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Dear Parents / Guardians,

Hope this email finds you well as we head into the last term of the academic year.

School Book Fair.

Our book fair arrived this week, much to the delight of the children! The Celtic Travelling Book fair brings hundreds of the best books to our school every year. The tailored selection includes something for every age, ability and interest. It is a wonderful opportunity for classes to browse through the books with their class teacher and spend time reading in the hall. You are very welcome to call in and have a look at the books with your daughter, the book fair will be here until 26th April. The benefits of reading for children are immense - improves concentration and memory, broadens vocabulary and develops writing skills, enhances knowledge, improves concentration and memory, helps in relaxation and is very beneficial for overall wellbeing. You can have a look at the following link for more information

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<https://bookfairs.scholastic.ie/travelling-books/the-books>

Our school will receive 60% rewards in free books for running the book fair which is wonderful.

Mountrath Library.

Our 3rd, 4th classes visited the library just before Easter, participating in a 'Fighting Words' workshop. The girls really enjoyed their visit, thanks Triona (librarian) for the invite.

Creative Schools.

All classes were very busy this week working with Aideen from Creative Schools. The children used recyclable materials to make very interesting figures and models! These are currently on display in the hall if you would like to have a look. Pictures will also be posted on our twitter page and school website so you can have a look there. Thanks Ms. Pearson for successfully entering our school in the Creative Schools Programme.

The Magical Leaders Programme and Transition to Secondary.

This term our 5th, 6th class girls will be participating in The Magical Leaders Programme. This is a peer-led learning experience, focusing on giving students a voice and improving their oracy and communication skills, also building self-esteem and self-confidence. The programme teaches and practices foundation life skills such as communication skills, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. It is sponsored by Enterprise Ireland. Thanks Ms. Kilmartin for helping to organise this.

Our 6th class girls will complete a transition programme over the coming weeks - helping them prepare for the move to post-primary school, thanks Ms. Whelan (HSCL) for organising.

School Sports / Activities.

Our **camogie team** is back out on the pitches these days! Best of luck Ms. Sheppard and girls this season.

Ms. Brereton and 3rd, 4th have commenced their **swimming lessons** in Portlaoise Leisure Centre. Thanks to our Parents' Council for covering the cost of the weekly bus.

We are continuing to '**Run Around Ireland**' every morning! This is a great way to build physical activity into the school day and to bring learning outdoors. It supports the Athletics strand of the PE curriculum and helps develop a good running technique. Thanks Ms Brereton (Active Schools Coordinator) for getting us moving!

Heritage in Schools.

We welcome Vincent O' Sullivan to our school today (Heritage in Schools). He will be working with all classes, exploring with the children the daily life of a busy farmer and how mainstream methods of farming differ from the traditional model. We might even get to make butter and grind corn into flour!

No school on 2nd May.

To let you know that the children will **not have school on 2nd May** (day after bank holiday). This is to facilitate teacher training on the Primary Language Curriculum and the Primary Curriculum Framework.

Hope you have a lovely weekend,

Slán tamall,

M. Rohan.