

Hello again all,

We have come to the end of our second term and what a week we had to finish off. Our football teams both won their first round matches in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol tournament, we had two qualifiers for the National Finals of the Bebras Maths Challenge and today we had our Annual Celebration of Le Chéile Day and our Student & Handwriters of the Month presentations.

- **LE CHÉILE DAY:**

We had a lovely celebration of Le Chéile Day on the theme of "Celebrating our Catholic Faith". Míle buíochas to our Le Chéile Anam Cara, Ms Colleary, for coordinating this event and providing treats for our wonderful pupils and hard-working staff.

- **SCHOOL SPORTS:**

We got our Allianz Cumann na mBunscol campaign off to a successful start with a double victory over Strandhill NS in Kent Park yesterday. Our girls produced a very dominant display while the boys had to withstand a late Strandhill rally to come away with a two-point win!! Both teams now go forward to meet Rockfield NS in the next round. Well done to our girls and boys and to their fantastic coaches, Ms Moylan, Ms Dolan, Ms Wall, Ms Taaffe, Ms Mahon, Ms Hutchinson, Ms Keaney & Mr Donohoe!!

Well done to our swimmers who took part in the Primary Schools National Finals in the National Aquatic Centre in Dublin last weekend. There were some great times and Personal Bests from our team of Abby, James, Jack, Ellie and Kieran!!!

- **FUNDRAISING:**

Our Scoil Ursula National School Fundraiser Lotto is up and running. This is a fundraising initiative to raise money for the installation of an Astro Turf pitch to replace our old pitch which will be accessible to the children all year round. This facility will give the children of Scoil Ursula a lot more space to play and to develop their fitness and movement skills. We hope that the weekly option of 1 line for €2.50 will allow everybody to contribute. Please pass the word on and invite friends and family. It would be hugely appreciated if you can contribute €5 for 3 lines, and you never know you might just win! Thank you so much to our co-ordinator, Ms Caffrey and the Scoil Ursula Fundraising Committee. See below for our Lotto Link:

<https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/scoilursula/>

- **BEBRAS MATHS CHALLENGE:**

Congratulations to Cara Higgins and Daithí Joyce, who qualified for the National Final of this year's Bebras Maths Challenge. The finals take place in Maynooth University on May 6th. Good luck to both of our representatives!!

- **BEHAVIOUR & RESPECT:**

At a Staff Meeting during the week, we had some discussions around the topic of behaviour and respect amongst our pupils. The feeling was that there has been some falling off in standards in these two areas in recent times. We were trying to identify why this was the case and there were suggestions around a Post-Covid 'hangover' where anxiety was causing children to act out more and some of our parents were experiencing this at home too. As a school, Scoil Ursula has always set the highest standards of behaviour and respect amongst our pupils and we have often been lauded by the community and further afield for the politeness and respectful conduct of our pupils. Of course the vast majority of our children uphold these high standards naturally. It is generally only a small minority, who engage in unkind or disrespectful behaviour to their peers and to the adults in charge.

We wondered what we could do to get back to pre-Covid levels of respectful behaviour so I visited all the classes this week to talk to the children about our concerns. Like every other aspect of life, respectful behaviour starts at home so I asked the girls and boys to use the Easter Holidays to practise good behaviour at home with their families. I encouraged them to do what their parents asked them immediately and cheerfully to help create a positive happy atmosphere in the house. I asked them not to question why or argue back but to just do it and see how the atmosphere at home can change from one of stress and tension to one of happiness and joy. The hope is then that when they have practised this behaviour for a few weeks at home and have seen the benefits of it, they will then bring it into school and have more respectful interactions with their teachers and other adults here as well as their peers.

I hope you are already seeing some changes for the better and please do discuss these matters with them. Let them know the things they can do to make your home a happier place just as their teachers have told them what they can do to make happier classrooms. I look forward to having them back after Easter and teachers reporting to me how the standards have risen again to bring us back to our safe, happy learning environment, where our kids can thrive and achieve their potential.

- **FAREWELL MS DOLAN:**

We bade a fond but sad farewell to Ms Dolan, who has been working with one of our 6th classes since the beginning of the school year. She will be missed by her pupils and colleagues alike and we wish her well in her future career!! We hope to see her back in Scoil Ursula at some point in the future. Ms Barrett will be back after Easter and we look forward to welcoming her back!!

- **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

Easter Holidays: School Closes March 31st at 12:00 and reopens on Monday, April 17th.

May Bank Holiday & Staff Inservice Day: Monday & Tuesday, May 1st & 2nd **School Closed.**

Confirmation: Friday, May 12th 3:00pm in the Cathedral.

1st Communion: Saturday, May 20th 1:30pm in the Cathedral.

You can catch up with all that is happening in school on our social media pages below.

Facebook: @ScoilUrsula Twitter: @ScoilUrsulaNS Web: www.scoilursula.com

Some of our teachers also have Instagram pages, which they share with their parents.

Have a lovely Easter break everybody!!

Tony 😊