

ST KILIAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Ní Neart Go Cur le Chéile

Imlitir 12

Mí Márta

School Roll No: 19608V Principal: Rónán Mac Namara Deputy Principal: Breeda Kenny.



"She was the kindest person I've ever known."

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death, on Saturday February 18th, of our dear friend and colleague Eimear Gilroy. Eimear's requiem mass was celebrated in Athboy on Tuesday 21st February. It was attended by our heartbroken staff, along with some parents and past pupils from St. Kilian's.

Eimear graduated from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, in 2007 and taught with us here in St. Kilian's ever since. She had been on long term sick leave in recent years as she fought a courageous battle against illness. Indeed, some of the current staff recently told me how they brought Eimear's belongings over to our new school from the old in November 2016, but sadly, she never managed to return to teaching in the new building.

Eimear will be remembered by all her past pupils and colleagues for her immeasurable kindness, compassion, creativity and above all her wicked sense of humour. She was full of personality and fun and passionate about the welfare of all her pupils, most especially of those who didn't necessarily conform to the norm. In them she may have recognised kindred spirits! Her classroom was full of colour, activity and music. Her pupils were always engaged with the very latest trend whether it be X Factor, Bake Off or Masterchef. Unfortunately, I was very often the judge obliged to taste and 'savour' their sometimes dubious dishes. She was never without her guitar, using it to help inspire and entertain her pupils. She helped prepare children for the National Children's Choir and was always on hand to assist with music for the sacraments and other special occasions. She worked tirelessly to pass on her love of the written word.

When Eimear went on sick leave, she remained in contact with the school staff. She kept up to date with birthdays, marriages, and all other special occasions. If you were isolated with Covid you might find a big box of goodies on your doorstep, left there by Eimear. She delighted in the arrival of newborn babies on the staff and ensured they were suitably spoilt. I have it on good authority that she even named one of those babies! One teacher texted me to say that 'she was the kindest person I've ever known.' This sentiment in essence sums her up and is why she will certainly be missed by all of us here in the Mullagh school community.

We will organise some fund-raising activities for the Irish Kidney Association over the coming weeks in Eimear's memory. We will have a Lá Glas, Mufti Day for pupils on Thursday, March 16th. There will be a staff lunch and collection on this day also. We will remember her at our Confirmation ceremony today and we will have a mass in her memory before the end of this school year. I will give the school community a date for this over the coming days.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with her proud and loving family, her parents Gerry and Margaret, her sister Dearbhla, who is also a primary school teacher, and her brothers Rónán and Conor.

A Eimear, a chroí, ní bheidh do leithéid ann arís gan dabht.

Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam agus go mbeidh suaimhneas síoraí aici i measc na naomh.

Ronan MacNamara (Príomhoide).

All-Ireland Volleyball Champions



Congratulations to our 6th Class girls' volleyball team who were crowned All-Ireland Champions yesterday. The National finals were held in UL Sports Arena, Limerick. The girls were unbeaten in the group stage, which placed them as a top seed for the quarter finals. They won their quarter final by 8 points against St. Joseph's of Templemore of Tipperary. In the semi-final, the girls faced St. Ita's of Galway who were the reigning national champions for the last 4 years. In a tight game, St Kilian's came out on top on a scoreline of 25-19. This result meant the girls were through to the national final, a first for any team representing our school. In the final, the girls comfortably defeated Presentation Primary of Thurles to become All-Ireland winners.

Not only are these girls All Ireland Champions, but they are also probably the hardest working team in Ireland. They began their preparation in October and trained over 15 times. Growth Mindset has taught us that we must embrace challenge and work hard to succeed. They wouldn't have achieved success without the support of all the other boys and girls who trained with them after school and of course without the unstinting

dedication and hard work of Ms. Sheridan, Mr. Rowe, Mr. Mc Niffe and Mr. Monaghan.
Maith sibh go léir!



Our volleyball squad who recently competed in the regional finals in Dublin. The girls reached the All-Ireland final in Limerick. The teams are wearing our new jerseys sponsored by Run for Funds.

Dates for your diary.

