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*Cuilinn Uí Chaoimh, Magh Ealla Co.Chorcaí*

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### Halloween 2021 Newsletter Issue 6

Dear Parents,

I trust you and yours are well. We extend a **Céad Míle Fáilte Welcome to our new pupils in Cullen NS:** Khloe Cronin, Rueben Drummond, Ben Lehane, Emma Madarasz, Mark Madarasz, Clíodhna O'Connor, John O'Connor, Seán O'Leary and Conor O'Sullivan. We sincerely hope you have a most worthwhile, happy and fruitful chapter in your lives here with us in Cullen NS.

We heartily congratulate our First Holy Communicants who received their **Sacrament of the Eucharist**, who celebrated their **First Holy Communion** on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September in our Church of the Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary: Kate Cronin, Shauna Dennehy, Rueben Drummond, Thomas Hickey, Cónal O'Connor, Bríd O'Leary, Molly Philpott & Ruby Quinn. We sincerely thank Canon John Fitzgerald for a most holy, meaningful, child centred ceremony and to Church Organist Mrs. Pauline Mooney for her heavenly, liturgical music and for her generosity with her time during all our rehearsals. I sincerely thank each and every parent of Our First Holy Communicants who, with team effort did an amazing job 'dressing' our Church with the most beautiful array of floral bouquets - thank you Michelle Drummond for your exquisite flower arrangements and seat decorations - thank you Karen Hickey and I thank our own Mrs. Angela Moynihan for decorating all our Church windows to an absolute 5 star standard with slabs of slate, large glass candle holders, large candles, lace and white, embroidered centrepieces! Our children's many and varied Holy Communion art pieces looked stunning on the Church pillars! We thank God we were blessed with fine, dry weather on the day. Our children did themselves so proud in the way they presented themselves at their procession, readings and various parts of the Mass. We thank Sacristan Joan O'Donoghue for all her time and assistance which she gave to us during our Sacramental Preparation and Derry Morley, on the morning, for his usher duties & lending a helping hand, whenever required.

Thank you to one and all.

On Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes had a most informative 90 minute **Cyberbullying Zoom Workshop** with internet specialist Mr. Ger Brick. This is of such vital importance to this age group in the times we are living in.



On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Principal Catherine O’Sullivan conducted a highly organised **Fire Drill**.

We will have these planned and unplanned fire drills regularly during each term, an essential component of our **Health and Safety Policy**. Catherine is also coordinating and working towards our **Active School Flag**. We have engaged in lots of varied activities to keep us fit and active!

On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, work commenced on our grounds preparing our different campus areas for our **ball save netting**. We are eternally grateful to **Seán Kelly of Kelly Bros. Ballydesmond & Seán Fitzgerald of Atlantic Sports, Dingle** who fitted the netting on i) our southern perimeter of our southern yard ii) behind the goalposts at the bottom of our pitch and also, iii) on our northern perimeter of our entire basketball court. We thank them for all the care and Health and Safety which they exercised while with us, in erecting the tall wooden poles and finally, fitting the netting on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, (day of our Confirmation) when the pupils were off, so as to cause minimal interruption to pupils and school life.

On Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, we received our **2021 Discovery Primary Science and Maths Annual Award for Cullen NS**, a huge boost to all of our pupils. We thank **Nóra Moynihan, Coordinator and Elaine Cronin**, who facilitated and organised the work in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes, thus securing this prestigious award for Cullen NS!

Our pupils are immensely **enjoying and deriving great benefit from** the many and varied extra curricular activities in Cullen NS: including our **new pitch!**

- 1) On Monday mornings, we have multi award winning All-Ireland Scór winning musician and teacher **Alan Finn of Shandrum Céilí Band** who is teaching tin whistle to all pupils from Senior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class. Our Junior infants listen in to these lessons. They learn from the great example, watching the older pupils playing their tin whistles. Our **Grúpa Ceoil Tradisiúnta – our Cullen NS Traditional Music Group/Band** comprising of pupils in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> can be heard from our hall playing in harmony, the most beautiful music with their violins, tin whistles, accordians and concertinas. All music lessons take place in our empty General Purpose Room, allowing maximum ventilation with all windows and double doors open and social distancing adhered to, thereby complying with all updated Covid19 guidelines.
- 2) On Wednesday evenings, All-Ireland Scór winner **Mairéad Mangan** teaches Irish Dancing to all of our pupils from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class.  
It is so good for all of our spirits and souls to hear live music and dancing again!
- 3) On Friday evenings, all of our pupils are enriched with GAA Skills Masterclasses by local GAA Coach **Fachtna O’Connor**. We enjoyed GAA Football sessions in September and October weekly and now after Halloween, all of Cullen NS pupils will be enriched with GAA Hurling Skills weekly.  
For those pupils who do not have their own helmet,  
Cullen NS have secured the maximum of 25 helmets from Sciath na Scol, in various sizes.
- 4) In November, all classes will enjoy the Gymnastics and Athletics PE strand of the primary school curriculum with **Sheila O’Donoghue of Gneeveguilla Athletic Club**.  
We will continue with Alan Finn Music and GAA Fachtna O’Connor.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, our Senior pupils celebrated their **Sacrament of Confirmation**, when each one of them received **The Gifts and The Fruits of The Holy Spirit** in St.Patrick’s Church, Millstreet.

