

Our School June 2023

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



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**TO OUR
EIGHTEENTH
EDITION**

Welcome to the 18th edition of our School 's Newsletter 2023.

This newsletter is for the benefit of all in our community, the students and their families, the people living in our parish and anyone else who is interested in our school!

Look at all the things we did this school year.

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 continued 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 help keep everybody more informed about our school and all that goes on inside our grounds. It is a great one stop shop for information about the school.

Students & Employees

For the year 2022/23, 169 students attended our school. For this year, there were 6 mainstream classes in the school and class numbers averaged 28.2

Our class teachers were:

- Mr. Cian Duffy, Principal**
- Mr. Lochlainn Conboy**
- Ms. Tanya Tansey**
- Ms. Arlene Gilhooly**
- Ms. Christine McLoughlin**
- Ms. Laura Conroy/Ms. Deirdre Brennan (Jobsharers)**

Special Education Teachers:

- Ms. Catherine Martin, Deputy Principal**
- Ms. Deirdre Brennan**
- Ms. Brid O'Keeffe (Part-time)**
- Ms. Andrea MacManus (Part-Time)**

Mr. Mark Harrington (Part-Time Language Support (April-June 2023))

Special Need Assistants:

- Pauline Dwyer**
- Joan Tiernan**

For the year September 2023 to June 2024 we will have a slight increase in the number of students in our school. A secretary and a cleaner is also employed at the school.



School

Tours

On Tuesday 20th June, the school went to Just 4 Fun in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence on their School Tour.

Religious Services

First Holy Communion First Holy Communion took place on Saturday 20th May in Cootehall Church.

Confirmation Confirmation for 6th class students took place on 3rd May in Cootehall Church.

Christmas and End of Year Mass Fr Brendan celebrated our Christmas Mass on Wednesday 21st December and will celebrate the school's end of year Mass on Friday 23rd June.



Crocus Project The students from Ms. Gilhooly's Class were invited by Mary McAleese, Former President of Ireland to visit her home in Roscommon on Monday 17th October to plant, at her house, crocus bulbs for the launch of the Crocus Project run by the Holocaust Education Trust in Ireland.



History Tour of our local graveyard

On Thursday 11th May 5th and 6th Class students visited Ardcarne Graveyard and Church for a local history tour. Thank you to Ardcarne Graveyard Committee who organised the day and provided a lovely lunch and quiz prizes.

Food Dudes

The students took part in the "Food Dudes" programme in the first term. This programme was designed to encourage healthy eating and encourage children to take new healthy foods such as fruit and vegetables. Most of the students really enjoyed the fruit and vegetables.



On Wednesday 21st December we had some fantastic *Christmas Jumpers* won on *Christmas Jumper Day*.



Hallowe'en Dress Up

We had our annual Hallowe'en Dress Up Day on Friday 28th October. Costumes get more impressive with every passing year.



Board Games

Mr. Duffy's Class created board games and when they were finished, they had great fun sharing and playing all their board games with each other.

Aldi Play

Rugby

Stickers We participated in the ALDI Play Rugby promotions for primary schools.

Hopefully, we will be lucky! Thank you to all who brought in stickers to the school.

Shoe Box Appeal

The students participated in the Shoe Box Appeal again this year. 73 boxes were donated by our students. Thank you for your generosity again this year.



Science Week

Science week in the school was as usual great fun. Loads of interesting science was shared in the classrooms. Well done to 4th, 5th & 6th class for putting on a Science Fair, the students from the other classes really enjoyed seeing the many amazing experiments. The students from Ms. Gilhooly's Class went to the Abbey Community College in Boyle to see a Science Show on Wednesday 16th November, 2022.

St. Brigid's Day Crosses

The students put rushes to good use to make St. Brigid Day Crosses. Well Done!





Music Generation The students from Junior/Senior, First and Second Class took part in the Music Generation programme in the third term in the school. The children really enjoyed taking part in the Music Generation Programme this year.



