



**Abbeyleix South
National School**

Scoil Náisiúnta Mainistir Laoise Theas

March 2019

Hello Everyone:

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We are always busy with lots of exciting things happening here in Abbeyleix South National School.

Lego Engineering and Robotics Workshop

Our Christmas treat for all pupils this year was with Learn it Educational Solutions. Junior Infants up to Second Class experienced a workshop of designing, building and experimenting using Lego models with motors and sensors. First and Second Class made catapults with their lego having followed instructions in a manual. They then had a competition to see who would succeed in shooting a rubber band into a container from a certain distance. Our pupils from Third to Sixth Class built complex lego mechanisms in their Robotics Workshops using software. They also designed, programmed and controlled robots. This Christmas treat was funded by our Senior Infants' parents who organised a Hallowe'en Disco to raise money for many workshops this year. A wonderful workshop which our pupils enjoyed tremendously.



Our Nativity Play

We performed our Nativity Play for our parents, grandparents, relations and friends on Sunday 16th December in St. Michael and All Angels' church at 7 p.m. A tremendous performance by all of our pupils. The singing was fantastic and the teachers were very proud of the pupils' enthusiasm and participation. A lot of hard work and preparation goes into preparing the children for this play but on the night we reap the rewards. Well done to all our wonderful pupils. We are very proud of them.



Christmas Party

This year once again we arranged for Papa Noni's Restaurant to supply cooked food for our children's Christmas party. This was followed by a treat of ice-cream. Lucky children!

Gymnastics

All pupils participated in Gymnastics during January. This workshop was run by Mountmellick Gymnastics Club.



Open Night for Prospective Parents and Pupils

Thank you to our Parents' Association who served teas to our prospective parents during a busy evening in our school on 31st January. The children settled in well in the Junior room playing with lots of toys and experiencing the interactive whiteboard quite happily. An exciting and enjoyable evening. It is a great opportunity for parents and pupils to see our school and to meet with some of our teachers.

Computer Coding Classes

Pupils from 5th and 6th class are lucky to be experiencing Computer Coding classes this term with Mr. Carroll, one of our teachers in our school.

School Details

Telephone no 057- 8731920

Email address
abbeyleixsouthns@gmail.com

Website: www.abbeyleixsouthns.ie

Blog www.abbeyleixsouthns.scoilnet.ie

Search for us on FACEBOOK

Abbeyleix Christmas Market

Thank you to all who turned up on Saturday 8th December for the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Abbeyleix. Our pupils sang and represented our school so well.

Library Visit

First and Second Class enjoyed a visit to Abbeyleix Library recently. They were given the opportunity to experience some lego building there also as well as time to relax with a fantastic range of books . What a wonderful facility for us to enjoy.

Pupil / Teacher / Parent Workshop

This year we organised Pat Courtney of "Anti-Bullying Services to visit our school on Thursday 24th January when he provided a workshop for our pupils during the school day, for our teachers after school hours and our parents were invited to attend a workshop that evening. Topics covered were bullying, cyber bullying and Internet Safety.

School Self-evaluation (SSE)

As part of our School Self-evaluation one of our priorities for the period 2018—2020 is Whole School Wellbeing. Our parents have received our draft "Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice". They have also completed a short questionnaire based on Whole School Wellbeing.

Work Experience

We were delighted to welcome the following past pupils back to our school on work experience: Joseph Stanley, Alicia Stanley, Kate Feeney.

We were also delighted to have Hannah Ward complete her school placement with us as she works to complete her training as a Primary School teacher and to have Tracy Breen work with us for her work experience in the Junior Room.

Digital Schools of Distinction Award

We were thrilled to receive the news that we had been awarded “Digital School of Distinction Award”, a nationally recognised award accredited by the Department of Education and Skills. On 16th November we received a visit from Neil O’Sullivan, Digital Schools of Distinction evaluator to access our performance against the Digital Schools Criteria. Prior to this visit we partook in a long application procedure and provided Neil with lots of information pertaining to the use of ICT in our school.

This award confirms that we are engaging in best practice as regards digital media and that we are integrating ICT into all aspects of our teaching and learning. To have been given this prestigious award is a great honour. Our award ceremony took place on Wednesday 20th February. A special and joyous occasion for all as parents were invited to visit each classroom where the children showcased their IT skills. Two very important ladies, our office staff, Hazel Wellwood and Avril Twiss raised the flag and parents then enjoyed some refreshments.



Child Safeguarding Statement

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mrs Ruth Wallace .

Our Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is Ms. Geraldine Whiteford. She has replaced Mrs. Orla Mythen who is on Maternity Leave.

Dates for your Diary

Parents’ Association Fundraising

Annual Easter quiz- Thursday 11th April

Sponsored Bluebell Walk and possible treasure hunt - Sunday 28th April



Funday - Picnic and Games —(non fundraising event - Sunday 9th June. Service at 11.30 a.m.

Forth coming Events

The Ash Wednesday Service will be attended by our pupils on Wednesday 6th March at 9.30 p.m. in St. Michael and All Angels ‘ Church.

Heritage in Schools Workshop

Our second Heritage in Schools visit was from Pat Broderick on 10th December. During this workshop our pupils made their very own butter using the old churn and butter spades.



Two Baby Girls

Heartiest congratulations to Ms. Kelly on the safe arrival of her daughter Chloe and to Mrs. Mythen on the safe arrival of her daughter Millie. We are delighted for you both.



An Afternoon of Music, Song and Dance

First and Second Class pupils performed for their parents, grandparents, relations and friends at a concert of music, song and dance on Friday 8th February and they did a magnificent job! They played two songs on their recorder, sang eleven songs, Irish and English and then they performed two Folk Dances to round off the afternoon. It was a great afternoon and was enjoyed by all. Parents even tried their hand at one of the folk dances and did themselves proud. There were weeks of rehearsals but it was worth all the hard work. Mrs. Wallace was so proud of her pupils' performance. Well done everyone and thanks to Ms. Lynam, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy and Hazel for lending a helpful hand with the refreshments on the day. Thanks also to the parents who helped tidy up after the concert. Everyone's help was much appreciated.



New Staff

We welcomed in January Mrs Marian Kenny and Mr Mark Carroll who are covering Maternity leave for Mrs. Mythen and Ms. Kelly.