**The Rock National School,**

**The Rock,**

**Mountmellick,**

**Co. Laois. R32AP98**

Éirigh don dúshlán!



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Embrace the challenge!

Principal: Mr. Liam Ahern Dep. Principal: Mrs. Michelle Kirwan

27th February 2023.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Just a few brief notices:

* 2nd class will attend St. Joseph’s Church Mountmellick for a celebration of First Penance on **Tuesday 28th February at 6.00pm**. They have been invited to return to the school by the Parents’ Council for refreshments afterwards.
* Indoor athletics will begin for 1st, 2nd, 3rd classes on **Wednesday 1st March** and continue each **Wednesday until 22nd March**. The children can wear their PE tracksuits on those 4 Wednesdays. All costs will be taken care of by the Board of Management.
* The school has been offered 3 ‘free’ swimming lessons…all classes were put into a hat and 2nd & 3rd were delighted to be pulled out! Those 3 days are **Monday 6th, Monday 13th, Monday 20th March.** Again the BOM will take care of the cost of the buses.
* We have begun Speech & Drama classes with Sonya Cuddy. They will be on Wednesdays for all classes and the BOM will pay the costs involved.
* James O’Connor continues his singing classes!
* The parent-teacher meetings were very well attended(over 98% of parents/guardians attended to date).
* We intend to have Dale McKay take 1st-6th for some percussion classes in the near future!
* Hurling & camogie coaching has begun for 5th & 6th classes…our first Cumann na mBunscol matches are about the 21st/23rd March. Rounders has begun for 5th & 6th also.
* The FAI soccer 5 a side competition takes place in Portlaoise on Thursday 9th March….again it will be 5th & 6th classes involved.
* Míle buíochas for your generosity in collecting €1050 for Concern…the people of Turkey & Syria will hopefully see the benefit of this in the coming weeks.
* The last day before the Easter holidays is Friday 31st March. School will finish at 12.00 on that day.
* Well done to AJ Connolly who came joint third in an eight school chess competition recently at our school! We also entered a ‘Ficheall’ competition at Scoil Phádraig Portarlington where our children(16 of them!) performed very well!
* We will have some dress up days for Lent. Children can dress as per theme but please don’t buy any additional clothes! A small contribution towards charity is appreciated…we will support Trócaire & PATH this year.

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| **DAY/DATE** | **THEME** |
| **Friday 3rd March** | **Hat/cap day, Music day or Wild West day!** |
| **Friday 10th March** | **Jersey day** |
| **Thursday 16th March** | **Ireland day** |
| **Friday 24th March** | **Pyjama day** |

* Our Cake Sale/Coffee afternoon resumes after a few years & will take place on **Wednesday 29th March**. It will take place 1.30-2.30pm at the school. Please use the entrance at the rear of the school. Like previous years, the two classrooms at the front of the school will be used for adults only (tea/coffee in one room and cake sale in the other) and one classroom at the back of the school will be used for the children. We recommend €1-€2 per child. Children/adults can bring in buns/scones/cakes/biscuits etc on the morning of the cake sale. More details to follow!

As you can see there will be a lot happening in March!

Le gach dea-ghuí,

**Liam Ahern**

Mr. L. Ahern