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| **Diary Dates**  |
| Thursday 7th March | World Book Day |
| Friday 8th March | Mother’s Day Tea Party Nursery & Pre-School |
| Saturday 9th March  | Confirmation 11am |
| Friday 15th March | St Patrick’s Day Assembly |
| Monday 18th March | School Closure – St Patrick’s Day |
| Wednesday 20th March | FROZEN JR MATINEE & EVENING PERFORMANCE |
| Thursday 21st March | FROZEN JR EVENING PERFORMANCE |
| Friday 22nd March | Nursery & Pre-School Easter Trip – An Creagan |
| Monday 25th March  | Smarties Tubes to be returned |
| Wednesday 27th March | First Confession – Year 4 – Christ The King 6.00pm |

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**MARCH IS INTEGRATION MONTH**

Our celebration of our uniqueness as an integrated school began with our **Odds On For Integration Day on Monday**. Pupils were invited to wear their oddest, most unique, and individual socks to school, to raise the profile of how it is great to celebrate difference.

Thank You to all pupils who contributed £1. All funds raised will go to the IEF (Integrated Education Fund).

The IEF have been huge supporters of our school over the years, providing us with additional finance to operate key elements of school life that we would otherwise have been unable to achieve. The IEF, funded our additional Pre-School places over the last few years and thus our £1 per child donations are just a small way of saying thank you.

**FREE FRUIT FRIDAYS**

Pupils are availing of a free snack for each of the first four Fridays of this month. 

This is part of our Integration Month provision and has been funded by school and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

**TREE PLANTING**

Some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils will join with pupils in Drumragh College and staff from FODC to plant trees at the front of the school.

They will enjoy a short workshop on planting, before planting trees – this event is also part of Integration Month and a lovely opportunity to connect with our partners in the college.

**FROZEN JR**

Excitement is building for our three upcoming performances of **FROZEN JR** during the week after St Patrick’s Day.

Our Year 5 – 7 stars will perform for different classes in the lead up to ‘show week’.

They will then perform for local schools on Wednesday 20th during the school day and for parents and friends on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March.

Please note: Showtime is 7pm.

**ALL SHOWS ARE NOW SOLD OUT!**

**WORLD BOOK DAY**

Today we are celebrating World Book Day.

Pupils will have the opportunity to engage in a range of enjoyable and exciting activities centred around books and reading.

Pupils will connect with children in other classes to share a story with a book buddy.

Our Year 1-4 classes will have a story read to them by a student from Drumragh College and all pupils will engage in a book swap within their class – bringing in a book that they no longer wish to keep and swapping with a classmate.

**CONFIRMATION**

Those Year 7 pupils who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year will do so on Saturday 9th March. The service will take place in Christ The King Church, Omagh at 11.00 and we will join with pupils from St Ronan’s PS, Recarson and Christ The King PS.

We send our best wishes to our pupils for this important day and express our gratitude to all staff involved in helping prepare the children for the day. Our warmest wishes to all our families for an enjoyable service and wonderful day.

**FIRST CONFESSION**

Those Year 4 pupils who are receiving sacraments this year will make their First Confession on Wednesday 27th March at 6pm, in Christ the King.

Further details will follow about arrangements for the evening.

**EASTER IN THE COURTYARD**

**Attention!**
Save the Date… Wednesday 27th March @1.30pm!
We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting Easter in the Courtyard again this year.

This wonderful event is open to children who are due to commence Nursery/Pre-School or Year One in September 2024.

We warmly welcome all existing families to attend and please spread the word to invite new friends and family with children of this age.
We have a limited number of places available within our Nursery and Year One for September 2024 so this is an ideal opportunity to come and visit OIPS and see what we have to offer!

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and school website to register for a place. Bookings will open soon!

This is a free event however booking is necessary.

We look forward to you all joining us for a fun filled Easter extravaganza!

**MOTHER’S DAY TEA PARTY**

Our annual Mother’s Day Tea Party event for Nursery & Pre-School will take place on Friday 8th March.

Please see separate invite and letter which will be sent home from your child’s teacher.

We are looking forward to sharing a special morning with you all and making some precious memories.

**Cumann na mBunscol Quiz**

We were proud to be represented by four Year 7 pupils at the Cumann na mBunscol Quiz in St Conor’s PS last week. Our pupils served as wonderful ambassadors for Omagh Integrated PS…well done to Finn, Alfie, Sadie and Maya.



**PE UNIFORM**

A reminder that the O’Neills school PE uniform is NOT compulsory. We recognise that PE uniform of this kind can be expensive. Pupils can wear a plain white polo shirt and navy shorts or jogging bottoms for PE as an alternative.

**PARENTS’ COUNCIL**

Our Parents’ Council Smarties Tubes Fundraiser is ongoing, and we thank you for your support for this.

All Smarties Tubes should be returned on Monday 25th March – all donations are greatly received, no matter how much is in each tube and all children who return a tube will be entered into a draw at Easter.

**SCHOOL CLOSURES**

****A reminder of upcoming school closures:

18th March – **St Patrick’s Day**

**Easter Holidays** – half day closure on Thursday 28th March.

Term 3 begins on Monday 8th April

**Bank Holidays** – Monday 6th and 27th May

**Exceptional Closures** – Friday 3rd & Friday 24th May