



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over but what a great year it has been!

It has been fantastic to see the children enjoy so many of activities and achieve so much during their time in school this year. As you may know, one of the Loreto values is joy and there is definitely joy in our school on a daily basis! This newsletter captures just some of the fun and learning that happens in St. Patrick's here every days. Also, don't forget to check our new Aladdin app, our school website and our X and Instagram social media pages to keep up to date throughout the year.

We know children do best when families, the school and the local community work together in partnership and St. Patrick's is an excellent example of this. I would like to thank our amazing staff – teachers, SNAs, secretaries and caretaker – for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to the children of St. Patrick's throughout the year. Our Student Council, Health Promoting Schools Team and Green School Committee are a really important part of our school and I have been blown away by their ideas, work ethic and positive attitude throughout the year.

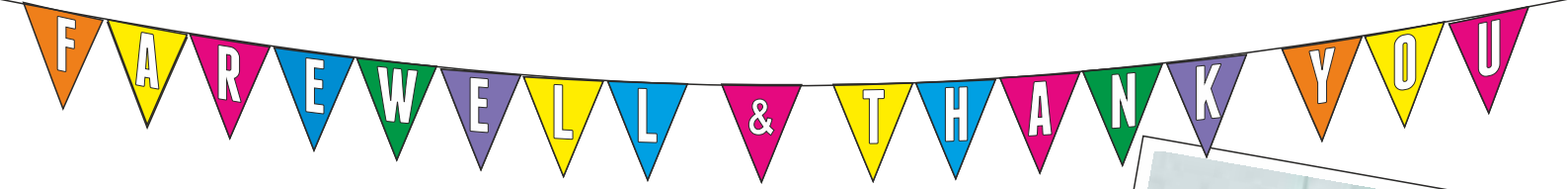
A special thanks to you and your families for the support you have given to us. In particular, I would like to thank Róisín Ní Chearbhaill, Chairperson of the Parents' Association, and the entire PA for their amazing work this year. They have organised so much throughout the year and our school is a better place because of them. Some highlights have been the Marathon Relay Fundraiser, Christmas Cards, Clean-Up Days, 6th Class Graduation, organising the non-uniform day and the cake sale to name but a few! We are also very grateful to the parents on the library team for all their work throughout the year. Because of the generosity of the voluntary contributions received this year, we are now able to use this money to contribute towards fixing the leaking roof and the damp issues we have in the oldest part of the building. We are also planning the upgrade of our hall thanks to the fantastic amount raised from the Marathon Relay. We will keep you posted on our plans!

I would like to give a special mention to our 6th Class girls and our Senior Infant boys who will be leaving us at the end of June. We will miss them but we are looking forward to their graduation ceremonies this week and hope that they will be very happy in their new schools.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a lovely summer. Enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday 28th August!

Mise le meas,

Anne-Marie McGovern  
Principal



This summer we bid a sad farewell to Mrs. Flanagan as she embarks on her well-earned retirement.

Mrs. Flanagan began teaching in St Patrick's in 1984 and has been our Deputy Principal since 2010. Her association with the school began even earlier than that, when she joined the school in 1973 as a pupil in Mrs. Buckley's 5 th Class after her family moved to Bray from Tullamore!

St. Patrick's has changed a lot in this time. There once were slides and swings in the Junior Infant Yard, a Hot Chocolate Room and of course, lots of 'new' buildings have been added as the school grew.

Mrs. Flanagan has been a valued member of the teaching staff over the years with an uncanny ability to remember the names of so many of the hundreds of pupils who have passed through her classes. Past pupils will remember her most for leading the liturgical movement during Confirmation ceremonies, basketball coaching, summer camps, away trips with 6 th Class and much more.

Since becoming Deputy Principal, Mrs. Flanagan has played an active role in ensuring that the pupil voice is heard in the school. She set up the inaugural Student Council in 2013 and the Health Promoting School Committee soon followed. Since 2015 she has spearheaded the school's major social justice project, Dignity Packs.

Mrs. Flanagan's kind and calm nature has stood to her as she supported both pupils and staff over the years. Her office is a regular shelter from a storm for many! She is a true embodiment of the Loreto values of St Patrick's and brings them to life daily. She has maintained strong links with the Loreto network here in Ireland and abroad, having visited Loreto schools in York, Canada and even Australia.

