Newsletter 7

**Easter Break**

School will close at 12 o'clock on Friday for the Easter break and will reopen on Monday the 8th.

It has been an extremely busy term and I want to thank you all for your continued support. We have packed in a lot of activities including Seachtain na Gaeilge, Engineers week, Lá Glas, St. Brigid's day, Catholic Schools week, Grandparents day Run around Europe challenge to mention just a few. We have even more fun and exciting activities ahead before the end of the school year. Read on below to learn of some of the exciting activities that will take place in Brackloon NS in the coming weeks.

**Free Hot Meals**

The company that we have selected for the Hot Meals School programme for the students is the <https://www.thelunchbag.ie/>

How it will work

Parents will download an app and select the meals they wish to order for their children a week in advance. These meals will be cooked in Kiltullagh NS and delivered to the pupils of Brackloon NS where they will be eaten just before big break @12:30.

We are hoping that the meals will begin distribution in May. For the first week parents will be welcome to come in and see the quality of the foods and this will help them decide what meals to pick for their children. A full list of the meals selection is available in the link below. We will update you with more information when available.

<https://www.thelunchbag.ie/hot-menu/>

**Solar panels**

The school is partaking in a new scheme to place solar panels on the roof. They will be installed in the coming weeks. Integrating solar panels into schools is a practical and impactful way to save money, reduce environmental impact, enhance education, engage the community, and demonstrate commitment to sustainability.

**Chickens in Brackloon NS**

The school has used funds from a STEM grant to purchase a chicken Coop.
Having chickens in primary school offers invaluable educational experiences. They teach responsibility, empathy, and sustainability. Children learn about animal care, life cycles, and where food comes from. Plus, interacting with chickens fosters curiosity and connection to nature. 🐔🌱

We hope to get the chickens after the Easter Break. We will need support from the local community to check in on the chickens at the weekend. If you are willing to take a weekend to check in on them please email me and I will draw up a quick rota.

**Green House**

The school has purchased a large Greenhouse which will be delivered after the Easter Break. Greenhouses in schools offer hands-on learning opportunities in biology, botany, and environmental science. They provide a controlled environment for students to study plant growth, experiment with different species, and understand concepts like photosynthesis and ecosystems. Additionally, greenhouses promote sustainability by allowing schools to grow their own produce, teaching students about food production and healthy eating habits. We can’t wait to get started and start planting . If anyone wants to help in the preparation of the beds and installation of the green house please contact me by email.

**Lego for Education**

The school has also purchased LEGO Education. Lego Education provides a dynamic and engaging way for primary school pupils to learn essential skills such as problem-solving, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. Through LEGO sets, students can explore various subjects like mathematics, science, technology, engineering, and even language arts in a hands-on and playful manner. LEGO Education fosters curiosity and imagination while encouraging teamwork and communication skills. It also aligns with modern educational approaches, promoting active learning and preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century. We can’t wait to share all we create and learn with you.

**Free Ice Cream Cone**

Each child received a voucher today to get a free ice cream cone gifted to all children by Duane’s Daybreak in Kiltullagh. The voucher is valid today Thursday 21st and tomorrow Friday 22nd March. Huge thanks to the Duane Family for this kind gesture.

**GLOBE Ireland**

**River Ecosystem Campaign**

As part of the GLOBE Ireland River Ecosystem Campaign, this project is part of a nationwide science project which assesses the health of our rivers. There are a number of schools involved in the project. 6th class will do the initial sampling and testing of the water from the river, later in the year they will lead a day where they will show the younger children how they assessed the health of the river, the levels of phosphorus and nitrogen in the river. We will also look at the kind of invertebrates that live there.

**Spring Watch**

We are also taking part in the Spring watch campaign where along with a school in Italy and Ukraine we will contribute to a European project which observes the development of Spring across Europe.

​We look forward to keeping you up to date on our discoveries.

Enjoy the break,

Danny O Connor