

Scoil Náisiúnta Chuilinn Uí Chaoimh, Mullachrua,

Cuilinn Uí Chaoimh, Magh Ealla Co.Chorcaí.

Cullen NS, Mullaghroe, Cullen, Mallow Co.Cork. P51TK70

Tel: 029 79201

DES Roll No. 17171V



Príomhoide: Eibhlín Iníon Uí Mhathúna

Email: [principal@cullenns.ie](mailto:principal@cullenns.ie)

Leas Príomhoide: Cathriona Bean Uí Shúilleabháin

[www.cullenns.ie](http://www.cullenns.ie)

Summer Newsletter 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Issue 5

*Our School Motto:*

*“I am as good as everybody else and everybody else is as good as me!”*



Dear Parents,

6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation:

Today, Friday June 25<sup>th</sup>, we bid a fond farewell to our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils as they embark on their 2<sup>nd</sup> level journey. “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams!”- Eleanor Roosevelt. Heartiest Congratulations to our wonderful 6<sup>th</sup> class! We wish the 4 of you all the very best: Mary Walsh & Moira Cronin heading to Boherbue Comprehensive School & Humphrey Moynihan & Christopher Philpott beginning in Millstreet Community School. We are so proud of the fabulous young people the four of you have become! We are in no doubt, that the future is truly bright for each of you as you begin your next new, exciting chapter in your lives!

“Let your dreams be bigger than your fears and your actions louder than your words!”

Each one of you will always be a special part of Cullen NS. I wish to thank your teacher Elaine Cronin for a most impressive, spectacular year in the Senior room & for a superb Zoom Graduation ceremony on Tuesday 22/6/21 & compilation video of 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils' time in Cullen NS over the past 8 years & a big thank you to pupil Humphrey Moynihan who compiled a most entertaining Animated 'Goodbye' video. Pizza was enjoyed by all classes in the senior room on this special graduation day!

Elaine Cronin conducted a most worthwhile, effective programme over a few weeks duration in Term 3 preparing our 6<sup>th</sup> Class Pupils in Transition to Post-Primary School.

Thank you so much to Caitríona & John Walsh, Knocknageeha who donated monster goody sacks for each class on the day of our 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation so we could all celebrate & enjoy this momentous occasion together!

A sincere thank you to Cullen NS Parents Association for (1) the beautiful, thoughtful Graduation Ceremony Giftbags which each of our 6<sup>th</sup> class graduates received. Also, (2) for the Mr.Cool Ice Cream Slush Van which visited our school on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. A most enjoyable, fantastic treat for all of our whole school community including pupils and staff! We were all delighted! What a day! Sun and ice cream - our pupils loved it!

### Primary Science Fair Plaque 2021 received on 27/5/21:

Heartiest congratulations to our Senior Room Teacher Elaine Cronin who participated (virtually) in the Primary School Fair 2021 at the BT Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition 2021 under the category of Materials - Properties and Characteristics of Materials, Materials & Change. Each pupil in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes received a Primary Science Fair Certificate for their whole classroom project on Pasteurisation invented by Louis Pasteur, whilst also receiving a glowing Judge's Report on their Feedback Form: I quote "*{The project was really well presented. I loved how all the classmates pitched in and it was great to see how the class had furthered their IT computer skills by making a powerpoint. I think the best projects come from curiosity about something relevant to the lives of the researchers. This project was exactly that - the students learned more about something that was interesting and relevant to their lives as dairy farming families. The class displayed a great demonstration of constructive thinking when they designed the experiment to see how the pasteurisation of the milk affected how long it could last before going off. The findings of the milk experiment were great, and it was nice to see how enthusiastic the students were, as a result. The students demonstrated a great understanding of the biological reasoning for pasteurisation and what occurs during the process. This project represented its category very well. It would be good for the students to perhaps further investigate how varied brands of milk might differ. Great Job!}*" & also this project earned the above Primary Science Fair Plaque 2021 for Cullen NS which will also count towards our Discover Primary Science & Maths Award. All of the above plaque & Judges Feedback Form will be framed & proudly displayed on our walls. Wow! Comhghairdeachas Elaine & all pupils in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes!

### Discover Primary Science Award:

I wish to thank Nóra Moynihan for her trojan work and time all year in compiling and submitting the Discover Primary Science Application on behalf of all of Cullen NS. The Discover Primary Science and Maths Programme (DPSM) is part of Science Foundation Ireland's Education and Public Engagement Programme, which aims to increase interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) among pupils, schools & members of the public. This submission will result in our school receiving our annual Discover Primary Science and Maths Award for 2020-2021, further adding to our proud tradition of multiples of these awards down through the years. Míle buíochas Nóra!

Much planting of seeds & growing of seedlings was undertaken by all pupils in the Junior & Middle Rooms & in our SNA / SEN classes, during Term 3.