We want to thank Mrs. Flanagan for all her years of dedicated service to our school community. We will miss a wonderful teacher, school leader, colleague and friend. We wish her all the best in her retirement and hope she stays a regular visitor to St. Patrick's!



Dear Parents & Guardians,

I can hardly believe another school year is almost at the end, we have had a very busy 2024 on the parents association.



With the school closing for the summer holidays, it is almost a full school year that Anne-Marie McGovern has been in situ as Principal. On behalf of the Parents' Association, I would like to thank her for the considerable contribution she has made to the school and she has made the work of the parents association so easy we are all enormously grateful for her support and leadership. I would also like to thank Marie Flanagan for everything she has done for the parents and students over the years. So many people have been touched by her kindness and caring nature. She will be missed when she retires this year - best of luck Marie with your next adventure.

The parents associations main activities in 2024 were:

We set up our community WhatsApp to get information out easily to the parents and guardians - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DgUcIRLIL9s2LiKa5ICUx1> if anyone would like to join.

We hosted bray first responders in February where we had an interactive night on learning first aid and CPR. All money raised went towards replacing the defibrillator in the school.

We held a cake sale for Loreto Rumbek in South Sudan raising over €3,000

We ran our first school marathon relay raising over €22,000 to refurbish the school

We were part of the Tesco community tokens fund (blue tokens) - we are still waiting to see what donation we will get.

We held two clean up dates in May where we cleaned and cut and planted and painted.

We organised refreshments after the communions and confirmations in the Villas Pacias

The calendar is already filling up for the new school year with "tea and tissues" for incoming junior infants parents being our first event in August.

None of this would be possible without such an enthusiastic parent body and so many willing volunteers who give up their time to help at all these events.

At this time of the year we say goodbye to the 6th class girls and the Senior Infant boys. It has been wonderful to see the 6th class girls wearing their hoodies with such pride and we wish both groups of children and their parents and guardians all the best with the next part of their educational adventure.

I'd like to thank all Parents' Association members for their time and energy over the school year and I'd like to specifically thank Sinéad Bayliss for her work over the past number of years putting together our newsletters, this one included. Sinéad, Sonia Jakob and a few other parents will be leaving the Association as their daughters will be finishing 6th class. We will miss their guidance and help.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable summer break and all of the best for the 2024/2025 school year.

Regards  
Róisín Ní Chearbhaill  
Chair

# Ms Tighe's Class

We had lots of fun baking this year.



We had lots of fun at Tick Tock farm on our school tour.



We have been enjoying sunny weather this term.



# Junior Infants

## Junior Infants Activities

### Trips to Bray Library

In term 2 all the Junior Infant classes went on a trip to Bray Library. The library kept a special slot for our school on a Wednesday morning so we could have the place to ourselves! We walked down to the library with the help of some wonderful parents. The boys and girls got to look at books and listen to a story, which was read by one of the librarians.

We all really enjoyed this visit.



### School Tour

On Tuesday 28th May we all visited Glenroe Farm in Kilcoole. The boys and girls were really excited to go on the bus! We got to interact with and learn all about the different animals.

We even got to hold a guinea pig! The playground was a big hit with all of the children. We ate our lunch on picnic benches in the sunshine. It was a great day that was enjoyed by all.



### The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Each class got a special delivery of baby caterpillars in May.

We had been learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly, so we knew there were exciting things to come!

The Caterpillars soon made their own chrysalis and after about two weeks they hatched into beautiful butterflies. We set them free in the outdoor classroom and watched them flutter away. .

### Scooter Workshop

The Green School Committee organised a scooter workshop for all Junior Infant classes. A lady called Lorraine came into school to teach us some new scooter skills. All the boys and girls had to wear a helmet to keep them safe while they scooted. The children got some great tips about scooting and learned some new tricks too!

The children were delighted to be involved in this workshop as it helped us to achieve our goal of earning our Green School Travel Flag.



## Senior Infants Activities

All six Senior Infant classes have had a fun but busy term. See below for some of the amazing things that we have done.

