

ST. PETER'S BOYS SCHOOL gets a visit from Copsewood Aviary

Pictures: **Barbara Flynn**



■ Brandon Feeley, Fionn O'Brien and Hussein Alhalal with their sketches of the birds.



■ Pupils of St. Peters are fascinated by the talking cockatoo.



■ One of the owls has a little nibble.

A fowl day!

ST. PETER'S B.N.S. has had the exciting opportunity to team up with St. Mary's University in Belfast for a new research project.

Entitled the 'Leonardo Effect project', it aims to see whether science and art can be taught using an integrated approach.

Schools from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic are taking part, but St. Peter's B.N.S. has the privilege of being the only school representing the Republic.

The children will explore the topic of flight in a number of different ways, ranging from hands on experience to information gathered through various forms of media. It began with an extensive search in books and on the internet for any information about natural or mechanical flight.

While some students have veered towards learning about birds, others are exploring minibeasts, seed dispersion, planes, helicopters, hand gliders,

parachutes and hot-air balloons.

Last Wednesday, Eddie Drew who has an aviary in Kilmacanogue, kindly gave up his time to bring in a range of birds to the school.

The Bengal Eagle Owl and the Moulcann Cockatoo were the main attractions but the students were also highly entertained by the sight of the mandarin and Carolina ducks waddling freely around the library.

This Thursday, the students are off to the zoo where they will get a chance to the study bats as well as birds which are able and not able to fly. They will look at the scientific reasoning behind this as well as photographing and sketching events.

There's another treat in store on Friday February 9, when the well-known artist Don Conroy is visiting the school to help the children with the project. He was very keen to get involved with the project and the students are very excited about his visit.



■ Ryan Kealy finds a new pal.



■ Derek Sequeira takes a closer look.



■ Fergus O'Brien, Brendan Doyle and Craig Duggan meet one of the birds.



■ Craig Adamson proves his bravery.