



The Shountrade Scéal



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2025

Welcome to the April edition of 'The Shountrade Scéal'. It's wonderful to see all the smiling faces around the school again after the Easter holidays. We hope everyone had a restful break and is ready for the final term of the school year. This is always an exciting and busy time, filled with learning, celebration, and special events.

April has already brought some fantastic moments. One of the highlights has been the return of our much-loved Fun Friday Circuits. We also had our Easter term Accelerated Reader assembly this April. It was amazing to see the number of points each team had gathered over the course of the term! Another exciting event this month was the announcement of our Summer League teams for the pupils from fourth to sixth class. There's a real buzz of excitement as students prepare to take part in the friendly competition and show great teamwork and sportsmanship. A very special milestone was also reached by our Second Class pupils, who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for their First Holy Communion this May. It was a meaningful and memorable moment for the students and their families, and we are very proud of them.



Friday Fun Circuits

'Friday Fun Circuits' will be returning after the May bank holiday weekend with Mr. Costelloe and Mr. Kilcoyne.

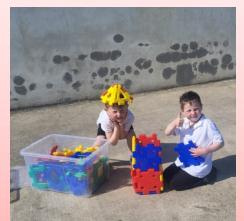
We hope to see plenty of boys and girls enjoying getting active before the school day begins. Reminder *Friday Fun Circuits* run from 8:45am - 9:00 am every Friday for the remainder of the summer term.



1st Class

We had lots of Easter fun in first class during the month of April. In science we made chocolate rice crispy buns when learning about the effects of heating and cooling. Geraldine organised a class raffle for us and some very lucky children won Easter eggs. We were working on our throwing and catching skills in P.E.

We had lots of fun on our Easter egg hunt. Each child had to find three eggs to exchange for a special Easter treat. In maths, the children are getting very good at using the hundred square and filling in missing numbers. We loved singing the song Lollipop Tree. We made popcorn while learning about our five senses in science. We made Easter egg pictures using shaving foam and paint to create a marbling effect. We started class dojo and first class are working so hard to reach our targets.



Junior & Senior Infants

April was a short but jam packed month in junior and senior infants. We started a new learning theme of the Emergency Services. We have giant cardboard houses in the classroom and the children have been very busy rescuing each other from the burning buildings. There are very brave firefighters in Shountrade this month! The children have also learned about many other emergency service providers including paramedics and the gardaí. In History the children learned about the history of firefighting and compared and contrasted the uniform, tools and fire engines used long ago with those available now.

We started literacy liftoff this month. Every day the children rotate around five learning stations – familiar and new reading, phonics, handwriting, oral language (fairy tales) and online literacy games. The children have been working very hard at each of the stations and as a result their cursive handwriting is developing beautifully, as well as their fluency in reading. Many thanks to Mr Kilcoyne, Ms Walsh and Geraldine for making the literacy hour a very enjoyable start to the day.

One of the highlights of the month was taking advantage of the good weather and taking our learning outside. The children enjoyed getting outside for maths lessons, PE and playtime.

2nd Class

Greetings from Second Class! We're buzzing with excitement as we prepare for our First Holy Communion. From practicing prayers to singing songs, we're eagerly awaiting our special day.

We've been busy learning all about weight, angles, and addition in Math. We had a blast weighing our shoes and sorting them from lightest to heaviest! During PE, we're having so much fun playing games and improving our GAA skills. The sunny weather makes it even better!

In English, we're exploring procedural writing—dreaming up all kinds of creative plans, like turning our teacher into a goat! The boys and girls are working so hard on their hand-writing and are so proud of their beautifully presented work.



One of the highlights in April was not only receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but also enjoying our Easter Egg Hunt, which brought big smiles and lots of excitement.



4th Class

In April, 4th Class had an exciting and productive month full of learning and new experiences. One of the highlights this month was undoubtedly beginning our class novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. The students have been captivated by August Pullman's story. Even though we've just started reading about Auggie's adventures we have enjoyed discussing themes like kindness, empathy, and acceptance. This novel has sparked thoughtful conversations and is helping us become more compassionate readers and classmates.

We have continued our incredible progress in Gaelige throughout the month of April. In particular we have been focusing on irregular verbs each week and have been noticing how much we use them!

Finally, in PE this month we focused on developing our kicking, catching, and throwing skills through the fun and energetic game of kickball. Everyone got involved, and it was a great way to build teamwork and improve our coordination. The students showed fantastic enthusiasm and really enjoyed the sunshine that accompanied our PE lessons this month.



3rd Class

Although April was a shorter month, it was packed with learning, fun, and special moments that made it truly memorable. We welcomed the month with enthusiasm and made the most of every day. In Religion, we focused on Holy Week and explored *The Easter Story*, deepening our understanding of this important time in the Christian calendar. To mark the end of Lent, we held a joyful Easter egg hunt which brought lots of excitement and smiles to the schoolyard! In English, we are exploring procedural writing in a creative and hands-on way—by planting vegetables in our school garden. Thankfully, the weather has been on our side, and we've already seen great progress. The garden is blossoming, and our students are enjoying learning through nature.

In Science, we've been studying the human body. The class has had fantastic discussions about bones, joints, and the importance of looking after our physical health.

We're also excited to have begun the *Friends for Life* programme with Mr. Hannon. It's already teaching us so much about kindness, empathy, and building a positive school community. We're looking forward to all that May has to offer—and we can't wait for the sunshine and adventures of the summer months ahead!



5th Class & 6th Class

Tá an áthas orainn a bheith ar ais ar scoil don téarma deir-eannach den bhliain seo. Tá an aimsir go hálainn agus táimid ag tnúth le laethanta fada te. We are looking



forward to a wonderful term. Preparations are going well for our participation in the first communion choir and we are easing gently back into all areas of the curriculum.

We are looking forward to the Askeaton Secondary School football blitz and we are hoping to defend our title as champions of the girls football competition that we won last year. Indeed our boys are hoping for success too. A busy and fun term lies ahead.