### Ms Grant & Ms McDonnell's Senior Infants

To celebrate World Bee Day, Ms. Grant and Ms. McDonnell's class made pollen collectors with paper plates. The children gathered wildflowers from the field for the bees to enjoy. Check out the big bee collecting pollen!



# Senior Infants

One of our favourite units in science this year was magnets.

The class had lots of fun sorting materials that were attracted to a magnet from those that did not. Then, we used our magnets to make our own fishing game and even used magnets to paint with!



### Ms Collison & Ms Dempsey' Senior Infants

This month, we paired up with Ms Thompson's 5th class for reading! We chose our favourite books from the school library and read them outside in the sunshine. We took turns reading and really enjoyed this!



Senior Infants have been learning about capacity in Maths. We brought our learning outside to measure how much water each container could hold.

It was great fun (even though we got quite wet!)



# Senior Infants

## Ms Reddin's Senior Infants

### GAA

We loved our Gaelic Football sessions with Bray Emmett's this year. We enjoyed learning new skills, taking part in many drills and playing lots of fun games. Croke Park here we come !!



### Outdoor Classroom

We spent lots of time in the Outdoor Classroom with our friends from Ms Lematti's Class.

From mindful moments to nature scavenger hunts, we have had so much fun in this beautiful outdoor space.



## Ms Lematti's Senior Infants

Senior Infants really enjoyed participating in a scooter workshop this year.

Their favourite activity was scooter limbo!

## Ms Freeman's Senior Infants

We had great fun making our art this year!  
We used sand to create our very own beach!



# Senior Infants

We also went on our school tour to Tick Tock Farm! We had lots of fun playing with all the animals and toys



## Ms Larkin's Senior Infants

We had a great time learning all about the life cycle of a frog in class. We got to go and visit the tadpoles that Mrs. Dagg brought in and saw what they eat and how they swim. We visited them again when they were froglets to see them growing their arms and legs and being able to sit out of the water. It was very cool!

We had a great trip down to the local library downtown. We all got to get our own library cards to take out some books and even learnt how to use the machines to take out our books ourselves. We loved the story time and getting to look at all the wonderful books the library had for us in all different languages





## 1<sup>st</sup> Class Activities



### iPads

We have been busy creating books, coding and playing Mathletics on the iPads

# 1<sup>st</sup> Class



### Library Visit

1<sup>st</sup> class really enjoyed their visits to Bray Library. We loved listening to a story and choosing lots of book to take home to read

# 1st Class



## Airfield Estate

We enjoyed a wonderful trip to Airfield Estate. We met and learned about lots of animals on the farm, watched cows being milked, went on a mini beast hunt, saw lots of flowers and food being grown, and had fun in the playground!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Activities

### Our Trip to Greenan Maze

On the 5th of June, 2nd class went on our school tour to Greenan Maze. We went on a bus and it was a long journey, it took us an hour to get there.

When we arrived we ate some lunch and met our tour guide. We split into four different groups and we got to do lots of different things. We went to a museum that had lots of old farm tools and equipment. We also went into the farm house which showed all the household tools and equipment that they used to use. We were shocked by the fact that there used to be eight people living there but only one bedroom and one bed. We also shocked that there was no toilet in the house!

We went on a nature trail and saw lots of fairy doors. We also went to the farm and saw donkeys, turkeys, chickens, geese, ducks, pigs and piglets, horses and Pete the Peacock.

There were two different mazes. In the first one was like a garden maze with bushes so you couldn't see into the middle. It was hard to find the centre of the maze! In the other maze, you had to work with a partner and one person was blindfolded while the other one told them where to go. We also got to play games. In one game we kicked balls at sheep. Don't worry though, they were wooden sheep, not real ones! We also did wheelbarrow races, where we had to run up and down with a wheelbarrow full of balls. We also got to play in the playground. It was a great day and everyone enjoyed it. Some people enjoyed it so much that they fell asleep on the bus on the way home!



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Activities

### 3rd Class Trip

This year we went to Dublin Zoo. We went on a big double decker bus. When we arrived we did a Rainforest Ranger workshop. We learned a lot about the animals that live in the rainforest. After that we went around the zoo in groups. Some of us went on a big slide. We went underground to see the sealions. We saw the Orangutans. One had a blanket on them and their face was squashed against the glass. We ate our lunch on the lawn and went to the gift shop. We had lots of fun.

