

Croagh National School

June 22nd 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and co-operation throughout this past academic year. This year was a particularly hard year with absenteeism, but we have managed to weather the awful storm of Covid-19 and hopefully we will be heading for calmer waters next year!

Religious Ceremonies

- Our First Holy Communion Ceremony was held on May 7th. This was a lovely ceremony and we would like to thank all who contributed to making it a memorable day for all those wonderful First Holy Communicants.
- The Bishop visited our parish on Friday May 13th to give Confirmation to our senior students. Once again we would like to thank all those who helped to make this ceremony a memorable experience for the students involved.
- Graduation Mass took place at 7pm on Tuesday June 21st. We had 8 students who graduated. We wish them well in their chosen secondary schools.

Sport

- We have made history again this year in the sporting field. The girls went to the trials for the West and Orla Frawley progressed to being selected for the team. Not only that but she went on to captain the West in the final, which went on to be the winning team. A big congratulations to her and we wish her all the best in her continued sporting career.
- Mr. Wallace's class have continued with their 'Run Across Europe Challenge'. They do laps around the school yard on a daily basis. They "ran" to many European cities over the past few months. They have now undertaken a greater distance. This time their destination is India. I think it will be a long trip!
- All have also excelled in their skipping ability. Each student from 2nd to 6th class has their own rope and they practice their skills.
- We would like to say a big thank you to past pupils Andrew and Tara who gave up their spare time to coach GAA to our students in the month of May/June.

Visits

- On February 23rd- Rosemary Kavanagh- also from Heritage Ireland came to our school to share her knowledge of willow crafts. Again we all went to the

parish hall and produced some wonderful fish from reeds. What true craftspeople they all are.

- On April 26th we had a remote lesson from Ger Brick who spoke with our 5th and 6th class students about internet safety. Ger is an expert in his field and the children benefited greatly from his knowledge.
- On May 5th we had a fantastic unexpected visitor. The weather reports that morning on the television programme Ireland AM were coming from Limerick and lots of us were aware of this. The senior room students were just discussing this when one of the students said that a man very like Deric O h'Artagáin was outside the wall. And so he was. He was in Croagh to do the 9.30am weather broadcast and so many of our students made their television debut. We were in the background of the 9.30am weather forecast. He was indeed lovely to all of our school community. Thank you Deric. Some would say the best day of their lives!!!!!!
- On May 17th – Francesca Callahan from Heritage in Schools paid us a visit. Again all classes got to see and touch many historical artefact from the Viking times.
- On May 27nd we had Maggie Murphy in the school to meet with the 5th & 6th class students to cover the more sensitive areas of the RSE program.
- June 2nd saw the Liam McCarthy Cup come to our school. There was great excitement and great to see so many parents come to join in on the fun.
- The school would like to extend their sincere thanks to the Parish Hall Committee to allow us use the space for certain events over the year.

School inspection

- On April 1st (Fools Day) the school inspector paid us a visit. She called to all the classrooms and was complementary in her praise of everybody. We know that this is a team effort between parents/guardians, teachers and students. Well done to all the students for their outstanding efforts. We are really proud of them.

Pancake Tuesday – March 1st

- A sincere thank you to D&M Restaurant who kindly donated some pancake batter so all the students could enjoy a freshly made pancake. A lovely treat for all our lovely students to enjoy.

Green Day – March 16th

- We also had a Green Day on the 16th of March. Well done to all who participated.

Daffodil Day – March 25th

- A sincere thanks to all the students who sold and the families that bought daffodils in support of this worthy cause.

New Playground

- We want to thank all those who were involved in the playground area that we have in the school grounds. We will endeavour to use it as often as is practical, given the supervision that it requires.

Biodiversity

- We were absolutely delighted to have Tom Giltenane, D&M Gardens spend several mornings with all the different classes teaching them about gardening. Tom donated several planting boxes so the students could plant fruit and vegetables along with various summer flowers. The younger students set seeds and were thrilled to see their little plants grow bigger and bigger.

Parent/teacher meetings

- Due to the Covid 19 restrictions at the time, parents were given a choice as to their preference for the discussion of the progress of the child/children. Again we had our 100% attendance either in person or over the phone. A big thank you to you all for your support which we find invaluable.

IT grant for ipads

- Extra monies were given in the form of IT grants this academic year. We are delighted to say we purchased 21 new ipads. The senior students have done massive work on these since we got up and running.

School tours

- Despite all the restrictions we managed to take each class grouping on two outings this academic year.
- Our junior room students went to Powers Farm in Cappagh to visit the wonderful Bo-Peep sheep. April gave a guided tour to allow the students to see the new lambs up close and personal. The students really engaged with them and enjoyed their outing.
- On June 10th they travelled to Kennedy Pet Farm in Killarney. They had a great day of fun, spending time with the animals and a little picnic too.
- Mr. Wallace's class took a trip by bus to Curraghchase Park where they were given a guided tour by one of the Coillte staff on different tree specimens.
- On June 1st Mrs Lawlor took her class to the Flying Boat Museum in Foynes. The students enjoyed their guided tour followed by some fun in the adjacent playground and an ice-cream to finish.
- June 20, the students in Mrs. Lawlor's and Mr. Wallace's class had an action packed day of activities in Mary Immaculate Campus. As it had been two whole years since we had all been on a bus together the pre tour excitement was enormous. The children had a fantastic day.

Music

- We would like to sincerely thank James Anglim who has been teaching our students music for the past year. As always, James is so accommodating to the school, offering his time for all the religious celebrations throughout the year.
- We were delighted to hold our Annual End of Year Recital on Wednesday June 15th. All the children performed some beautiful music and it just shows the great work James Anglim does with them over the year. Well done boys and girls.
- Our Graduation Mass was held in Croagh church on Tuesday 21st June at 7pm. Mass was said by Fr. Carroll.

Staffing

- Miss Murphy is taking a further year of her career break to continue with her PhD. Mr. Wallace will remain with us for the year.

School Payments

- The school uses epayments for book rental, etc. via Aladdin. After we return to school after the summer, a link will be emailed to each family with the amount due. **WE NO LONGER ACCEPT CASH OR CHEQUES.**
- Any outstanding monies from the present school year may also be paid at any time.

We want to thank all the parents who supported us during the academic year, those who make us aware of important issues and those who sent email and messages to help keep us going when times were difficult. Your support does not go unnoticed.

We wish all the present 6th class students the very best of luck next year in their new schools. Remember the motto you had in Croagh “Whatever I do I’ll do it well” and you won’t go too far off track. Go neirí an bóthar libh.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very sunny, safe and enjoyable summer holidays. We look forward to seeing all our students back on Wednesday August 31st at 9am.

Teresa Lawlor
Principal