**Induction Day**

The Induction Day for the new 2011/12 class of Junior Infants was held on Wednesday 1st June. Parents were introduced to their teachers, Miss O’Grady and Miss O’Sullivan, and given useful information regarding the school, and what to expect on the Junior Infant curriculum. This was also a wonderful opportunity for the new Junior infant class to familiarise themselves with our school, and some of the teachers in the hope that it will make their first day of school a less daunting experience.

There will be a new teacher approved by DES and this appointment will be made over the summer. Mrs Kelly will be on maternity leave, and Ms Killeen will be on a career break.

## All Weather Pitch

## We hope to have a new all weather pitch installed over the summer. The €50 family contribution will go towards the cost of this pitch. We are also asking parents to contribute €2 per week for the coming school year until the pitch is fully paid for. We would really appreciate your support with this, as this pitch will be a huge addition to our school, we thank parents in advance for contributing what they can.

**School Uniform**

Just one very important reminder, if buying new school shoes for September, please remember that **only** black runners or black shoes are acceptable, this will be strictly enforced from the beginning of the new school year. The new crested school tracksuit has been available from mid June, sizes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 – Tops €19.50, Bottoms €18.50. Size 13 small adult to XL adult tops €20.50, bottoms €21.99. Supplier for our school uniforms is Kidstuff, 31 George’s Street, Newbridge, for any further enquiries phone (045) 486445.

To conclude we would like to thank the past Parents Association for their fantastic work, so a big thanks to Lorraine Percival, Ann Molloy, Linda Hynes, Shelly Kelly, Barbara Mahoney, Miriam Lyons, Mary O’Mahony and Jean Gillespie. It was a pleasure working with all of you, and your support won’t be forgotten. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a happy and safe summer and we look forward to seeing you all again on August.

Hello all, agus Dia daoibh go léir, well it’s the end of another busy school year, and we must say it absolutely flew, where has the time gone? We’ve welcomed new Junior Infants, Grandparents, parents and many others to the school this year. We’d also like to take this opportunity to also welcome our new Parents Association who have been very supportive throughout the year. Here’s a quick run down of some of the events and news throughout the year.

**Christmas Concerts**

Rehearsals were in full-swing for the Christmas concert from about October of last year, unfortunately due to the blizzard like conditions and treacherous roads we were forced to postpone the concert until January, however, it was well worth the wait, Ms Parle/Mr Flanagan – ‘It’s a Cracker’, Ms S. O’Grady & Ms D. O’Grady – ‘Cinderella Rockafella’ and last but not least Mrs Kelly/Ms Poole & Mr Brouder ‘Whoopsa Daisy Angel’. Well done to all the children and teachers involved, everyone could see that so much work and effort went into these plays and it really cheered us up after all the bad weather!!!

February 17th saw us host a **‘Grandparents Day’**

We also had a cake sale and mass was celebrated by Fr. Moore. It was a fantastic day and it was evident from looking around, that the grandparents really enjoyed visiting the classes and interacting with the teachers and students. Many grandparents were very impressed with the usage of the interactive boards, and some of our students gave impressive demos on how we use these boards. We would also like to extend this opportunity to thank the Parents Association for all their hard work and support throughout the day, they provided the much needed refreshments for the grandparents which included tea, coffee and sandwiches. Parents Association also hosted a Pancake Day, all pancakes were generously donated by Superquinn, and this enabled us to raise funds for the Parents Association.

March saw preparations accelerate for the **First Holy Communion** class. They made their First Confession 23rd March in Allen Church. From then on the children were getting very excited, the big day finally arrived on Sun 29th May in Allen Church, the boys looked very handsome and smart in their suits, and the girls looked absolutely beautiful in their dresses. A big thanks to the children, Ms. Killeen and Mr. Flanagan for all their hard work preparing for this.

6th Class made their **Confirmation** on 7th April in Allenwood Church, the children were beautifully behaved and the singing was fantastic. Many thanks to Ms O’Grady and the children for all their hard work in preparing for this special day.

