



## Newsletter JANUARY 2020

### **Green Schools:**

The Green Schools Committee have been busy thinking of ways in which we can raise awareness of Biodiversity in our school. We carried out surveys with each class to find out what we already know about this theme. We are currently taking part in 'The Great Plant Hunt' programme and each class will research different native species of plants and animals in Ireland in the coming months. Please follow the Green School section of our website for more updates.

### **Active Schools**

The Active School Committee has been doing a wonderful job of helping our school be more active during lunchtimes by organising loads of fun games and activities for our students to participate in. Active lunch breaks take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Rachie Needham and Anna Pedersen were the slogan winners for the Active Schools noticeboard! All classes will continue to use Active Breaks such as Go-Noodle, Yoga and running to integrate more physical activity into our day. Camogie training from 4<sup>th</sup> class upwards has commenced on Tuesdays from 3 to 4pm. Children will be given 'Active Homework' on Wednesdays. These will be simple and fun activities aimed at helping all students reach the national recommendation of 60mins daily physical activity.

### **Updated Policies:**

The following policies have been reviewed and updated so far this year:

- History
- Geography
- PE
- Music
- Substance Use
- Code of Behaviour/Antibullying
- Child Safeguarding Statement

**Fundraising:** total of €1144.29 has been fundraised in term 1. Thanks to all who have supported any event. The PA are organising bag packing in Super Valu this Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February between 10-6pm. If you are available to help please contact Jan Pedersen on 0868271508. We are aiming to purchase new iPads and a charging caddy for the iPads this term.

### **Board of Management**

We have a new Board of Management in place. The new members are: Patrick Sullivan, Pádraig Egan, Marie Conway, Kevin O'Looney, Alison Varley, Fiona Fitzgerald, Deborah Dudgeon, David Short. The first meeting of the new board took place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **Parents Association**

A new committee was elected in September and since the last update the PA were involved in the following:

- Helped at the school's Sports day and Bingo fundraiser
- Organised a second-hand uniform sale at Clare Care
- Helped with the Green Schools tree planting
- Advised on school policy
- Supported nominations for the BOM parent's representatives

In the next month they will be doing another yard sweep. If you could spare some time it would be greatly appreciated. More details to follow.

The committee have also undertaken a training course run by the National Parents Council which will help improve the support the PA can provide.

The PA would sincerely like to thank everybody for their continued support and wish everybody the very best for 2020. -

### **Explorers Education Programme:**

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class have been participating in the Explorers Education programme this year and have been learning all about the West Clare coastline. We will be doing a Field Trip to Ballyvaughan shores in May.

### **Burren Outdoor Education Centre:**

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class will be participating in a workshop with the Burren Outdoor Education centre this month. This will be a practical workshop where the pupils will be learning all about the rocks and landscapes of the Burren.

### **Homework:**

Please ensure pupils homework is completed each evening and their homework journal should be signed by a parent/guardian.

### **Annual Report 2018/2019:**

The annual report from the Board of Management is available to view on the school's website.

### **Dates for Diary:**

- Confirmation will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020
- Catholic School's Week will take place from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> March.
- Midterm break Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> & Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

### **Camogie:**

After school camogie training has commenced on Tuesdays. Pupils from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class are invited to attend. Parents must sign consent forms in advance of training. Training will take place from 3-4pm on the 3G pitches in Clarisford. Parents can collect their child at 4pm from the pitches.

**Planning Permission:** A planning application has been submitted to Clare County council for our new classroom build. This is a very exciting time for the school and we are looking forward to seeing work started before the Summer holidays.

**Art Exhibition:** As part of our Wellbeing initiative the pupils have been working on an art project entitled 'What Makes me Happy.'

Their framed pieces of artwork will be available to view and purchase on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February between 2-3pm. More details to follow nearer the time.

### **Grandparents Day:**

We will be celebrating Grandparents Day on February 6<sup>th</sup>. All grandparents of our junior and senior infant classes are welcome to visit from 9.45am-11am.