We all enjoyed a most beautiful ceremony with Canon John Fitzgerald. We congratulate **Moirá Cronin, Christopher Duggan, James Fitzgerald, Cian Kelleher, Humphrey Moynihan, Mahilet O’Leary, Christopher Philpott & Mary Walsh**. We thank Church Organist Edel Fraser for her

heavenly music. I sincerely thank their teacher Elaine Cronin for preparing our pupils to such a high and polished standard for their Confirmation. I sincerely thank Mrs. Angela Moynihan who decorated



our Church, so beautifully that weekend, here in Cullen with the pupils' Confirmation Art creations.

On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, Sarah McSweeney of Pivot Media & Events, Millstreet joined us for a morning of photography for our [Cullen NS Cuisine Cookbook](#). I thank each of our pupils and all of our families who sent in recipes during the month of September. We enjoyed great fun with the different cooking and food props which our pupils brought in from home and dressing up in our aprons and chefs hats for our photographs. After securing quotes from different printers, Our Cullen NS Cuisine Cookbook is currently being proof read and is almost ready for the final printing stage, in time for the Christmas Markets.

This Cullen Cuisine Cookbook will also form part of our fundraising for our ball save netting.

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, our 5<sup>th</sup> Class & 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils were treated to a wonderful afternoon in Millstreet Community School where they enjoyed many varied activities in their new subject areas.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, all of our pupils submitted their entries to [Rathmore Credit Union Art Competition](#). This year's theme was "Imagine!" Our pupils enjoyed participating in this well-being activity. We await the results.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils enjoyed a lovely day out in Boherbue Comprehensive. Also, on that day, our pupils enjoyed great fun and excitement dressing up for Halloween!

I wish to sincerely thank our dedicated [Cullen NS Parents Association](#) who organised [Party Treat Bags](#) for each of our pupils for Halloween. Cullen NS Parents Association held their AGM on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October. These ladies work so hard behind the scenes to ensure our pupils' time in Cullen NS is enriched, in so many ways with many happy, fun, enjoyable and memorable experiences, all forming part of our pupils' well being, happiness and emotional development. We all deeply appreciate and thank them sincerely for their [tremendous efforts, time and dedication to our pupils](#). Cullen NS PA had their annual Church gate collection in Ballydaly and it will be here in Cullen Church before [Sunday morning Mass on 19<sup>th</sup> December](#). Their latest initiative is a GoFund Me fundraising page for our ball save netting, our newly developed school pitch and typing classes for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils and future plans include a cooker & chrome books, to name but a few! Please spread the word, far and wide to all your friends about [Cullen NS Parents Association Pitching Together GoFundMe page](#).

I wish to especially thank [Seán Kelleher who has volunteered to mow our new pitch](#). This is a mammoth task, taking much time and energy each fortnight. It has to be done when the weather is dry. When Seán has mowed the pitch, it looks so professionally finished. I wish to [sincerely thank Conor O'Leary, who for the past number of years](#) has volunteered much of his time, energy and expense in [pristinely mowing all of our many green areas around our school campus](#). I thank Conor also for spraying the ditch on our southern side and having the school grounds looking immaculate, neat and orderly when we returned in late August. I wish to thank [Denis Regan for spraying](#) all the tarmac grounds and footpaths around the campus and outside our front school wall in late August, [Conor Hickey's toolbox!](#), [Derry Morley](#) who initially, mowed our 'old' field and [Dominic Cronin](#) who turned it a few times, [Michael Herlihy](#) who baled & drew away the bales for us, [John Cronin](#) saved huge money for Cullen NS [powerwashing for a full, entire, 12 hour](#) day last Halloween. All of this volunteerism, goodwill, dedication, use of top gear saves much needed money for our school, which we are then able to redirect for the maximum benefit of our pupils, which last November, enabled Cullen

NS to secure a new Helgi 86'' Interactive Flat Screen for each one of our classrooms.  
Wow! Take a bow, gentlemen! Míle buíochas to each and everyone of you!

A brief snapshot of some of our fun, extra curricular activities planned for all of our pupils for November & December / the rest of Term 1 include:

1) Our own Cullen NS Christmas Show in Cullen Community Centre on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm beginning with Junior Classes play, Middle Classes play, interval where our pupils and Cullen NS Band will entertain us with tin whistle and music, followed by raffle, and to conclude our evening, our Senior Classes Play.

2) On Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, all of Cullen NS will head to Cork Opera House for Nanny Nelly's Christmas Adventures in Pantoland! Cullen NS have secured the best seats in the house right in front of the stage in the top front Stalls / Rows C, D & E!

