

ST KILIAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Ní Neart Go Cur le Chéile

Imlitir 18 (Newsletter)

Mí Meitheamh

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



St. Kilian's N.S. Girls, Division 1 Cumann na mBunscol Champions. We are very grateful to their team of managers, Mr. Rowe, Mr. Mc Niffe, Ms. Sheridan and Mr. Monaghan for their dedication and hard work.

Farewell. I on behalf of the whole school community would like to bid farewell to all the boys and girls in 6th Class. I would like to thank in particular their two 6th Class teachers Mr Mc Niffe and Mrs. Kenny who worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm with this group throughout the year. On behalf of all staff and the BOM, I wish them well in secondary school and beyond. We are sorry to see them leave, but we are very confident they are leaving ready for the many challenges that life will bring.

I have included in this imlitir some photographs of them at school over the past 8 years.

Thank you to Lisa Lynch our 'unofficial' school photographer.

Go n-eirí libh!

Run For Funds 2023



6th Class, Down Memory Lane



Leah and Allie engrossed in 4th Class!

Standardised Testing. Standardised testing in literacy and numeracy for 1st to 6th Class inclusive has now been completed. Standardised tests are a snapshot in time and do not accurately reflect all aspects of a pupil's learning and development. Comprehensive information on standardised testing may be accessed on www.ncca.ie Results will be shared with parents on the end of year report cards. These report cards will as always reflect on all aspects of your child's learning, not just achievements in literacy and numeracy.

You should have received your child's school report last Tuesday on Aladdin.

Summer Holidays: Our school will close on Friday 23rd as follows, Infants and Spraoi at 11.50am followed by the remaining classes at 12 noon. There is no mass this year as Fr. Paul is unavailable.

Our school will reopen on Wednesday 30th August.

Cluain Airne It has been a busy final term in Cluain Airne but despite all the hard work we have managed to have lots of fun. We were learning all about different materials and we experimented making hats using newspaper. Check out our finished work. Some budding designers perhaps, Philip Treacy watch out!



The glorious weather had to be taken advantage of so the boys and girls in Rang a hAon were rewarded with a trip to the playground. There were a few rules, but the most important one was to have fun! And that they did!



This term we have been taking the time to study our local history and geography. First and Second class took a trip to the lake to check out the different flora and fauna we could find and we also tried to do a spot of bird watching. We were on the lookout for blackbirds, robins, blue tits and other garden birds. We weren't overly successful but we did see a rabbit and we had some hungry ducks to contend with! They must have known there'd be some healthy lunches about!



We stopped by Teampail Ceallaigh to walk around and see the Famine memorial.



First Class have worked so hard this year and we intend to weave our way to the holidays...literally!



6th Class, Down Memory Lane



Look What We Can Do!

Rang 2 + 3 Cuilceach: Over the last few weeks, the students in Ms. Clarke's third class have had the incredible opportunity to work with an artist, Marie Smith. Marie is a sculpture artist who has her work displayed in the National Museum. She has been working with the class on the art of clay. The class embarked on a creative journey by designing their pieces and then with the help from Marie, created wonderful creatures including bees, butterflies, caterpillars, lady birds and various species of fish. One of the key techniques the pupils learned was how to cross hatch. This ensures the creations have structure and don't crumble as they dry. Their art was fired in the Kiln and we had great fun painting them. The children shared their experiences below.

"We learned to sculpt the fish and I found it hard when the fins would not stick".

"I did not enjoy the feeling of clay on my hands".

"I found working with clay very satisfying."

"I enjoyed moulding the pieces.

"I would like to improve the shape of my ladybird".



We have been participating in the **Incredible Edibles Project** which is focused around growing various fruits and vegetables. We also learned about the importance of knowing what is in our food and where it comes from. The pupils have planted strawberries, potatoes, lettuce, spinach, chives, carrots, and turnips with the help of the class teacher and Angela. On Monday, the students picked the first strawberries after eagerly waiting for them to ripen over the last few weeks. So far, there have been eight strawberries

picked (and tasted of course!!). The students learned that it is very important to pick ripened strawberries as it helps the other berries to ripen. The whole class is looking forward to digging their potatoes and harvesting the other vegetables soon.



Parent Feedback Forms June 2023

[Parent Feedback Forms 2022/23.](#)

Thank you to all who returned the recent parent feedback forms on Survey Monkey. 158 parents took the time to complete the forms which reflects a very healthy level of engagement from our parent body. The feedback was once again very positive and appreciative of the good work being done in school. The criticisms were for the most part both constructive and respectful.

This year's feedback form was once again unsigned. This has advantages and disadvantages. The benefit of having signed feedback was that in previous years I was able to address minor issues directly with the parent in question. I find it frustrating that I am unable to do so this year. However I understand unsigned feedback encourages a freedom of expression that the signed version may not afford. Please contact us directly if you have any worries or concerns that you feel are not being addressed



Who needs a school uniform?

When asked to list our strengths, many parents wrote that the school has a warm, safe and welcoming environment. Parents acknowledged that although we recognise the importance of literacy and numeracy, pupils are also exposed to and encouraged to take part in so many other curricular and extra-curricular activities from performance arts, to a wide variety of sports, cooking, nature, gardening, caring for others and the list goes on. 98% of parents believe that Arts Education (Art, Crafts, Music, Dance, Drama, Creative Writing) is as important as Literacy and Numeracy in primary school. One parent wrote, "I love that the children are allowed to run, get dirty and be children". We are delighted to get this feedback and we wholeheartedly agree with the sentiment expressed.

