



## October/November Newsletter

Hello everyone. Here is a brief summary of the events that have gone on in the school in the previous few months as well as some upcoming events in December and the New Year

**Appointments:** Ms. Lisa Healy has been appointed to the role of Deputy Principal following the interview process. Ms. Thompson currently in the role of Acting Deputy while Ms. Healy is on leave. Ms. Siobhan Murphy appointed to the role of Principal Cluster release post. Ms. Roisin Killeen appointed to job share role in 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class and Ms. Eimear O'Gorman is the class teacher in 2<sup>nd</sup> class for the duration of Ms. Healy maternity leave. Ms. Charlotte Keen has returned to the classroom on a full-time basis to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class.

**Staff Departure:** Henry O'Gorman has left the staff as of October 17<sup>th</sup> to begin his role as Deputy Principal in Kilfinny National School in Co. Limerick. We would like to thank him for his outstanding contributions to the school during his time here and we wish his every success in his new role.

**Active Schools:** We have established an Active School Committee and will be engaging with the committee to help us gain an Active Flag for the school before the end of the year. We are currently engaged with Active breaks throughout the day for all classes as well as developing playground games at break time.

**Student Council:** We have set up a Student Council this term as well. The role of the Council will be to represent the student body and give feedback as to the opinions and ideas of the students in the school. We are hoping to introduce goals into the yard in the coming weeks and will be creating prize packs for the winners of our World Cup competition.

**Staff BOM representative:** The staff have nominated Ms. Anne Marie Deady to be the staff representative on the Board of Management to replace Patrick Murphy. We would like to wish her well in her new role.

**Religion:** First Communion is fixed for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am and the Confirmation is fixed for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April in Freemount.

### **Curriculum:**

PDST training was done in school on November 14<sup>th</sup> on the use of IT in the school and using it more effectively. This was very well received by the staff members.

The school swimming policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management in November.

We are currently reviewing our PE and Healthy Eating Policies as a staff and these will be passed to the Board for ratification in due course.

### **SSE:**

The school will be engaging with PE for the school self-evaluation process this year. We have sent out a survey to all parents and the feedback from it is being looked at presently. This will give us guidance to areas that we can improve on in the future. The school will be closing for a Half Day on December 8<sup>th</sup> to allow the staff engage in whole school PE planning.

**Covid-19:** -we have had 0 cases in the school since our previous meeting. I would like to thank all the staff for their continued help on this and also Ms. Thompson and Ms. Keen for their monitoring of school cleaning supplies and cleaning of the school.

**Extra-Curricular Classes:**

French Lessons began September 26<sup>th</sup> for six-week period. This was extremely popular and was done by all the children in the school. We are delighted to also be able to continue these classes for a further six weeks after Christmas.

Swimming Lessons started on November 9<sup>th</sup> for a 6-week period for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class In Killeline Pool in Newcastlewest. Parents association paying a contribution towards the bus amount and the school are paying the remaining balance. We are very appreciative of the continued support from the Parents Association.

The school have been fortunate to secure Gymnastics lessons for the whole school beginning on January 12<sup>th</sup> for a 5-week period. We anticipate this being very popular as there are a lot of children currently attending classes outside of school. The classes will be held in the Community Hall.

**GAA:**

Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class took part in a series of non-competitive blitz days in Charleville during the month of October. These were very enjoyable days out and we would like to thank those parents who kindly helped transport the students to and from Charleville.

Pat Spratt and Kathleen O'Brien were in the school coaching children during October and November. We would like to thank the Camogie Club for their help in organising the coaching with Kathleen.

**Food Dudes:**

We were delighted to engage with the Food Dudes Healthy eating initiative during the last few weeks. We would like to thank Ms. Tighe for her help in co-ordinating this and we would ask you to continue to encourage your children to include healthy options in their lunches.

**Fundraising:** We held our concert this Sunday with the Duhallow Choir. It is hoped that the money raised from this will go towards the further development of the sensory room as well as purchase of ICT. We would like to thank the whole school community for their very generous support and we hope that everyone had an enjoyable night. I would also like to thank all the staff for their time and effort in helping to prepare the children for the concert.