3) Weekly Whole School Music Lessons with Alan Finn,

4) Weekly Whole School Gymnastics/Athletics Lessons with Sheila O'Donoghue,

5) Weekly Whole School GAA Hurling Lessons, with Fachtna O'Connor with all equipment provided!

6) Scholastic Book Fair , 1 week, coordinated by Nóra Moynihan.

7) Science Week , 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November

8) Listowel Printing Works: Design your Own Christmas Card

9) Children's Christmas Annual Book for each pupil at their Class level

10) Our annual Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal, this annual campaign sends gift filled shoeboxes from Ireland to children affected by poverty across Africa & Eastern Europe. You can choose items to add to each shoebox from the 4W's! Things to wash with, write with, wear & wow! Every Christmas Shoebox brings so much love, hope & joy. Covid-19 has had a devastating effect on these countries & this year, more than ever, every shoebox counts. Often, these shoeboxes are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas & the joy that they deliver is incredible. Our pupils derive great enjoyment from preparing these boxes. It fosters in our young the Christian virtues of helping others who are less fortunate than themselves. This is also in keeping with our Catholic School ethos & Christian values of caring, sharing, showing charity & mercy to those in need. Furthermore, it will help our pupils to learn that they have the power to make a difference, developing Citizenship in action! ...thereby empowering our children! This is all part of our SPHE - Social, Personal & Health Education Curriculum, in action! Kindly, send in your shoeboxes and donation by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. I thank Nóra Moynihan for coordinating this initiative.

11)The LateLateToy Show:Party Treat Bags for each pupil, courtesy of CullenNS Parents Association



We thank Patricia Bradley for her dedication, her meticulous attention to detail and her trojan work in keeping our entire school premises, interior and exterior clean and sterile. We take this opportunity



to congratulate Patricia and Michael's daughter Michelle Bradley, a past pupil of Cullen NS who achieved the maximum number of 625 points in her 2021 Leaving Certificate. WOW! We wish Michelle all the best as she embarks on her Pharmacy Career in UCC. Indeed, we wish all our past pupils the very best, including our 6<sup>th</sup> Class, who are now 1<sup>st</sup> Years: Christopher, Humphrey, Mary & Moira, who graduated in June! We thank Urszula Sadjak, for the evenings, she cleans our school.

I thank the pupils in the middle and senior classes for cutting out many coloured 'leaves' for all our parishioners who will be visiting our Church during the month of November for The Remembrance Tree. I thank all the families who sent in their completed Family Leaves of their dearly departed for the November Lists. These will be displayed for the entire month on the tree.

In November, we Remember! May they all Rest in Heavenly Peace.

On a final note, may I on behalf of everyone, extend our deepest and sincerest sympathy to the family and friends of Denny John Hickey RIP. Denny John was a truly wonderful friend and neighbour to all of us here, down through the years in Cullen NS. May the Lord have mercy on his gentle, generous soul. May Denny have the best bed in Heaven and may Jesus comfort all who loved him. We thank Denny for all the many acts of kindness he showed to us and skilled craftsmanship in erecting our large Christmas Crib over the years. This was only one of a myriad of tasks, which Denny used to do for us..brushing our footpath, regularly, outside our school wall, weeding, in general, being a thoughtful, caring, great neighbour to us. Denny RIP was a great community man who will be sorely missed by everyone. We were all blessed to have you in our midst, Denny!  
Solas na bhFlaitheas ort agus leaba i measc na naomh duit, a Denny John. Rest in peace in Heaven.

On behalf of Cullen NS Staff: Eileen O'Connor, Michelle Twomey, Nóra Moynihan, Angela Moynihan, Elaine Cronin, Catherine O'Sullivan & myself ; and

on behalf of Cullen NS Parents Association: Orla O'Sullivan - Chairperson, Julie Regan - Treasurer, Catherine Cronin - Secretary, Karen Hickey, Fiona Kelleher, Patsy O'Leary, Maura Quinn, Mary Ryan ; and

on behalf of Cullen NS Board of Management : Chairperson Alan Mooney, Canon John Fitzgerald, Treasurer Derry Morley, Parent Nominees Dominic Cronin and Fiona Kelleher, Maria O'Sullivan – Community Nominee, Deputy Principal Catherine O'Sullivan & myself ;

May each one of us take this opportunity to wish everyone of you an enjoyable, happy, safe, healthy & well deserved, fun Halloween! Be mindful of Fire Safety!

Bain taitneamh as briseadh lár téarma agus bíodh seachtain maith ag gach éinne agaibh.  
Oíche Shamhna Shona daoibh go léir!

We pray for God's continued protection during these times.

God bless you and yours *Eileen O'Mahony* [principal@cullenns.ie](mailto:principal@cullenns.ie)

We wish the very best of luck to all the Cullen team in the JAFC next Friday night 29/10/21!

Thank you Roger Casey for decorating our Front School Campus for this special occasion!

Cuilinn Uí Chaoimh Abú!

