

Our School June 2020

ST. MICHAEL'S & ST. PATRICK'S N.S.



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TO OUR FIFTEENTH EDITION

Welcome to the 15th edition of our School's Newsletter 2020.

This school year has been like no other for sure. One that will go down in History.!

However look at all the things we did while we were in school not to mention the wonderful things we did during our Home schooling. We hope anyone who is interested in our school will enjoy this read!

Students & Employees

For the year 2019/20, 124 students attended our school. For this year, there were 5 classes in the school and class numbers averaged 24.8

Our class teachers were:

Ms. Deirdre Brennan

Mr. Lochlainn Conboy

Ms. Arlene Gilhooly

Ms. Tanya Tansey

**Ms. Laura Conroy/Ms. Deirdre Brennan
(Jobsharers)**

Special Education Teachers:

Mr. Cian Duffy, Principal

Ms. Catherine Martin, Deputy Principal

Special Need Assistants:

Pauline Dwyer

Joan Tiernan

For the year September 2020 to June 2021, we will have a slight increase in the number of students in our school.

A secretary and cleaners are also employed at the school.

Board of Management

The schools BOM is represented by our Parish Priest and 1 more Patron's nominee, two teacher nominees, 2 Parents of our students as Parent Nominees and 2 further nominees from our community. A new BOM was elected in November 2019 and are due to finish their term in November 2024. The BOM met regularly throughout the year to help develop and maintain our school in line with Department of Education and Skills guidelines.

School Website - www.cootehallns.com

We started a new website in our school in August 2017 to keep everybody more informed about our school and all that goes on inside our grounds. It is a great one stop shop of information about the school, its policies and school life.

We have made great use of it during the Covid 19 closure. Please continue to check it out for school information.



St. Brigid's Day Crosses

The students from 3rd and 4th class put rushes to good use to make these impressive St. Brigid's Day crosses. Well Done 3rd and 4th Class!

Green Flag and Green Code

Our Green Schools team was busy during the year as we have applied for our 6th Green Flag. Thank you 1st & 2nd Class for your perfect new Green Code

***WE NEED TO LOOK AFTER THE EARTH,
AND STOP THE POLLUTION HURT,
SO RECYCLE YOUR WASTE,
TO REUSE WITH HASTE,
EVERYTHING RELIES ON OUR EFFORT.***

Road Safety

Ruth Kelly from the Road Safety Authority visited our school on Friday 7th February to talk to the students about road safety.

Hallowe'en Dress Up for Temple Street Hospital

We had our annual Hallowe'en Dress Up Day on Friday 25th October. Costumes get more impressive with every passing year.

The amount raised was €116.50 which was donated to Temple Street Hospital. Thank you!

Book Fair A very successful book fair was held in our school around Parent Teacher meeting time. The total reward for the school was €693.70 which is going towards class novels and library books for our school. Keep reading everyone!

Shoe Box Appeal

The students participated in the Shoe-box Appeal for the Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child again this year. 78 boxes were donated by our students for Children less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you, for your generosity again this year.

Ardcarne Graveyard Committee

Members of the Ardcarne Graveyard Committee visited the school on Friday 25th October to give a Local History talk to the 5th and 6th class students.

The students learned a lot about this area in the past 100 years and asked many interesting questions to our visitors. The Ardcarne Graveyard Committee also sponsored prizes for a follow up quiz.

The Parents Association

Our Parents Association was set up in 1992. We are always keen to welcome new members and would encourage everyone who is interested to let us know. We really would like new members to join our Parent's Association to continue to bring energy to this integral part of our school. We are concerned that without more parental involvement the Parent Association will struggle to be able to offer the vital support to our children and the school...

The Committee is as follows:

Andrew Leaver – Treasurer

Nicole Harney – Secretary

Caroline Walshe – Chairperson

Committee members: Agnes Dowd, Joan Cummins, Emily Sachs-Eldridge

The main aims/role of the Parents Association are:

- To represent the views of all the parents.
- To inform parents of developments in education and in the school.
- To foster co-operation between Parents, Teachers and School Management.
- To work towards making the school a community in which our children can grow in social and academic skills and in which the teachers feel supported in their work by the parents.
- To provide opportunities for parents and teachers to meet, in order to exchange ideas on the education of children in the home, problems of mutual interest, policies and any other matters of relevance.

Our main income is through the School Levy Fund which is collected by the Parent's Association from the parents. Thank you to all families who paid the levy. This year's collection totalled €1,685 and this money will be put towards some outdoor play equipment for the playground.

As well as fundraising the Parent's Association are involved in the development of some school policies such as Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Thank you for your continued support.
Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Religious Services

Grandparents Day: To mark this occasion Fr. Brendan celebrated Mass on Wednesday 29th January in Cootehall Church as part of Catholic School's Week.

