

# Spring Newsletter

## Owenbeg N.S.



## School News

### Open evening

Thank you to all who came to our open night on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February. It was a lovely evening. Thank you to all our pupils who came along to showcase their learning and school building.

### Enrolment

Enrolment for 2024/2025 is now open. Enrolment forms are available from the school office. If you have any questions, please contact the school at (096) 49253 or at [owenbegns@gmail.com](mailto:owenbegns@gmail.com).

### Spring Clean

The students and staff spent a sunny afternoon in February tidying and cleaning the grounds and classrooms of the school. Thank you to all who helped. The school looks spotless!

### Parents' Association

We have recently established a Parents' Association in Owenbeg N.S. Details on the Parents' Association and National Parents Council are available through the school website. The Parent Association is a support for parents in the school. The Parents' Association may organise events such as the annual Bake Sales, suggest/organise extra-curricular activities, fundraising opportunities, arranged talks for parents from external speakers etc. If you would like to actively involved, please contact the school.

### Board of Management

A new Board of Management was appointed recently as per Department of Education guidelines. Thank you to our outgoing Board for their time and commitment.

## School Website

We have recently updated our school website to a new platform where you can find up to date news about school activities and events. There is also a bank of information about the school, such as school policies and contact information. Our school website can be found at [www.owenbegns.ie](http://www.owenbegns.ie)

## School Facebook and Twitter page

We have set up a Facebook page for Owenbeg N.S. to keep parents/guardians and the wider Easkey community updated on school activities, events and school news. You can find it by following this link [Owenbeg NS Facebook](#), or searching 'Owenbeg N.S.' on the Facebook app. Please note school social media pages are not for pupil use. Information on how the social media pages will be used are detailed in our Acceptable Use Policy on the school website.

## Graduation and End of Year Celebration

We will be holding a Graduation ceremony for our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils and an End of Year celebration on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This celebration will be for all pupils and their families. Save the date and we hope to see you there! Time TBD.

## Literacy

### An Post Handwriting Competition

The Junior Room have been working very hard on their entries to the An Post Handwriting Competition. Ms. McAndrew's class wrote letters explaining how they will contribute to the growth, wellbeing, and sustainability of Ireland and used their best handwriting in their letters too. Well done everyone.

### World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated in Owenbeg N.S. on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. Pupils dressed up as characters from their favourite books. The Junior Room participated in a webinar with Axel Sheffler and we had a whole school quiz.



## Whole Wild World Bus Tour

We are delighted to have been chosen as a stop on the *Whole Wild World* Bus tour on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Led by the children's laureate Patricia Forde, this bus tour will bring a multi-coloured bus load of Irish children's authors and illustrators to Owenbeg N.S. to work with the children on creativity. The theme of the tour is 'Making it up as you go along'. We are one of 11 schools chosen in Ireland for the bus tour and the children have been very busy creating their own creative worlds and books in preparation for the visit. Watch this space!

## Gaeilge

### Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhain na páistí an-taitneamh as Seachtain na Gaeilge ar scoil i mbliana. Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ó 1ú - 17ú Márta. Ghlac gach rang páirteach i gcéilí sa halla. Chomh maith le sin, bhí tráth na gceist ar siúl freisin. Bhuaigh foireann le Luke, Merrilees, Fiadh agus Ava an tráth na gceist. Rinne na ranganna cluichí, amhráin agus dánta i rith an coicíse freisin.

*The children really enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge at school this year. Seachtain na Gaeilge took place from 1st - 17th March. Each class took part in a ceili in the hall. There was also an Irish quiz. Luke, Merrilees, Fiadh and Ava's team came first in the quiz. All classes also performed games, songs and poems throughout the fortnight.*



### St Patrick's Day

We were delighted to participate in the Easkey St. Patrick's Day parade this year. Thank you to all the students, families and friends of the school who came and marched in the parade with us. Well done also to all the children who designed posters to advertise the parade around Easkey Village.



# STEM

## €10,000 STEM Grant

We are thrilled to announce that Owenbeg N.S. has been in receipt of a STEM education grant from the Department of Education to the value of €10,000. After a lengthy and detailed application, we were chosen from over 2,700 schools in Ireland and sanctioned the funds to implement our project “*Developing 21st Century Skills Through Teaching and Learning in Sustainability and Outdoor Learning*”.



### New devices and Lego Spike kits

Using the STEM grant, we have purchased 10 new touchscreen devices, a secure charging trolley and 10 LEGO Spike kits. All pupils have already put these devices and Lego kits to good use and we look forward to using them more in the months and years to come.



### Engineers' Week

Engineers' Week took place in March in Owenbeg N.S. All classes took part in a variety of engineering-based activities and learned how engineering is used in our everyday lives. We had an Engineering Fair in the hall, with students from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> class completing projects at home to showcase at the fair. We had pinball machines, vending machines, kinetic energy vehicles, egg parachutes, balloon cars, prosthetic hands and more! They were absolutely brilliant. Well done to everyone who took part and visited the fair in the hall.

## Sport

### Mini Sevens

Well done to our Girls' Mini Sevens team who reached the Sligo semi-final stage of the competition. This is a massive achievement for a school of our size and shows the heart and determination of our students, parents and school. Thank you to all our supporters throughout the competition. A special thanks to Shane Feeney for all his help in coaching the girls.



### FAI Soccer

Well done to our 5-a-side teams who participated in the FAI tournaments in MacSharry Park in Sligo. Both teams played excellent soccer and were great ambassadors for the school.

### Swimming

The Junior Room will be participating in swimming lessons in Waterpoint for six weeks, starting on the 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### GAA Football Training

All classes have been availing of GAA football training with CDO Alan Duffy recently. Thank you to Easkey GAA for facilitating this.

## Arts Education

### St. Mary's School Musical

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Class recently attended the school musical 'Time After Time' in St. Mary's Secondary School. It was fantastic and they had a great day.

### Kevin Lee wins National Credit Union Competition

A huge congratulations to Kevin Lee in 6th Class, who has come first in Ireland in the Credit Union Art Competition in his age category! Representing Ballina Credit Union, Kevin Lee accepted his prize in Croke Park with his parents, Ms Ruane and Ms Casey on Sunday the 11th of February 2024. Kevin Lee drew a very detailed picture of St. Muredach's Cathedral in Ballina and the Moy river beat, where he enjoys fishing. We are all very proud of Kevin Lee on his fantastic achievement. Well done Kevin Lee!



# Gallery



## Sacraments

### First Confession

Well done to Donnacha, James, Patrick and Rosie who celebrated their First Confession in St. James' Church, Easkey on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Thank you to our choir who sang so beautifully on the night and a special thanks to Ms. Casey who accompanied the choir on the piano.

### First Communion

First Communion will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 12:00pm in St. James' Church, Easkey. Best wishes to Donnacha, James, Kyson, Patrick and Rosie.

Thank you for your continued support!

Happy Easter!