*Ms. Dagg's Third Class.*



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

### Thank You

Third class would like to thank the parents who have given up their time to join us on trips to the library, to Loreto, the school tour and all other times when we asked for help. Without that help we would not have been able to go on these trips. Also, huge thanks to the volunteers who give up their time every week to ensure that the girls can go to the school library and take out books from a wide selection of genres.

### Our Ancient Egyptian Projects

We loved working on our Egyptian projects this year because we had a great time. We liked learning about all the interesting facts and we really enjoyed sharing them with other classes. We loved working with our friends. We had to work hard making all the artefacts, drawing pictures and writing facts but it was great fun. We learned so much about pharaohs, pyramids and life in ancient Egyptian times.

*Written by Ms. Hawkin's 3rd Class*



### Zoo Project

We are going on our school tour to Dublin Zoo so we decided to make some projects about the zoo animals. We learnt about zebras, lions, okapis, orangutan, penguins, red pandas, hippos, rhinos, elephants, Brazilian tapirs, giraffes, lemurs, flamingos, chimpanzees and sea lions. We used laptops and library books to research facts about our zoo animals. We learnt about their habitats, what food they ate and where they were from. We found out some really interesting facts! Some people included quizzes and booklets in their projects. We presented them to our class and some other classes in the school. We worked very hard on them and they turned out great!!

*Ms. Ryan's Third Class*



## 4<sup>th</sup> Class Activities

Fourth class have had a very busy year.

Some of the highlights include a trip to Causey farm, our Seashore Safari, and the opportunity to join the pupils of St.Cronan's and Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh for a bodhrán workshop.

### Causey Farm

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes travelled to Causey Farm in Meath on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The long journey was worth it for the joy and freedom of Bog Jumping! The girls were very excited to get the opportunity to hold a 2-month-old puppies. We returned to Bray, tired, happy and still quite Boggy!! What fun memories we made together!



### Beach Safari

The 4<sup>th</sup> classes took part in the Explorers Education Programme in April. We enjoyed learning about our amazing marine life from Marine Biologist Mona McCrea and exploring our Bray Shoreline under her guidance on a blustery 'Beach Safari' on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We discovered a huge variety of marine life, including lug worms, rag worms, crabs, anemones, dog whelks and even a mermaid purse.



## Bodhrán Workshop

As part of the Creative Clusters programme, some of the girls had the opportunity to partake in a bodhrán workshop with two other local schools. The girls were amazed with the range of sounds that could be made with a bodhrán, and they had a great time learning how to play themselves.



## Roots of Empathy

Ms Long's 4th Class have been taking part in 'The Roots of Empathy' Programme with Rory and mum Fiona.

We met Rory every month, have watched him grow, change and develop. We have learnt so much from Rory and were sad to say goodbye to him on June 21st.

## Book Review of Chinese Cinderella

*by Kate Breen, Andrea Phelan and Aoife Hogan.*

We just finished reading Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah. We really enjoyed reading this book.

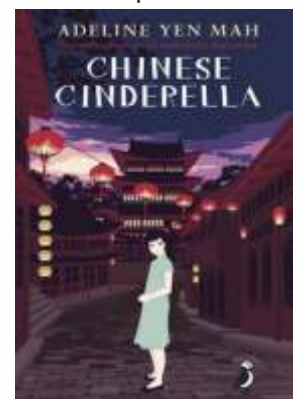
At the beginning of the story Adeleine's family thinks that she is bad luck and she is made to feel unwanted which continues all her life. She is mistreated by her own siblings and rejected by her mean step-mother.

We think that this book is enjoyable, but we are sad that this actually happened in real life. We appreciate the rich, sporty girl who made friends with Adeline. We could relate to the part when her siblings were mean to her.

The part that we pictured the best was when she got an egg delivered to her boarding school. The part that we did not like was when her chick died.

We recommend this book for 9 years and up and we would give it 4.5 stars.

*By Kate Breen, Andrea Phelan and Aoife Hogan  
(Fourth Class – Ms Coyne)*



## 5<sup>th</sup> Class Activities

### Gardening

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2024 fifth class planted potatoes in the school garden.