Christmas Mass : Fr. Brendan celebrated Mass on Friday 20th December. The Senior Infant students put on a short Nativity performance after the Mass to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

The Playschool

Ardcarne Community Childcare Services CLG is situated in our school. The playschool is run by a Management Committee which is independent of the National School. Twenty-two children attend and there are 5 fully qualified childcare practitioners in the service. There is an "Breakfast Club" Session from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., a "Early Bird" Session from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and the "Aistear" Session from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., a "Late Pick Up" Session from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is also an Afterschool scheme. This is for Junior and Senior Infants class from 2.10 p.m. to 3.10 p.m. and from 3.10 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. for all students during school term time. An out of school service is ran during school Holidays which consists of camps and workshops during mid-term breaks and the month of July. Details available from pre-school. Any queries regarding the playschool, please phone 071-9667140.



Swimming Lessons

The 3rd to 6th class students took swimming lessons in Aura Leitrim Leisure in January and February for 6 weeks. All the swimming instructors were very impressed with the progress that the students made over the 6 weeks.

Tennis Lessons

Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd class completed six classes of Tennis lessons in the first term.

Tin Whistle

Padraig Sweeney came to the school to give tin whistle lessons to students from 1st to 6th class in the first and second term. The standard in the school has improved again this year. The tin whistle playing really added to our school events this year.

Computer Classes

Students from 3rd to 6th class had Computer Classes in the first term with Cait Roscommon Ltd where they learned word processing and coding skills.



The School Garden

This year a lot of work was done in our school garden. Planting beds were refilled/planted and all classes went out regularly in conjunction with Wayne from Knockvicar Organic. The garden continues to develop impressively over the year. It is always great to see the pride in the students when they have harvested their own organic healthy food. On the 21st October we cycled down to visit Knockvicar Organic Gardens.

Christmas Carol Concert

The students sang at the Christmas Carol Concert in St. Michael's Church Cootehall on Friday 13th December organised by Fr. Brendan.

Grandparents Day

On Wednesday 29th January the school organised its ninth Grandparents day. It was such a happy heart warming day where our students proudly showed off their school to their Grandparents. Thank you to Fr. Brendan for celebrating Mass on this special day and also to all who helped with the refreshments. It is a real highlight of the year and a day we really look forward to each year.

Ros Na nÓg Festival

As part of the Ros Na nÓg Festival, the students from 3rd and 4th Class went to Boyle Library to meet Authors E.R. Murray and Alan Early on Thursday 10th October, 2019 and the students from 5th and 6th Class went to Boyle Library to meet Storyteller Niall De Burca on Thursday 3rd October, 2019.

The Dock

The students from Junior and Senior Infants went to the Dock in Carrick-on-Shannon to see a Christmas Show called "*The Gingerbread Man*" on Thursday 12th December, 2019. They students really enjoyed the performance.

Science Week

Science week in the school was as usual great fun. Loads of interesting science experiments was shared in the classrooms. 5th and 6th class students put on a science fair in the classroom for all the school to enjoy. Well done 5th and 6th class! The students from First and Second Class went to the Dock in Carrick-on-Shannon to see a Science Show on Thursday 5th March, 2020. They students really enjoyed the show.

Food Dudes

The school took part in the "Food Dudes" programme from 15th October for sixteen days. The children enjoyed eating lots of fruit and vegetables while receiving prizes and certificates along the way!



Cycle to Knockvicar Organic Gardens

The students from 3rd to 6th class took part in a Cycling Training Programme in conjunction with Roscommon Sports Partnership in the First Term. The students from 3rd to 6th Class cycled to Knockvicar Organic Gardens, had a tour of the Gardens and visited the Alpaca Farm on Monday 21st October. The day was very enjoyable and informative for all.

Soccer

Soccer Coaching for 1st to 6th Class took place throughout the year.

G.A.A.

Bernie Shannon from Roscommon G.A.A. came in the 1st term to train the students in Gaelic Football. St Michael's coaches has also been passing on their expertise to our future county players. Thank you to the club for redeveloping the training field at the rear of the school .

World Book Day

The students had the opportunity to dress up as their favourite character from a book for 'World Book Day' on Thursday 5th March. As usual the costumes were a feast for the eyes. All students received a Book Voucher worth €1.50 . Remember keep reading!

Basketball League

The students from 5th and 6th Class were getting ready for the Primary School Mini Basketball League. Thanks to Joan for all her expert training. Unfortunately the Basketball League was postponed due to the coronavirus .

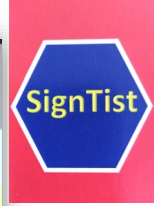
Rugby

The students from 3rd to 6th Class took part in Rugby training in the second term. We also collected our Aldi Rugby stickers for sports equipment.

School Active Flag

As part of the Schools Active Flag programme the school continued the 10@10 exercises on Fridays when the weather was kind!

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME



PICTURED ABOVE ARE THE STUDENTS FROM 6TH CLASS WHO DEVELOPED "SIGNTIST" A FABULOUS GAME WHICH ENABLES THE PLAYERS TO LEARN ALL THE NATIONAL ROAD SIGNS. ALSO IN THE PICTURE ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BROTHERS OF CHARITY.



PICTURED ABOVE IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GARDAI ALONG WITH SCHOOL PUPILS AT THE LAUNCH OF "SIGNTIST".

DLP - CLAN DUFFY
DEPUTY DLP - DEIRDRE BRENNAN

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