

NEWSLETTER 9 - JUNE 2019

Class allocation 2019/20

Junior Infants: Lavinnia O'Malley
Senior Infants: Teresa Gibbons
First Class: Tina Clancy
Second Class: Rebecca Wallace (Substitute)
Third Class: Bairbre Ni Chonchubhair
Fourth Class: PJ Lee
Fifth Class: Síle Staunton
Sixth Class: Mary Joyce
Seventh Class: Christine Mullen
Eight Class: Grainne Mitchell
Support teachers: Siobhán King, Veronica Lynagh & Attracta McEvaddy.

Intergenerational Day

On 15th May, we celebrated Intergenerational Day at Scoil Mhuire. We invited the residents of Clúid and all our families to watch us perform a concert of music and poetry. There was a large array of talent on display. Earlier that day, we welcomed some visitors to our school who generously shared their hobbies and skills with us. They weaved baskets, showed us how to crochet and taught us how to spin wool. It was a wonderful, informative day and I can't wait for next year's.



Aoibhín O'Connor

Michael Jacobs' visit

Michael Jacobs visited Scoil Mhuire last week to provide children with his wonderful insight into the local ecology. The children were fully engaged with his lessons and even the teachers and principal learned a thing or two.



Aviva trip by Sixth class

On Wednesday 22nd of May, 6th class from Scoil Mhuire Clifden took part in the Aldi Play rugby National Festival in the Aviva Stadium, Dublin. It was an early start for the pupils and teachers with a departure time

of 5:30 am from Clifden, however everyone was in great spirits and looking forward to the day ahead.



When we reached the Aviva Stadium we registered and got warmed up. Next we lined up with the 15 other schools from all around Ireland. Each school then ran through the tunnel to rapturous applause and got a team photo with Irish rugby star Jack McGrath.

Our first game was against Glenswilly N.S. from Co. Donegal. The games were 10 minutes in duration with no half time and the games were 7 a side. After our first game we went on a tour of the Aviva Stadium. Our guide brought us to see the dressing rooms and we had the opportunity to sit where the Irish rugby players sit before their games. Angela was sitting in Paul O'Connell's seat! Next we saw the two heated pools that the players use before and after their matches. We learned that the Aviva Stadium not only hosts rugby matches but soccer and American football games too, along with music concerts. Our last stop on the tour was the training room which has an extra high ceiling so the rugby teams can practice their line outs before their games. The room is also soundproof so music artists can practice before concerts.

It was back to the pitch then for our second game of the day, this time we played Gorey Central from Co. Wexford. Our third and final game was against Convent of Mercy School from Kanturk, Co. Cork.

The festival ended with a big group photo of all the schools sitting together in the stand.

It was a long day but a very memorable one, we really enjoyed our experience in the Aviva Stadium. We feel lucky and honoured to be one of only four schools chosen from Connacht to take part in the festival. Maybe on day we will return to the

Aviva Stadium and play on the pitch again as part of the Irish rugby team or the Irish Soccer Team.

'Mol an oige agus tiocfaidh siad.'

Active School Week

This year's Active School Week took place this week, however, our Sports Day has been postponed till better weather next week! Thank you to Lily Mansfield.

End of Year reports

The school reports will be sent to parents via Aladdin unless parents request otherwise. The new school calendar will be sent at the same time. Booklists will be available on the school's website early July. The reports from 1st to 6th class will contain the Sten results of Drumcondra Mathematics and Drumcondra reading tests. These results are used by the school to determine whether students need extra challenges or extra supports next year. The department uses these results to decide how much Special Education Support the school receives. Our improvements over the years have been "rewarded" with reduced allocation!! In order to maximise the supports leveraged from the Department we decided to move the testing as early as possible (pre-Easter) from now on. We also decided to change our Maths test to the Drumcondra Maths test which is arguably a sterner test since it is both timed and adapted to the whole year's curriculum which wouldn't have been taught by the time the test was administered. Despite this, our results have continued on average to improve. Individually, however, some students' results may have been impaired by this change. Furthermore, please treat these results with caution. They are the subject of much anxiety in students at the moment and in reality the Drumcondra result is only an indicator

of how good a child is at the Drumcondra test. Student participation, effort and engagement throughout the year is a far greater indicator of future success and happiness than any standardised test.

Graduation

Ms Lynagh graduated as a Reading Recovery teacher last Thursday. Her graduation marked the culmination of a year-long programme involving many hours of extra work including 22 off site training sessions, teaching live observed lessons, giving and receiving feedback and input on the Marie Clay system of literacy instruction. Congratulations from the school community!!

Cake/Garage Sale with musical accompaniment

Fifth class are in the process of pioneering the development of a student council. They are hoping to raise funds to enable the council to get off to the best possible start. These funds could be used by the council to support the school by inviting guest speakers, purchasing equipment etc. This sale will take place on the 25th of June. I would like to thank all the parents in advance for their wonderful support.

Watersports Day Poster Colouring

Winners of Watersports Day Poster Colouring Competition are **Eve McCarthy** in 6th class and **Emetas Bielskis** in Senior Infants. Congratulations to both.



OVERVIEW JUNE 2019

Friday 7th: 6th class walk to Derrygimla

Wednesday 12th: 1st Class tour to Westport House- Science Fair in Town Hall (6th class)

Thursday 13th: Cuman na mBunscoil in Carna- 2nd Class tour in Clifden

Friday 14th: New Entrants visit/Junior Infants End of Year Concert

Saturday 15th: Alcock & Brown 100 Parade

Thursday 20th: Ribena Cup in Letterfrack

Friday 21st: Infants Class tour to Loughwell Farm- 7pm: 6th Class Graduation

Wednesday 26th: Summer Break