We started a gardening club and there are six members from all three fifth classes, Doris, Annie, Oliva, Imogin, Ashante and Sophie.

We meet up every Thursday to take care of the potatoes. We put fresh soil around the shoots, we water them and take the weeds out.

We will harvest our crop on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June when all of fifth will eat boiled potatoes with butter and salt!



### Causey Farm

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, 5<sup>th</sup> Class went on our school tour to Causey Farm.

We got there at 10am and hopped on the trailer to the bog.

We got to the woods and walked to the obstacle course, completed it and headed for the bog. It started raining half way through but it made it more fun!

After, we cleaned up and ate lunch.

Then, we went and saw chickens, donkeys, ducks, llamas, sheep, alpacas, puppies, calves, lambs, goats and piglets. After, we went to the mirror maze and we went in the mine shafts. It was a great school tour!



### The National Art Gallery

This year 5<sup>th</sup> Class visited the National Art Gallery.

We got the train from Bray all the way into Dublin City.

Once we got to the art gallery, we were spoilt. Our tour guides were really nice and full of information. We learned about artists like Monet and saw lots of interesting pieces of art.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Class Activities

### Influential Women Project

For the lead up to International Women's Day all of 6<sup>th</sup> class worked on creating their own Influential Women's Project.

Everyone chose a woman who did something influential or who they found personally inspiring.

We spent our laptop and iPad time in school researching our projects and extra time at home compiling and presenting our information nicely.

On Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, we presented our projects in the hall and invited the whole school to come and see them.

Everyone really enjoyed learning about different influential women. Overall, it was a very fun experience!

By Éabha Humphries



### Scríobhleabhar

Chuireamar tús leis an gcomórtas scríobh leabhar i Mí Eanáir.

Mar ghrúpa, roghnaigh muid go mbeidh an téama 'bia' suimiúil. Rinneamar plean ar pháipéir agus cheartaigh na múinteoirí iad. Thosaigh muid leis na pictiúirí agus chum muid ár scéal mórtimpeall orthu. Nuair a raibh na scéalta críochnaithe, fuair eamar páipéar agus scíobhamar ár scéalta amach le pictiúirí deasa. Chuireamar a lán ama agus iarrachta isteach sna scéalta agus bhíomar an-bhródúil astu. Bhí ceathrar bhuaiteoir again, Niamh Lynch i rang Ms. Lohan, Georgia Shortt i rang Ms. Soroghan, Alliah Bianca Gajardo i rang Ms. Billington agus Laila Byrne i rang Ms. Gillooly.

Le Lilly Galligan



# 6<sup>th</sup> Class

## 6th Class Plays

The 6<sup>th</sup> class girls worked very hard on their end of year plays.

Ms. Gillooly's class performed Sister Act,

Ms. Billington's class performed Grease,

Ms Soraghan's class performed High School Musical and

Ms. Lohan's class performed Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

We loved practicing and performing for the school.

By  
Summer  
McCarthy  
&  
Sarah  
Weafer



## Wigloo

This year, as part of the Creative Cluster Programme, our school engaged with Wicklow Willow.

This project involved creating a willow dome, which our school has nicknamed the 'Wigloo'.

Classes from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class worked on planting and weaving the dome.

Our class experienced weaving the willow dome with the help of Aoife from Wicklow Willow.

We all had a great time and it will be an enjoyable memory for us to take into the future.

When the dome was initially constructed back in March, it was bare with no leaves, now we are entering summer the leaves are starting to grow! For the summer months, we play in the field at yard time, giving children a chance to explore and enjoy the Wigloo. We're sure the dome will create many new memories within the school for years to come and is a wonderful addition to St. Patrick's!

By Aoife Turrisi, Isabella Mulligan & Chloe Zhang

## Dignity Packs

### St. Patrick's Loreto Primary School Bray makes 150 Dignity Packs to Support the Homeless

The Student Council in St Patrick's Loreto PS were delighted to send off nearly 200 Dignity Packs to be distributed between homeless charities Liberty Soup Run, The Lighthouse, Tiglin and Mo Chara Homeless Support on Thursday 20 th June.