Many parents commented that the school is well run with very good channels of communication between home and school. Communication is something we have worked on in recent years following feedback received in previous surveys. We have introduced SeeSaw and fortnightly newsletters in response to previous feedback received. Parents wrote about approachable teachers who listened to parents and were always available to them. Liz our school's secretary was also recognised for the valuable contribution she makes to the overall smooth running of the school. Seesaw and Aladdin are excellent tools of communication however some parents commented that they would like just one communication app. Parents seem to really enjoy and engage with the regular newsletters

which are sent home. Parents spoke in glowing terms about the help their children get from support teachers and in Spraoi.

6th Class, Down Memory Lane



We created memories and placed them in our time capsule, when the new school opened.

Parents made very favourable comments about Numeracy in our school. You wrote about children embracing problem solving, engaging with the problems in the newsletter and enjoying the 100th Day activities and particularly Maths Week. 96% of parents are happy with their child's progress in this area. We hope to increase parental participation in Numeracy next year through parent information meetings and the newsletter.

The area that traditionally has received the most negative comment was the car park situation and entry and exit procedures. 91% of parents now feel that this is working well. I am pleased to see such progress in this area. Parents did express some concern about driver behaviour outside the school gates. This is a matter for the Gardaí. We are very lucky to have a car park across the road from the school big enough to cater for our needs. I'd encourage all parents to use it in order to keep pupils safe.

6th Class, Down Memory Lane



Where have all the other runners gone?

When asked generally how we might improve there was no consistent theme among the 55 comments received. Some parents commented about homework; however this is an area that divides opinion. Most parents are now happy with the amount of homework received. We have a revised policy on our website reflecting feedback received previously. However, we will continue to try to improve.

86% of parents prefer the present tracksuit type uniform to a more formal version. This is a high satisfaction rating and it ensures we will continue with this uniform for the foreseeable. The 6th Class half-zip received favourable comment.

We posed a question about smart phones on the survey in an effort to begin a conversation about them. 73% of parents stated that their child doesn't have a smart phone. 24% of parents stated they would refuse to sign up to a collective agreement not to allow their child own a smart phone up to and including 6th Class. I assume this is because many of their children already have smart phones. We will now repeat this survey in junior classes and examine the results with the Parents Assoc. in September in an effort to drive change in this area. We will invite Zeeko to our school next year to deliver tailor made programmes to improve pupil safety online and with technology. Zeeko will also deliver an

information session for parents next year. We hope to complete this training before Christmas.

6th Class, Down Memory Lane



Still running after all these years!

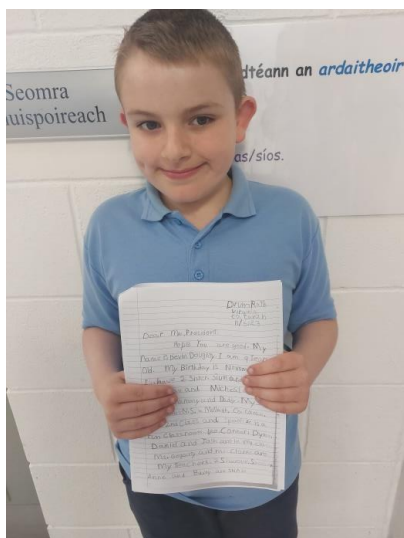
Key Questions	Yes	No	Comment
My child is happy and safe at school?	95%	5%	The most important question of all as an unhappy child cannot access the curriculum. We are aware of a small number of pupils who find coming to school challenging and we continue to support them.

I am satisfied with my child's progress at school.	97%	3%	Standardised test results for literacy and numeracy this year were very good and comparable to other years.
I am happy with my child's social and emotional development at school.	93%	7%	It is very important to us that we are supporting all pupils' social and emotional development at school. Please let us know if you continue to have concerns.
I am aware of the school's anti-bullying procedures	86%	14%	Anti-Bullying Policy is posted on the blog under school policies.
Please comment on how bullying issues were dealt with in your experience.			Most comments were very positive. A small number of parents expressed frustration that the bully wasn't punished or were unaware of the consequences for the bully. It is important to remember that we have a duty of care to support the alleged bully and to ensure matters are dealt with in a climate of trust and love as per our school's ethos.
I am aware of the school's Child Protection Policy	91%	9%	C.P. Policy is posted on the blog under school policies and also on the noticeboard in the entrance hall. Copies are available for parents.
I am aware of who is on the BOM	53%	47%	We regularly circulate BOM reports to parents through the newsletter. We will try to increase awareness as to who is on the board.

I am aware of who is on the Parents Assoc.	50%	50%	Feedback for the Parents Assoc.
I am happy my child attends a Catholic school.	92%	8%	This figure remains very high.
I am encouraged to be involved in my child's education.	98%	2%	This is positive feedback.
The school has a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.	100%		This is very positive feedback. Thank you. Liz our school secretary plays an important part in this.
Teachers are approachable.	99%		This is positive feedback.
My child gets the right amount of homework.	83%	7%	16% of parents told us in a survey earlier in the year that their child receives too much homework. We have a new Homework Policy on our website. We are moving in the right direction.
I think it is important that Gaeilge is taught at school.	74%	26%	There is great enthusiasm among the pupils generally for Irish in our school. It is very important that parents share this enthusiasm.

Teaching a foreign language at primary school is important.	52%	48%	A new foreign language programme will be introduced from Sept. 2025
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Didn't We Do Well!



Devin wrote to President Higgins.



Jack is a champion kick boxer.

6th Class, Down Memory Lane



And it's goodbye from us!

