

Coralstown National School

Coralstown,

Mullingar,

Co. Westmeath



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## **April 2023 Newsletter**

**Confirmation:** Congratulations to the children who made their Confirmation recently in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar. We hope you all had a wonderful day and well done on all your preparation and work for the Sacrament.

**First Confession:** Congratulations also to the children who made their First Confession last week. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they continue their preparations for their First Holy Communion which will be on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> May @ 11.00am.

**Photographer:** Similarly to other years the School's photographer will be available on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May in the school, to take First Communion photographs for anyone who may wish to have them taken. A whole school photograph is available to buy this year as already notified on Aladdin. Anyone who wishes may buy any photograph First Communion, Whole School etc. but this is entirely optional.

**Accelerated Reader:** Over the last few weeks Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Fox have been busy cataloguing all the books that we have in the school. Every book has been graded, labelled and tagged so that we can implement a reading programme throughout the school. All children from 2nd to 6th class take part in this programme called **Accelerated Reader**, which is designed to do the following things:

- Find books that are the right ability for your child
- Encourage your child to read more
- Improve your child's reading ability.

### **What is Accelerated Reader?**

In short, Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. Accelerated Reader gives children and teachers, feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. We will be sending out more information to parents through Aladdin outlining exactly what is involved and how you can help your child to improve their reading. The main goals of this programme are that your child **chooses** what they want to read, through doing so they **improve** their reading but most importantly that they **enjoy** their reading and become life-long readers.

**Active Schools:** Active Schools Week runs this week in our school. Each day the children will engage in activities to promote well-being and movement. We would encourage all children to wear their school tracksuit in order to be comfortable enough to take part in these activities. Coralstown N.S. has a very strong tradition of promoting physical and outdoor activities for our children and we have applied for the renewal of our Active School Flag again this year. Thank you to Ms King who has co-ordinated this work and we look forward to our successful application again this year.

**Congratulations:** Congratulations are extended to Lila Dalton, 6<sup>th</sup> Class, on her wonderful achievements recently. Lila is now the All Ireland National u13 L3 All round Gymnastics champion. Well done Lila on this wonderful achievement and especially on all the hard work, long hours, training and dedication you put in to achieve this.

**School 5K:** We are delighted to be able to run our Annual 5K again this year. It has been scheduled for Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May and is registered with Athletics Ireland. Preparations have already begun and again we are appealing for as many helpers as possible on the day, to make sandwiches, baking and the very many jobs which running an event like this entails. All help and support would be very much appreciated.

**Primary Languages Curriculum:** Following on from the last Primary Languages Curriculum Webinar which took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, there will be two further closures to facilitate this. The date will be Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and the second date will be Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**New curriculum framework:** A new curriculum Framework was launched recently on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 by the Minister for Education Norma Foley. The Primary Curriculum Framework is designed to cater for all primary and special schools and sets out the vision and principles for a redeveloped, modern curriculum. Further details can be found at this link –  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/9f981-minister-foley-launches-new-primary-curriculum-framework/>

**Free Books:** You will be aware of the announcement recently by the Department of Education recently regarding the free books scheme it is introducing for Primary Schools. The amount granted is €96 per child. This will undoubtedly ease the burden of costs of books on parents when children are returning to school. However it will not totally cover all the expenses and while we are currently working on the proposed costs this year, we hope to be in a position to let parents know what these costs will be in the coming weeks.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Primary Languages Closure: - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Primary Languages Closure: – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

First Communion: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May @ 10 a.m.

Annual 5k: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May

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Mary Daly, Príomh Oide

**Please remember Coralstown N.S. is a nut free school.  
Please ensure no nuts in any form are brought into the school.**

**Internet Safety Tips** - [www.webwise.ie/parents](http://www.webwise.ie/parents) <https://zeeko.ie/primary-schools> <https://zeeko.ie/blog>  
<https://zeeko.ie/internet-safety-guide>

**Coralstown N.S. Website is [www.coralstown.ie](http://www.coralstown.ie)  
Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/CoralstownN>  
Office Hours are 9.30 am until 1.30 p.m.**