Dignity Packs is the school's social project led by Deputy Principal Marie Flanagan in collaboration with the Student Council and parents Fiona Murphy and Eimear Mangan. Dignity Packs are backpacks filled with basic items that a person who is homeless may need daily. Molly Comish, a former Loreto Bray student, came up with the idea in 2015. St Patrick's Student Council were inspired to get involved when Molly visited the school soon after, even making it work during Covid.

There was huge support for the project this year from the entire school community. Parents throughout the school generously donated items such as socks, toothpaste and facecloths. Over €1200 was raised from the Christmas Colours Day which also went towards buying stock. The Student Council were very grateful to receive a kind donation of toiletries from local business owners Nicola and Conor Duggan as well as 150 bottles of water from Applegreen.

The stock was sorted and prepared for packing by the Student Council. Pupils from 1 st – 6 th class came together to form a production line to pack the stock into bags. The Infant classes carried all the packed bags up to be collected, making sure that the whole school got involved in the project from start to finish!

Darcy from 5 th class said that her favourite part of packing the bags was thinking how happy the people will be when they get them. Finley, also from 5 th class said that she loves how it's going to help others. Sofia in 6 th class said that her favourite part was knowing that she's making a difference. Millie Devlin, the Chairperson of the Student Council thanked everyone who supported the project including the school community, the Board of Management, the Parents' Association and local businesses. St Patrick's are proud to be associated with this very worthwhile cause.



## Notice Boards

As a student council we showed our support for World Down Syndrome Day and Autism Acceptance Month by creating notice boards to show the school influential people with both Down Syndrome and Autism



## Student Council Activities

### Junior Infant Meeting

On the 21st of May we attended a meeting with the incoming Junior Infant parents.

When we arrived, we escorted the parents to the hall. We told the parents what we do as a student council and as a whole school community. We explained how students get onto the student council and told them about our meetings. We told the parents about the different student council events during the year, such as Christmas Colour Day and Dignity packs.

*By Millie Devlin and Hannah Wang*

### Mural

This year's student council are creating a new mural.

Our theme that we have chosen is "overcoming your fears". We chose this theme because we want to show that it is ok to struggle at times. And that you can overcome your fears. Our piece will feature a sunset and hot air balloons. Each hot air balloon will represent one of Mary Ward's values. We feel that it is important to include these values, as we are a Loreto school.

*By Kate Breen, Kate Chen and Ruby Boyle*



# HPS UPDATE



In February we celebrated Children’s Mental Health Week with lots of fun activities based around kindness and saying “Hello, how are you?”.

We decorated the noticeboard and put up posters to raise awareness. We used check ins with each other to see how we were feeling, and brought that home to check up on our family and friends.

We practised saying hello in lots of different languages, including Lámh!



Use Lámh to say hello!



In April, we helped run the Food Dudes follow up programme. We delivered different fruits and vegetables to the classes and just encouraged people to try new foods.

The HPS were delighted to support our Green School Committee in organising Walk on Wednesday to encourage people to walk to school. We greeted pupils with music and bubbles!

In April we also helped the Parents’ Association to raise money for the school by organising a Marathon Relay! Every child got to take part in at least one lap and at the end we got stickers and a juicy orange. There was a raffle too.

Over €22,000 was raised for the school!

And we all had great fun and can’t wait to do it again next year!!



# Green School News



## WALKABILITY SURVEY

The Green School Committee completed a Walkability audit with Lorraine Flanagan from Green Schools in March. We noted the dangers, hazards and issues facing the pupils as they walk to school. We are planning on a Positive Parking Policy Please campaign to help traffic flow freely at drop off and collection times. We want parents and pupils to park and stride or walk to school. Remember our motto - Talk a walk on the Green Side. Save fuel and walk to school.

We organised Walk on Wednesdays to encourage more people to walk to school. This helps our physical and mental health as well as being good for the environment.



## Green School Flag

We have been working towards our Green Flag for Travel for the past 2 years. Over that time we had competitions for mottos, poster campaigns, Walk on Wednesday initiatives and we worked behind the scenes on many other travel related issues. Our whole school community worked on traveling to school sustainably by walking or using the park and stride from Tesco. We would like to thank all the parents and children for making this possible. The Green Flag celebrates all our achievements. Well done everyone!



We planted bulbs and seeds on the bank in the Outdoor Classroom. We can't wait to see it in full bloom later in the year.

