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2023 Summer Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of another school year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and commitment to our school over the past 12 months. Below are some news items to take note of. As always please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on school events. Please be aware that we will reopen Thursday the 31st of August.

Classes for next year: Teachers have been allocated to the following classes for September. Junior Infants: Mrs O'Meara, Senior Infants: Ms O'Grady, 1st Class: Ms Gallagher, 2nd Class: Miss Hogan: 3rd Class: Mr Shanagher, 4th Class: Mr Ryan, 5th Class: Mr Murray, 6th Class: Ms Ní Cheallaigh. Special Education Teachers: Mrs O'Sullivan, Mrs Tierney, Ms Beary, Ms Martin, Michelle Cantillon and another position to be decided during the summer break. ASD Special Class: Ms Lynch. Special Needs Assistants: Bernadette Carr, Ciara O'Dwyer, Miriam O'Sullivan, Niamh Meehan, Linda Murphy and Joanne O'Driscoll. We wish Janice White, Marguerite Power and Irene McCarthy well on their maternity leaves.

School reports: Your child's school report was issued via Aladdin Connect last Friday. If you did not receive your report, please contact the school immediately. Booklists and the school calendar were also handed out and are available on our website.

Book Scheme: As you are aware, the Department of Education has provided funding to schools to purchase pupil textbooks for the coming year. You should have received a stationery list from the school during the week.

School Garden: The school vegetable patch has really progressed over the past few months with all the plants thriving under the care and attention of our third class boys. We really look forward to a wonderful harvest come September!

Student Council: Well done to the Student Council for all the hard work done during the year 2022 – 2023. Many thanks to Jan Bartnik & Matas Bruzas (4th Class) Aaron Massey & Niall Chambers (5th Class) and to Conor Bake & Alex Egan (6th Class) The Student Council worked on the following projects: Christmas Shoebox Appeal: they organised a collection of gifts from pupils. They spoke to each class about Team Hope and its fundraising and they put together shoeboxes for children in Africa for Christmas. Internet Safety: The Student Council spoke to each class about the importance of Internet safety. They presented a PowerPoint presentation and a Question and Answer session with each class. The pupils carried out a survey to see how many different nationalities are in our school. Welcome signs were made in each language and were displayed with the flags of these countries. Europe 50. The pupils prepared speeches to welcome Councillor Kieran O Donnell to our school. They held a Question and Answer session with the Councillor on the topic of Europe 50.

Biodiversity: Geoff Hunt, a biodiversity expert with heritage schools Ireland, has worked with all classes this term developing their awareness of all things nature in our local environment. Infants focused on water birds, 1st class on wildflowers, 2nd class on trees, 3rd class on minibeasts and 5th and 6th classes went pond dipping at the canal and again discovered a multitude of flies and insects living in this habitat. The children were fascinated and learned so much about the local environment. We look forward to having Geoff back with us next year.

An Choill Bheag: Almost three hundred native Irish trees were planted this year in our new woodland area on the Frank Hogan's side of the school. Birch, hazel, oak, holly, scots pine, elder, crab apple are among some of the varieties of trees that were planted. Many thanks to all of the pupils of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes who assisted Niamh and Rachel of An Tasice in making this possible. The outdoor classroom area has been used on numerous occasions over the past few months and we look forward to seeing the woodland grow over the coming years. Particular thanks to Nessa Hanly and the pupils who watered the trees so diligently back in April.

JEP: Congratulations to our 6th class boys on successfully achieving the Junior Entrepreneur Programme award for their work on Smoolicious Smoothies. The boys worked exceptionally hard throughout the project and showed great team work. They produced amazingly tasty smoothies that were enjoyed by all. They earned €418 from the project and this was used to subsidise their 6th class hoody. Many thanks to Ms Ní Cheallaigh for the guidance she gave the boys.

Sacraments: Congratulations to all of our 2nd class boys who received their First Holy Communion this term. It was a very special occasion in our school calendar and we could not be more proud of all of the boys. Many thanks to Ms Hogan for preparing them so well.

Active Schools: Huge congratulations to Ms Ní Cheallaigh and all of the 6th Class active school committee for achieving the Active Flag for the second time. They put in a huge effort and were highly commended by the assessor last week. Thanks to all of the boys and staff across the school who contributed in so many ways.

We had a very successful fun sports day on Thursday in Garryowen green. It was a fantastic occasion and all pupils from juniors to 6th were kept active all day long. We had fun relay races, egg and spoon races and sack races along with a variety of other fun activities. It was great to see all the pupils out and being so active throughout the whole day. Many thanks to Mr Ryan for coordinating.

Sports: Well done to all of the boys who participated in the variety of sporting activities that took place over the summer term. We had a wonderful day in U.L. for the county athletics day, with the team winning their division's title. There were excellent performances all round from the boys and demonstrated the abundance of talent we have in the school. Maith sibh! We had hurling practice after school for our u9, u11 and u13 hurlers and each team participated in a number of games and events. Thanks to Ms O'Grady for organising the senior infant/1st class and the 2nd/3rd class hurling blitzs held in Garryowen. We had nearly one hundred boys playing hurling between the two days. Many thanks to Ms O'Grady, Ms Ní Cheallaigh, Ms Cantillon for coaching the hurlers after school and Mr Ryan and Mr Shanagher for supporting

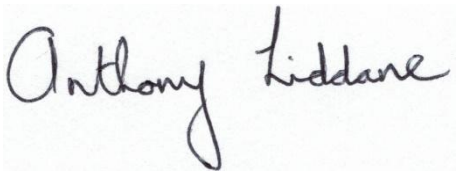
the athletics team. We encourage all boys to get involved with local sporting organisations. Details of some of these can be found on our website.

Creative Schools: Many thanks to all parents for your support of our creative schools' project. It has been fantastic to hear children play the tin whistle and ukulele during the year and we look forward to more of the same next year. Thanks to Mrs O'Meara for coordinating the project, which is being run with our neighbouring schools.

School Choir: The school choir supported many events in the school this year with their amazing ability to perform to very high standards. We are sad to say goodbye to its 6th class members but also look forward to hearing the younger boys take on the mantle next year. Thanks to Ms Beary for leading throughout the year.

6th Class Graduation: We wish our 6th class every success and happiness in their studies in Secondary School and their futures. With them, we also say goodbye to their families that we have worked closely with over the years. We thank you for your cooperation and wish you all of the best.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Liddane

Principal