#### Amber Flag 2020 / 2021:

Nóra Moynihan was also responsible for securing Cullen NS's very 1<sup>st</sup> Amber Flag promoting positive mental health. This flag will hang proudly in our General Purpose Room "where it will convey its caring ethos and the importance we place on mental health". Cullen NS was also presented with the Pieta Amber Flag Award for demonstrating excellence in promoting positive mental health during 2020-2021.

*{“Your Amber Flag Coordinator has shown great commitment in promoting mental health by encouraging teamwork and contributions from peers. We hope that by taking part in the Amber Flag Initiative you will continue to raise awareness of stigmas which exist, and the stressors on the mental and emotional wellbeing of people today. Well done to everyone involved”}*

#### Philpott VM Ware Global Giving Citizen Philanthropy Investment Fund:

On behalf of everyone in our Cullen NS Community, we wish to sincerely thank Donald & Maria Philpott, Ballydaly who donated a further generous \$628.31 to our school on 27<sup>th</sup> May as part of Philpott VM Ware Global Giving Citizen Philanthropy Investment Fund which will be wisely spent & will be of immense benefit to all our pupils in Cullen NS over the coming years.

#### TTRS Touch Type Read Spell Typing Course:

I wish to thank Angela Moynihan who organised & delivered the above, ongoing course in our school, free of charge from the Cork County Library.

#### FSSU Revenue Commissioner Audit:

I wish to sincerely thank Eileen O'Connor for her very specialised expertise and skillset in Accounting & Finances, thus ensuring Cullen NS is fully compliant, on an annual basis with all FSSU (Financial Support & Services Unit) legal requirements & all Revenue Commissioner Audits.

#### GAA Football Skills:

I wish to sincerely thank GAA Coach Fachtna O'Connor, who on a weekly basis, from April-June, each Wednesday delivered Football Skills Masterclasses to all of our pupils. Everyone derived much benefit from & immensely enjoyed these sessions. We are so fortunate to have Fachtna, back with us again, in September & October, this time to coach everyone in Hurling GAA Skills in our fabulous, new pitch. There is no cost to the pupils for these classes.

#### Active Flag Active Week:

Cullen NS has been registered for our very first Active Flag, All pupils participated & thoroughly enjoyed all our sporting activities during Active Week including our Daily Mile Walk to Cullen GAA Pitch. Our Active Schools Week was a huge success! Huge thanks to

all the girls and boys for putting in a great effort and being so active all week, indeed right throughout the year!

### Cycle Right Programme:

Many new road safety skills & social, life long, healthy, lifestyle learning skills were acquired & great enjoyment derived from this 5 week programme for our senior pupils in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes. Each session lasted 90-100 minutes each, with the final session taking place on public roads with the expert guidance of class teacher Elaine Cronin & 2 skilled, highly experienced instructors from Cycle Right Programme funded in conjunction with Cork Sports Partnership & Wild Atlantic Sports. I had to cancel the final session, on Health & safety grounds due to torrential rain, but we were very fortunate in securing the professional duo, for the following week with glorious weather. Whilst a small contribution was sought from each pupil (€2 per pupil per session) this worthwhile €150 contribution towards the programme was funded by Philpott VM Ware Fund.

### IRD Public Speaking Certificates of Excellence Awards:

Heartiest congratulations to our outgoing 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils Humphrey Moynihan & Moira Cronin, both of whom received their IRD Public Speaking Certificates of Excellence Awards for competing in the IRD Duhallow Public Speaking Competition 2020. This will be invaluable to both going forward in preparation for Oral Language Exams, debating etc. in 2<sup>nd</sup> level. Thank you to Catherine O'Sullivan for organising this event.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation - Our First Confession:

I wish to sincerely thank Canon John Fitzgerald P.P. who celebrated a most beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation Ceremony with all of our 2<sup>nd</sup> class pupils who received their First Confession in The Church of the Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary in Cullen on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. I wish to heartily congratulate Kate Cronin, Shauna Dennehy, Thomas Hickey, Cónal O'Connor, Bríd O'Leary, Molly Philpott & Ruby Quinn on how well they presented themselves and the perfectionist work each one of you put into your readings, prayers, responses, hymns & Church Art.

We eagerly await, in Term 1 - our Sacrament of the Eucharist - First Holy Communion Mass Ceremony on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @10:30am, please God !

Health & Safety Fire Drills: In complying with Health & Safety Public Building legal requirements, both planned & unplanned Fire Drills took place in Cullen NS Campus on the 30<sup>th</sup> April & on 7<sup>th</sup> May, organised by Deputy Principal Catherine O'Sullivan.

### Standardized Testing:

We, as a staff were extremely proud & immensely happy with the results of our Standardized Testing right throughout our school, despite 2 lockdowns. Our Infant Pupils undertook the Drumcondra Early Screening Tests, both in Literacy & Numeracy. All pupils in 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Classes undertook (1) the Drumcondra Spelling Test (2) Drumcondra Literacy Reading Test (3) Drumcondra Numeracy Maths Test & (4) All pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes undertook the Drumcondra Gaeilge Test also. All of these tests were conducted during the month of May.