**Artwork
in the
Classroom**



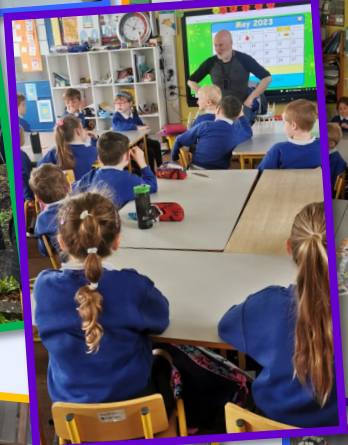
Stained Glass Workshop Colette Langan, local artist came to the school in the third to deliver a stained glass workshop to Mr. Duffy's Class. The students really enjoyed the workshop.

A look back on the year!









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 Lazlo from Knockvicar Organic Gardens. The garden continues to develop impressively over the year.



Planting also took place in the classrooms. Very impressive!



Heritage in Schools

Biodiversity expert Shailagh Healy came to the school on Friday 5th May to teach us all about our local woods. On Tuesday 9th May, Ms. Gilhooly's class went on a field trip to Drumhierny Woods. The children engaged in four different workshops including dance, nature, printing and rope making.

Martina Butler from Heritage in Schools visited the school on Friday 26th May to teach the students about different bugs and insects.



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 practitioner in the service. There is a “Breakfast Club” Session from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., the “Aistear” Session from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 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.

Tennis Lessons

Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd Class completed five classes of Tennis lessons with Tim Clarke, Tennis Instructor in the third term.

Swimming Lessons

Senior Infants to 3rd class students took swimming lessons in Aura Leitrim Leisure in the Second and Third Term for 6 weeks. All the swimming instructors were very impressed with the progress that the students made over the 6 weeks.



Basketball

The students from 5th and 6th Class took part in the Primary School Mini Basketball League. Thanks to Joan for all her expert training.



G.A.A.

Stephen Bohan from Roscommon G.A.A. came in the third term to train all the students in Gaelic Football as part of the coaching programme run by Roscommon G.A.A. County Board.

Cumann na mBunscol

The school fielded teams in both the boys and girls football competitions. The boys and girls team played really well. Both school teams were unlucky to be eliminated by strong teams. Well done to all footballers and coach Mr. Conboy Thank you to St. Michael's G.A.A. coaches for all your support.



Soccer

The students took part in the FAI Primary School 5-a-side soccer competition in Lecarrow on Friday 21st April. There was Soccer training for Ms. McLoughlin's Class, Mr. Duffy's Class and Ms. Gilhooly's Class throughout the year.





Hurling/Camogie

Hurling/Camogie training took place in the third term for the 4th to 6th Class students. The girls school camogie team and the boys school hurling team played in their Cumann na mBunscol blitz on Thursday 20th April in Castlerea. On Monday 22nd May the Camogie team got through to the County Final which was played on 31st May in Lisamult. The Cootehall girls put up a great fight, but just fell short in the end.



Cycle to Knockvicar Organic Gardens

The students from 5th and 6th Class took part in a Cycling Training Programme in conjunction with Roscommon Sports Partnership in the third term. The students learned the skills of safe cycling. On Monday 12th June the students from 4th, 5th and 6th Class cycled to the Knockvicar Organic Gardens and Alpaca Farm.



Agri-Aware Mobile Farm

Say Yes to Languages Laura O'Neill came to the school to teach German to the 4th to 6th class students in the third term.

The mobile Farm came to the school on Tuesday 13th June.

Drama Workshop On 18th and 19th May, Jason Ryan came to the school to deliver a drama workshop to all the students in the school.

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.

The Parents Association are involved in the development of school policies such as Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Our Parents Association are always looking for new members. Hope to see you at our next meeting!



World Book Day and Fundraiser for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Disaster
 The students had the opportunity to dress up as their favourite character from a book for 'World Book Day' on Thursday 2nd March. In conjunction with World Book Day, we organised a fundraiser to help those affected by the Earthquake. The total amount raised was €343.00 to help those affected by the Earthquake. Thank you to all those who donated to this worthy cause.



Special Effects Workshop Amanda McCarthy delivered a special effects workshop to 5th and 6th class students on Thursday 25th May. She showed the students how to create bruises, gashes and wounds. There were some very impressive looking students after the workshop!!

DLP - CLAN DUFFY
DEPUTY DLP - LOCHLAINN CONBOY

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