



Burriscarra N.S.  
Carnacon, Ballyglass, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

29. 3. 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Easter Newsletter. We have had a very busy term since returning to school in January. Please find below a brief outline of some of the activities our school has been participating in.

### **New School Website!**

We are delighted to announce that our school now has its own website which can be viewed at [www.carnaconns.ie](http://www.carnaconns.ie). You will find lots of information on the website such as a school blog which is linked to our school facebook page, school policies and facilities, an archive of photographs from the last few years and a lovely history of our school which past pupil Sean Hallinan has compiled.

### **School Developments**

Thanks to Martin Walsh and the workers on the CE scheme for installing a new picket fence around our school garden. They also installed much sturdier green v mesh fencing around the garden and behind the basketball posts on the junior yard. A climbing wall has also been installed on the junior yard in January which is helping the children develop fundamental movements such as agility, balance and coordination. New ipads have also been purchased to add to our stock of digital devices.



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## **School Self Evaluation - Language Curriculum**

Thank you to all parents who completed our survey for the latest stage of School Self Evaluation in our school. We are working on vocabulary development and as part of the process a facilitator from the PDST has visited our school twice since Christmas for professional development with our staff. We hope to have our school improvement plan ready before the summer holidays.

## **Ros na Réaltóg**

Ros na Réaltóg is accepting enrolments to commence immediately after the Easter holidays and for the school year commencing September 2023. Open days are currently being held every Saturday morning and all are welcome to attend. There will be an "Easter treats and activities day" at 10am this Saturday for all families in the community. It is a fantastic facility so please spread the word among family and friends both locally and further afield. For further information, please contact Roisin at (089) 2032196.

## **Junior Room Update!**

This term in the Junior Room we had lots of fun. We explored the themes of Houses and Homes, Sports and Spring in Aistear. We made our own kitchen, sitting room and bedroom in the classroom and had great fun role-playing Mum, Dad and children and we designed and built our own houses.

We learned about lots of different sports and got to try them all out.



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For our spring theme we learned about spring plants and animals. We planted chive seeds and took care of lots of different plants as we pretended to work in our classroom garden centre. We visited Mrs. Hughes' farm and got to see and hold beautiful baby lambs.

In our Maths groups we have been learning all about numbers. We learned how to compare numbers with the words bigger than, smaller than and equals and the symbols  $>$ ,  $<$ ,  $=$ . We explored how numbers fit together to make bigger numbers and how to write number sentences using the symbols  $+$  and  $=$ . We enjoy playing Maths Games on Fridays.

We used our Maths skills to measure capacity and weight on Pancake Tuesday. We made lovely pancakes and got to choose our favourite toppings.

We showed great creativity dressing up for world book day.

We had a visitor from Wild Nephin National Park who told us about native Irish animals and how they each have an important role in our ecosystem.

### **Catholic Schools Week**

Catholic Schools' week was celebrated in our school on the week beginning January 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year's theme was "Walking Together In Faith And Love". The children learned about the Pentecost, the importance of friendship and caring for the environment in all our lives.



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### **Inland Fisheries Visit**

A speaker from the Inland Fisheries visited our school in late January and spoke to the children about our rivers, waterways and the fish and plant life that live in them. The children completed work on the Something Fishy programme afterwards where they investigated water conservation and the water cycle.

### **Spanish Lessons**

The senior room children completed another module in Spanish over 8 weeks from January - March with Spanish tutor Maria Sacristan. This was a fantastic opportunity and experience for the children which they really enjoyed.

### **Coding Club**

The senior room pupils have been really enjoying our Coding Club which commenced in February and takes place every Monday. Each week, the children get the opportunity to work on the basics of computer programming.

### **School Garden**

We have had a busy time in our school garden as spring has progressed. We planted spinach and chive seeds in class and are experimenting with planting potatoes in pots. We planted acorns, chestnuts and hazels in the garden in February. We hope to install new raised beds and set potatoes tomorrow which we hope might be ready before the summer holidays. We also built our very own leaf composter!



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### **Triathlon Training**

The children had a great experience participating in this very worthwhile and exciting programme. We were delighted to partake in this initiative as we continue to be an Active School. The children received four weeks of training and completed a duathlon at school (when they ran and cycled) in late February. We also went to Lough Lannagh on March 14th and took part in a Splash And Dash event to participate in the swimming section of the triathlon.

### **Safer Internet Day**

The children took part in a range of activities on February 7th that focused on online safety. They are also completing the internet safety programme, HTML Heroes in school. All families received an invitation to an online webinar discussing internet safety.

### **World Water Day**

World Water Day was celebrated last week on March 22nd. Sean Corrigan from the National Federation Of Group Water Schemes visited our school on February 15th and spoke to the children about his work and most importantly about the importance of the Lough Carra water treatment plant. The children designed some beautiful art work on the theme water and participated in a short video to mark World Water Day which can be viewed at the following link



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpPWDYzAgjc>. Finally, we were given a very interesting tour of the Lough Carra water treatment plant on March 22nd last.

### **Pancake Tuesday**

Once again, the children had great fun on February 21st when they got to cook and most importantly eat pancakes with a variety of their favourite toppings!.

### **World Book Day**

The children in Burriscarra NS really enjoy reading and were delighted to participate in World Book Day on March 3rd. They got to dress up as their favourite character and speak about a variety of books.

### **National Museum Of Ireland Virtual Tour**

The senior room children have been learning all abouts the Vikings in History over the last few weeks and were eager to avail of the opportunity to participate in a virtual Viking tour in the National Museum in Dublin with renowned archaeologist Matthew Lester. They had a great discussion about the Vikings with Matthew and discussed a variety of artefacts that he had on show.

### **Wild Nephin National Park Visit**

We were delighted to welcome two speakers from the Wild Nephin National Park in Ballycroy on March 15th last. The children learned about a variety of habitats most especially the importance of our boglands. They learned about native Irish



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wildlife and viewed some replica wild animals and birds. They also got to use microscopes to examine some little creatures in greater detail.

### **Shared Reading**

The children in both rooms continue to participate in shared reading at home. Thank you to everyone for signing the Reading Record sheet when a book is completed.

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

In line with the Children First Act, our school has completed and reviewed our Child Safeguarding Statement. This statement is available from our school office and our school website if you would like to view a copy of it.

### **School Policies**

Our Admissions policy has also been reviewed and updated recently. This policy is available in the school office should you wish to view it or any of our other policies at any time. Our policies are also available on our school website.

### **School Absences**

If your child is absent we would appreciate a note explaining the reason for the absence when returning to school.



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Please see our calendar for the remainder of the school year.

### Burriscarra National School Closures 2022 - 2023

Month	Date of Closure	Details
April	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April School re-opens Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
May	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday Weekend
June	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Bank Holiday Weekend
June	Friday - 23 <sup>rd</sup> June (school closes for summer holidays)	Summer Holidays

Finally, on behalf of all the staff in Burriscarra NS, I would like to thank you for your continuing support and wish you all an enjoyable break during Easter.

Yours sincerely,

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James Rafter

Príomhoide