**The Tidy Towns** are doing a magnificent job of planting new plants, and watching out for litter. On Friday 27th May, some children from various classes planted some beautiful flowers in the boat, and on another little patch further up the road. Many, many thanks to Liam Murphy, Tidy Towns Committee and anyone else who’s involved with this project, it’s really appreciated by all, and is further strengthening community spirit. Please remember our motto ‘Don’t Litter Our Roads’. We can all play a part being vigilant for litter!! We also had a Tidy Towns Signs Competition, children from 1st Class up to 6th had to design their own anti-litter posters, and we must say we were all mighty impressed with the talent, there were some wonderful imaginative posters. It was very difficult to choose just 20 winning posters, these are dotted around the village, so keep an eye out for them. Well done to all children who were involved, and for all their hard work.

**Green Schools**

Still working on 4th Green Flag for transport. Children are applying for positions on Green Schools Committee for the new school year 2011/2012. Kath Poxon paid three visits to school to do workshops on travel theme. Children also participated in National Bike Week. We would still like to encourage children to walk or cycle on Wednesdays, well done to all those who are.

**Parish Sports**

The Parish Sports evening kicked off at about 5.30 on Wed 25th May, a great evening was had by all. Milltown, Allen, Allenwood boys and girls and Roberstown schools all attended, there was a fantastic turn out, and some very impressive racing! Other activities on the night included penalty shoot out, guess how many sweets in a jar, book sale, cake sale, guess the name of the teddy and a wonderful barbeque which proved to be very popular once all the races were finished, we all heard how lovely the burgers were!! We would like to say a big thanks to Robertstown Athletic Club for helping with all the organising, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

**Swimming**

All children from 2nd – 6th class enjoyed their swimming sessions in K-Leisure, before Christmas. We hope to run our swimming sessions again around mid-April 2012, more information will be available nearer the time.

**Basketball, Football and Hurling Training**

We would like to say a big thanks to Louise McDonald, Chris Byrne and our teachers for all their dedicated work with the children. Looking at this year’s performance the other schools in Kildare had better watch out, and be on their toes because we have some very strong teams coming up!!

**Tours**

5th and 6th classes went to the Tutankhamun exhibition in RDS. They viewed real artefacts and original hieroglyphics, the day was rounded off by a visit to The Memorial Park in Islandbridge. Ms O’Grady commended the children on their exemplary behaviour while on this trip, so well done to all the children for making our school proud.

5th and 6th class have also been studying the vegetation around the canal, they took pictures and collected different types of flora and fauna, using reference books they were enabled to identify what they saw. They spotted a Moor Hen, some Mallard Ducks and even some White Ducks, David Attenborough watch out!!!!!

Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class went on their school trip to Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park. This trip was particularly exciting for some brave Junior Infants as it was their first trip away from Mammy or Daddy. All children enjoyed the tour, we played in the indoor and outdoor playgrounds, took a train trip around the bog, visited the pet farm and saw Alpacas, Falabella horses, a donkey, a wallaby, goats, ducks and pot bellied pigs, the Fairy Village was magical, we saw where the tooth fairy actually lives, there’s even a train track in the fairy village that disappears underground, Eddie our guide told us that no one has a clue where, or who it leads to!! We also saw the where the straw house landed, that the big bad wolf blew down in the ‘3 Little Pigs’ story, and we visited the bears’ cottage, from the story ‘Goldilocks and the three little bears’.

**Fun Activity Day** took place on Monday 20th June

Fun activity day was a great success, and all children from 2nd – 6th thoroughly enjoyed it. There was Tug of War, an inflatable obstacle course, go karting, lots of fun team building games and parachute games. All children in the school were very excited to see the ice-cream van arrive in the afternoon, and all children from Junior Infants up enjoyed their ice-creams.

**Rental Scheme**

The rental book scheme is in full swing and proving very popular, there’s been a huge take up and interest in this scheme.

**Digital School Award**

We received our digital school evaluation report, below is a brief synopsis of the report

*“The seamless use of ICT in class is most impressive in this school. The confidence and enthusiasm of the teachers is very exciting and contagious. The children are completely engaged with this learning culture and it is to be commended. This school is an example of ongoing excellence in the use of ICT in learning and teaching. They are a worthy example of what can be done in a small rural school.”*

Well done to Ms O’Grady, the staff and all the children for all their hard work and dedication. We are very proud of this award as only one other school in Kildare has the honour of receiving it to date! A big thank you to the parents and Board of Management who supported our efforts and helped raise the extra money that was needed to reach this high standard.