

# Scoil Náisiúnta Chuilinn Uí Chaoimh



## Easter Newsletter 2021



Dear Parents,

It is great to have all our children back in school and thank you all for your co-operation, particularly when dropping off and collecting your children to and from school.

A review of our Remote Learning during the recent Lockdown shows a phenomenal amount of incredible work undertaken by pupils, you - their parents & all the school staff. You can all be so proud of yourselves!

I hope everyone is enjoying the glorious weather that God is sending us.

All the school community wishes to thank and express our deepest gratitude to Maura and Denis Quinn, Flintfield who paid €3,200 for our entire southern yard to be beautifully designed with Children's Games and expertly painted by Browne Brothers Carrigadrohid, a most useful resource for all of our pupils everyday including Movement Breaks, great exercises in all the different circuits - skipping, hopping, lunging, hand crawls, star jumping, hopping, squatting, spinning, sprinting games, jumping, 4 separate hopscotch games, all the vibrant colours and shapes which have been painted onto our entire southern playground. This was a lovely surprise for our pupils when we returned to our school building after Remote Learning.

I sincerely wish to thank John Cronin Liscreagh who volunteered to powerhose our entire school grounds over 2 days which now look like new tarmac and new concrete! This is a most important, most time-consuming and necessary Health and Safety job, whilst also ticking the Tidy Towns box - footpaths, walls, entrance, exit, outside our school walls. Thank you also to his Dad Ben Cronin who helped us greatly.

The money which the school has saved on this will now be spent on upgrading our school field - plough, power harrow, level, rake, seed, fertilise & install/dig a drain in our school field which will result in a 5 star pitch which all our pupils will derive much benefit and great enjoyment from, for years to come - a most worthwhile asset and amenity for all of our whole school community. Thank you so much John and the Cronin family for your trojan, hard work, all your top gear, long hours & dedication to our school.

I wish to thank so much Derry Morley who mowed our school field, Dominic Cronin who turned it & Michael Herlihy who baled & removed the bales the same evening from our school field - all voluntary with top machinery !

All pupils in all classes derived much enjoyment and great educational value from World Book Day 4/3/21. Each pupil received free books/novels and the entire literacy levels across all reading genres in our whole school surged, as a result.

Cullen NS has purchased 4 boxes of beautiful fiction novels and fact books for the senior end of the school 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes. These will further enrich and enhance our most impressive library collections in the school. These literacy resources costing €700 were funded by VM Ware Education Fund.

Thank you so much Donald and Maria Philpott.

All pupils are very much enjoying & deriving much educational benefit from our brand new 86" Helgi IFS Interactive Flat Screens which were installed mid November by Derek George's Consult PC at a cost of €3,800 each, in all of our mainstream classrooms, all funded by Department of Education IT grant. Our new fast fibre connection is heavenly, a dream to work with!

Clothes Collection: All sacks of clothes can be handed into Cullen NS at any time between 9am-3pm on schooldays. Thank you for your support. The

monies raised here will be further put to sensible use for resources for the education of our pupils.

I wish to thank so much Conor O'Leary who continues to volunteer, year after year, to mow our school grounds meticulously every fortnight. Our green areas are always in pristine, immaculate condition, thanks to Conor's trojan, hard work, time, care and attention to detail.

This saves our school huge money.

All of Cullen NS's pupils enjoyed our Lá Glas where everybody dressed in green to celebrate our cultural heritage and the importance of being Irish. This concluded our Seachtain / Coicís na Gaeilge.

I wish to thank Elaine Cronin who prepared pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes for Knocknagree Ladies Football Club's competition on the Jerusalema Dance. Our pupils had great fun rehearsing and very much enjoyed this experience whilst also learning some cool dance moves along the way!

I wish to thank Nóra Moynihan who has compiled & submitted Cullen NS's most impressive project application from all classes on our Amber Flag which promotes positive, happy, healthy mindsets whilst also building resilience & overall well-being in all of our whole school community.

Sarah from Pivot Media & Events - Internet Marketing Millstreet is currently moving our entire website to a new domain and adding much needed storage so we ourselves, can then upload many more photos and documents.

From next September 2021 onwards, for the entire school year, Alan Finn, much acclaimed music teacher and member of All -Ireland winning Shandrum Céilí Band will come to Cullen NS every Tuesday to teach Tin Whistle lessons to all pupils in each of our classrooms. We also wish to form Cullen NS Music Band, so when Alan is finished lessons in all classes each Tuesday, he will then have an extra session with pupils in the senior classes 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes who will bring in their musical instruments (other than tin Whistle, but also including tin whistle, who wish to be part of this Band). We are very lucky to have secured Alan Finn during the school day so all pupils will benefit from his expertise.

All-Ireland winning Dance Teacher Mairéad Mangan will also be joining us to teach traditional Irish dancing next year.

Next year, each class will have 6-8 weeks of Sheila O'Donoghue of Gneeveguilla Athletic Club, coming once weekly.

We will go to the Aquila Club , Gleneagle Hotel Killarney for 6 weeks of Swimming in Term 3 of next year.

We are currently working on other extra-curricular activities.

Staff Class Allocation and Booklists will follow in Term 3.

Next school year, all of our pupils will enjoy new series of SESE: History, Geography & Science textbooks & new SPHE Social, Personal & Health Education books.

I wish to thank Nóra Moynihan who organised a series of most exciting, fun & enjoyable Easter Egg Hunts for all classes on the day of our Easter holidays.

I wish to thank our Cullen NS Parents Association who gave all the pupils and staff an Easter Egg on the day of the holidays! What a lovely treat !

May I thank each one of you for all the help and support you give to us.

A very blessed celebration of Easter to you and all you love.

May the joy and hope and wonder of the Easter message continue to uphold and sustain us.

Enjoy the holidays everyone!

Happy Easter !

*Eileen O'Mahony*

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