Closures	
Thurs 16 th + Fri 17 th Feb	Midterm Break
Fri 17 th March	St. Patrick's weekend
Fri 31 st March to Mon 17 th April	Easter Holidays.
Mon 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Fri 2 nd June	Half day closure for Primary Language Curriculum staff training.
Monday 5 th June	Bank Holiday
Friday 23 rd June	Summer Holidays

School Ethos

Lent

Lent began last week on Ash Wednesday. It is a time for reflection, prayer, growth and new beginnings. At this difficult time in the world, we all need to pray for peace and reflect on how we can be better and help others in need.

All classes were brought to receive ashes on Wednesday. Thank you to Ms. Traynor and Fr. Paul for organising this.

All classes have committed to attend Mass at least twice during Lent.

Confirmation: The pupils in 6th Class will be confirmed today, Friday 3rd March in St. Kilian's Church. We wish them well.

Teaching and Learning at Home. Help us to help your child

Gaeilge Neamh Téama: An Teilifís

An maith leat clár spóirt? (sports programme)

Is maith liom/ Ní maith liom clár spóirt.

Is fearr liom clár grinn.

Línte Gníomhaíochta: Bogaigí ar an spota ar feadh nóiméid, go mall, níos tapúla, chomh tapa agus is féidir libh (Running on the spot).



Healthy Lunches: Please remember the following:

- Children attending our school may not bring sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks or crisps for lunch.

- The most effective way to plan a healthy lunch is to include one food from each of the food groups - one piece of fruit, milk/yoghurt, two slices of bread and meat/poultry/cheese.
- Parents are requested not to send foods with nuts in them due to children attending the school with nut allergies.
- Children are given the opportunity to eat lunch before both breaks.

We will promote healthy eating at school over the next two weeks in response to a request made to us by parents. All families are asked to co-operate with this initiative.



Ms Clarke's 2nd and 3rd Class, Cuilceach: We are taking part in **Incredible Edibles** this year. This is a healthy eating project for primary schools. It's aim is to educate students about growing fruit and vegetables and to increase their knowledge of food origin and quality. We also collected some food labels to see what is added to our food and where it comes from. We were delighted to receive our grow packs, strawberries, potatoes, lettuce, spinach, chives, carrots and turnips as well as other materials to help us get started growing. We planted our strawberries already with the help of Angela and our Teacher. We put our seed potatoes in egg cartons to encourage chitting. (the process of forcing seed potatoes to grow before they are planted out) We already planted a window box containing snowdrops and hyacinths last October. These bulbs are now growing. In SESE we learned about **Christopher Columbus**. We learned that he was born in Genoa in Italy and he started sailing when he was a teenager. The king and queen of Spain gave him money to buy three ships, the Santa Maria, the Nina and the Pinta. He sailed to the New World. He set out to find Asia but he never got to Asia. Our Class enjoyed completing projects on Christopher Columbus.



School Accounts. Our school accountant submitted our annual school accounts to the FSSU this week. This submission fulfils the financial reporting obligations of the Department of Education, the Charities Regulator, the Charities Act 2009 and the Central Statistics Office.

A summary annual account is available for parents on request from Liz in the office.

Ár gComhairle Scoile. The Valentine's Day Treat. On Tuesday 14th February, Valentine's Day, the student council paid for a visit to our school by The Horse Whisperer. All pupils and staff were treated to a hot drink and a treat using the money raised by the student body through a recent Mufti-Day. This visit was to thank the pupils and staff for all their hard work over these past few months.

We would like to thank Regina and Stephanie who looked after us all so well on Valentine's Day. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!



Ms. Maddison's 1st Class - Cluain Airne: What a wonderful way to celebrate Valentine's Day. The boys and girls in Rang a haon really enjoyed their hot chocolate and cookie. A big thank you to the student council for organising this. Our new word of the day was 'Sláinte!'



We also practiced our cutting and sticking skills to create our Valentine's koala bears.



Lá Domhanda na Leabhar. Great imagination and creativity on display in Ms McGovern's 1st and 2nd Class through the children's costume choices for World Book Day.



An tEanach (Snr. Infants)



And prize for best costume goes to Christopher O Dowd, YNWA!