

# May 2019 Newsletter

## **Building Works:**

Work is progressing on the new build with the roof now in place. Windows, plumbing, electrics, painting and flooring will take place over the coming months in time for the new school year. An electrical upgrade has taken place in the old building and new ceiling tiles in all corridors have been installed. Scaffolding is in place for the roof replacement of the old building. The staff room will also be extended. The car park will be extended in front of the new build. A new entrance is planned where the new build joins the old building. We are all looking forward to a new look school with 14 mainstream classes! Lots of packing and clearing-out to be done in the meantime!

## **Co- Ed.:**

The girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes from Our Lady of Mercy have had 2 visits to St. Colmcille's. In the first visit the boys and girls from each year took part in a table quiz. The 2<sup>nd</sup> visit was called 'Meet the Playground'. Here the girls walked up the avenue and were shown where to go once they went into the yard. They had an opportunity to play in the playground, the sports field, the handball alleys or the soft area playground. Parents are welcome to visit any time between now and September to familiarise themselves with the layout of the school. There will be one more visit near the end of June where pupils will find out where their classroom is and the name of their teacher for next year.

## **Book Rental:**

Reminder to have book rental forms with payment returned to the school by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Also registration forms for the girls need to be returned by that date.

## **National Children's Choir**


From last September, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class boys have worked hard on a vast selection of songs for the National Children's choir. They had 3 regional rehearsals throughout the year culminating in a regional concert in Ardee. All these children were a credit to their families and teachers. Eight children were then selected to sing in the National Concert Hall in Dublin on 26<sup>th</sup> May with over 350 children from all over Ireland. Those boys were Nathan Brady, Tiarnán McGovern, Tiernán Anderson, Cillian Ryan, Jake Madden, Darren

Kavanagh, Fionn Cleary and Eanna Bennett. Sincere thanks to Mrs Mc Mahon and Mrs Bennet for the work they have done with the choir every Friday morning to enable them to sing at this level.

### **Choral Evening:**

As part of the Parents' Association Fundraising campaign for the new playground, the boys will take part in a choral evening in the Headfort Hotel on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. The concert is called 'Reeling in the Years' and will also be a farewell from the St. Colmcille's as we know it. We have some special guests with many of our past staff returning for the night. Tickets can only be bought in the school costing €15 each or €30 for a family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children. These will be sold on a first come basis. Children taking part in the show do not have to pay. Due to space restrictions we have to limit one family ticket to each family. The boys, staff and Parents' Association are working very hard and it promises to be a memorable night!

### **Green Schools**

	<p>Congratulations to the boys for achieving their 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Flag for Water Conservation. They received their flag at a special ceremony in City North Hotel on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. The committee were Ben Finlay, Ryan Gillick Reilly, Fionn Sheridan, Joseph Mc Clean, Dylan Brady, Senan Arkins, Tom Murtagh, Odhran Rasmussen, Marcus O'Connor, Paddy Callaghan and Brandon Connell. Many thanks to their teachers, Mr Egan and Mrs O Connell.</p>
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### **Our World Irish Aid Awards**

Congratulations to the boys who represented the school in Our World Irish Aid awards. The boys had to present their project they worked on called 'Plastic, Not So Fantastic'. 15 teams made it through the initial stages to qualify for the Leinster final. Many thanks to their teacher Ms Gilsenan, in preparing the boys for this award. Tom Murtagh, Jason Kelly, Matt Carey and Séan Petrusevic represented the committee on the day.

## Sports News

### Rugby

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class boys have enjoyed 3 weeks of rugby training with Ben Traynor.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes are busy with **football and hurling** foundation skills each week with Jenny Respin.

### Rounders

The boys played their first game of rounders against Bohermeen. This was very positive and hopefully will be continued next year.

Following on from winning **Cumann na mBunscol** football earlier this year, the hurling team have progressed to the semi-finals winning all 5 of their matches. Watch this space over the coming weeks! Many thanks to Ms. Briody and Mr. Bird for their daily coaching.

### Athletics

Meath Track and Field athletics will take place in Navan on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

### Fun Run

The Fun Run took a new route this year down the avenue, up to the swimming pool, past Eureka and then back up the avenue to the school. Each child completed 1km and were rewarded on their return with refreshments provided by John Madden. This Fun Run could not have taken place without the help of so many parents acting as stewards on the road and helping with refreshments in the school. €3,300 was raised in funding which will go towards our playground development. A huge thank you is extended to all families.

### Sports Day

Sports Day will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> June weather permitting.

### Swimming

Lessons will take place for all the boys on the following Thursdays: 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June. Details to follow at a later date.

### My Job Talks:

The Parents' Association organised 'My Job' talks for 6<sup>th</sup> class. Speakers described their present jobs and the experience of developing their work skills. A huge thank you is extended to the following for their time: Gordon Manning; sports journalist, Francis McDonagh; carpenter, Gwen Morgan; air traffic controller and Daragh Byrne movie director. All were a great success.

### **School Tours:**

Each year 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes go on a school tour. Second classes had a great day in the Crystal Maze in Kilmainhamwood on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May. Fourth classes will go to the Adventure Centre in Navan on June 21<sup>st</sup> while sixth classes will go to Tanagh Adventure Centre on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **First Holy Communion.**

Congratulations to the Second class boys who made their First Holy Communion on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. We were very proud of each and every one of them. A huge thank you is extended to their families for their support; to their teachers Mrs. Delaney, Mrs. Mc Intyre and Ms. Shortall for preparing the boys so well, to Fr. Sebe for a lovely ceremony and to Mrs. Mc Mahon and her wonderful choir.

### **School Self Evaluation (SSE)**

The focus this year is on increasing the use of spoken Irish both in school and at home. Please ask your child what new word or phrases they are learning each week and encourage them to have a positive attitude to Irish.

The second area of focus is on developing skills in digital technology which will help the children's learning. Our class set of iPads purchased through fundraising by the Parents' Association have helped immensely in this area.

### **Child Safety Statement and Risk Assessment**

The above documents are on our school website. Please read and contact the office if further clarification is needed or if you feel adjustments need to be made. The BOM have completed their annual review of these statements.



### **Dates To Remember:**

- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May: 'Reeling in The years' concert in Headfort Hotel @7.00pm.
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May: deadline for return of Book Rental forms with payment.
- Swimming Lessons on Thursdays : 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June.
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June: 6<sup>th</sup> class tour.
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June: Sports Day.
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June: 4<sup>th</sup> class tour.
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June: Summer holidays. School closes at 12.10pm