walks tour guide Paul Walsh. Great fun was had by all. Many thanks to Ms Taylor, Ms. Caldicott, Bryan and Pat for ensuring all had a great trip. 1<sup>st</sup> class were rained off for their trip to the Raven which will be rescheduled after Easter. Hot on their heels, senior infants, kept it local also, but spent most of Friday in 'Forest School' with Austin Gregg. This session is a must do for all classes reminding us of the learning opportunities that take place in our outdoor environment. Thank to Mrs. Ryan, Bryan and Ms. Cooney for assisting senior infants in exploring the forest! 2<sup>nd</sup> class were next to hit Forest school and headed off on Monday last. They arrived back raving about their amazing day! Many thanks to Austin for hosting so many children from Piercestown recently! What an amazing natural resource, locally, to be able to tap into.

### **Class of the Month winner for Feb/March to be announced after Easter**

With two short months, February and March were amalgamated together for 'Class of the Month'. We will announce at our first assembly after the Easter break the class that will be in receipt of their certificates, pizza party and homework pass.

### **Odd Socks Day March 21<sup>st</sup> 2023**

Piercestown school community 'rocked their odd socks' on March 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. Well done to 1<sup>st</sup> class, who went the extra mile in celebrating this day in their class by decorating the room with purple balloons. The no 21 featured as well, to represent the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome that people with Down Syndrome are born with. Mrs Walsh read the book This is Me written by George Webster a boy with Down syndrome celebrating how each one of us is different. There were some information sheets explaining how we all get 23 chromosomes from our Mother and Father, and people with Down Syndrome have an extra copy of Chromosome 21 which looks like a pair of odd socks .... Hence the odd socks day! Mrs Walsh played a child friendly information video from the Down Syndrome website, which the children found helpful. All the children in 1st class made pairs of odd socks, which they displayed on a "clothes line". Eve and Henri had fun making pizza slices with Ms Lyttleton. Odd Socks day encourages us all to have a conversation about diversity, uniqueness, inclusion and acceptance. Many thanks to Mrs. Walsh, Teresa and Ms. Lyttleton and 1<sup>st</sup> class for going the extra mile. Special thanks to Teresa who arrived at school on a day of leave to decorate the room before the children even arrived!!!

### **Purple Day – March 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 (hosted on March 27<sup>th</sup>)**

Epilepsy awareness day in Ireland takes place annually on March 26th. Never ones to miss an opportunity, we used Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March to 'get our purple' on and raise awareness. Well done to Mr Murphy, Lena and 3<sup>rd</sup> class who went the extra mile by celebrating in style with their purple by creating purple friendship bracelets for the whole class to give each other. In 3rd class they had a whole class discussion first reminding the pupils about what is epilepsy and the various forms and triggers. As a class we wanted to both celebrate the day and identify that as a class we will always unite to help each other out as shown in our bracelets. We also had some nice purple themed treats to finish off the day while enjoying a short movie too.

### **World Autism Day is officially 2<sup>nd</sup> April (hosted on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March)**

March is always a busy month on the awareness front, with World Autism Day taking place on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Again, as this would take place during a school closure, as a school community we decided to mark it on March 30<sup>th</sup> where we invited people to wear Blue. We had many classes within our school mark this awareness day. Throughout our school, there was a sea of blue in total celebration of our friends with Autism. Miss Sinnott's class officially turned blue on Thursday with blue balloons, artwork, music and (blue) foods galore! The boys and girls watched a special video, chatted about World Autism Day and our celebrations in previous years. Together with their teacher and SNAs, they made blue ice-cream, enjoyed blue treats and hosted a blue-themed party in their classroom.

### **65 Rose Day 17<sup>th</sup> April**

17<sup>th</sup> April will be the National Awareness Day for Cystic Fibrosis in Ireland. This will be our first year marking this in our school. As purple is also the colour synonymous with this day, we will invite children to wear purple. Junior infants will mark this day of awareness and information on Cystic Fibrosis will be shared in all classrooms. In school, we have decided to create our own 65 roses challenge and we will try to complete 65,000 steps as a school community on this day. One lap of our field has been calculated by Mrs. Larkin as being 320 steps. So, Junior infants alone will cover 9,600 steps. Approximately, 200 people could cover the entire 65000 steps. Therefore, all our classes will work together to complete this challenge on the Monday that we return after Easter! We will be kicking off term three being active straight away!

### **Agreed report from the Board of Management meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The Board meeting took place on March 14<sup>th</sup> and the following was the agreed report:

- Congratulations to the pupils who made the Sacrament of Reconciliation recently
- The Board of Management has ratified the arts policies i.e. drama, visual arts and music recently updated and revised by the staff.
- The Board of Management welcomes the announcement of the second ASD class. They acknowledged the work to be done ahead of this but are excited about the next chapter that lies ahead
- The Board of Management welcomes back the return of all sports such as Rackard league and Mini 7s.
- The Board of Management would like to congratulate all those who participated in the chess tournaments both in school and at Ficheall
- The Board of Management would like to commend the entire staff on all of the teaching and learning that has taken place to date and congratulates them on their participation in the new initiatives they have recently been involved in
- The school calendar options were presented and ratified and the calendar will be published this month with the return date being Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- The next Board of Management meeting will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### **A Word from the Principal**

Term two is under our belts and so much teaching and learning has taken place. It is so wonderful to see the pupils so happy and engaged in all initiatives, weeks, events that take place in our school. I am acutely aware however that this doesn't happen by chance. It comes from the home first and foremostly and for that we thank you. We appreciate how busy life is and how some of our events, require extra input whether it is wearing a particular colour, or designing a book cover, and we appreciate the huge efforts that the entire school community makes. I am also aware that we have a staff that is committed to go above and beyond and so talented and willing to share these talents. This was evident at our last Board meeting, when the Board took time to acknowledge the quality of teaching and learning. I would like to echo these sentiments, without you the parents working together with us, and without a staff willing to always keep teaching and learning fresh and up to date we wouldn't create the happy and successful learning environment that exists within our school community. I would like to wish you all a well earned rest over Easter and I look forward to what term three has in store for us.

*"Education is the passport for the future. For tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today" -Malcom X*

### **Dates for your diaries so far this year:**

- School will close for Easter holidays on Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March for Easter holidays and reopen on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- 65 Roses Day 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- 19<sup>th</sup> April Eason's Spelling Bee County final – best of luck to John in 6<sup>th</sup> class

- Six Nations Cup due to arrive Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- GAA continues on Mondays for 4 weeks
- Cricket begins for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class for 4 weeks
- Swimming continues on Fridays for 3<sup>rd</sup> class
- School will close for a half day at 12.30pm for the Primary Curriculum Framework CPD on Fri 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Confirmation Fri May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am – school is open on this day
- Annual Art exhibition May 11<sup>th</sup> 7pm
- School closed for Primary Language training Fri 12<sup>th</sup> May
- Holy Communion Sat 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023