**Fun Games Day:** All pupils enjoyed a Fun Games Day of sporting activities in their own covid compliant pods & bubbles on a sunny Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, whilst also enjoying our new pitch.

**Cullen NS Pitch:** We will be eternally grateful to our generous neighbours Denis & Margaret O'Leary who were ever so obliging and helped us, in every way possible, in (1) allowing us access through their fine farm for heavy machinery & lorries of sand to complete our work in upgrading our field to pitch standard, (2) felling of all trees both in our southern yard & field (3) erecting high quality fencing, posts, wire mesh & wiring on their boundary ditch (4) allowing our waste branches, foliage & boulders to be taken up for disposal on their farm (5) Denis for being so supportive & accommodating with his time. Kelly Bros. Ballydesmond pulled in with their top gear at 1:45pm on Tues 27/4/21, cleaned the ditch, removing all foliage, brambles, lighter branches, lower tree limbs, rotivated & spiked the field, drew in a Red Rock trailer of drainage stones, dug a drain two thirds of the way down the field from our north eastern boundary, in a diagonal line down to our bottom south eastern corner, completing the drain in less than 90 minutes. Kellys had a myriad of machinery - land levellers, lime/sand spreaders, aerators, rotivators, tractors with balloon tyres which have to be transported on a lorry as they cannot drive on a road...can be driven on a field & will leave no track markings, subsoiler which worked repeatedly & methodically in vertical, horizontal & diagonal directions right throughout the pitch, they picked stones, spread 60 tonnes of sand (which came in 3 lorry loads of 20 tonnes each) from Kellys Quarry in Barraduff. All waste of brambles & boulders were taken up in 2 Red Rock trailer loads to our neighbour Denis O'Leary's farm. The 2 goalposts remained in situ throughout & did not have to be kangoosed up/removed/reset symmetrically in concrete again. Our field looks so much larger, their digger worked right up to the edges of all of our 4 perimeters without damaging /marking any panel fence, they 'brushed' the pitch, fertilised, rolled, sand dispersal, rolled again & seeded our pitch with a special tiny tractor & spinner, for golf courses, completing all activities on 30/4/21, the Friday of the May Bank Holiday weekend, pulling out at 7pm. Our pitch was seeded before the season of Summer - all completed in 22 manhours (excluding tree felling) ! Wow!

Finally, on 3/6/21 Kellys arrived with their new Volvo Trackmachine & chainsaw, clearing & felling all the trees & further tidied the entire ditch in 4.5 hours. **Cullen NS Pitch completed in an unbelievable total of 26.5 manhours!** Grass is growing well & has been mulched twice & further fertilised since. Kellys erected a top quality fence, wiring & wiring mesh, wooden posts & netting for Denis on Denis' side of his ditch. Thank you so much Denis. This will also help us greatly on our side.

Presently, for a while, we will monitor whether we need ball save netting or not. Exact, final costings should be completed & will arrive soon. Our Cullen NS Pitch has been budgeted for & all financing details will be published in our September 2021 Newsletter. I wish to acknowledge (1) the trojan, skilled, teamwork & professional expertise of Kelly Bros & (2) the invaluable & wise viewpoints, ideas, help, time, support & guidance from all Board of Management members, right throughout this entire process. It really was a team effort! This pitch will be of immense benefit to our

present pupils & future generations of pupils of Cullen NS for many years to come & much enjoyment will be derived from this worthwhile asset as long as it is properly & regularly maintained. The Board of Management and all of us in Cullen NS whole school community wish to publicly thank Denis & Margaret for their mammoth cooperation, in this school project ! May the Lord reward you & yours Denis & Margaret! We would not have our 1<sup>st</sup> class pitch without the O'Learys!

We hope & plan to have a special Celebratory Fun Day beginning with Canon John Fitzgerald Blessing our Pitch, Bouncy Castle, ice cream, a proper whole school Sports Day in sunny weather when we return in September!

All pupils in all classes were on the pitch everyday, during our last week in June, all with their own allotted rota times & all thoroughly enjoying the experience!

**Copper Challenge!** Cullen NS want all your jars of copper coins and unused coins you or your relations may have stored around your houses. You may send them in before or on 25/6/21 or you can keep them for us until September. All proceeds towards our Pitch Upgrade. This is the genius idea/brainchild of our brilliant Eileen O'Connor, who is such an asset to Cullen NS. I humbly thank everyone who has donated so generously to date!

We are also taking **sacks of clothes**, up until today, the day of the holidays, all proceeds also towards, our pitch upgrade. All the weights & kilograms add up in real money terms. We will resume this in September!

### **RSE Relationships & Sexuality Programme:**

In line with Cullen NS's SPHE - Social, Personal & Health Education programme, on June 10<sup>th</sup>, HSE Nurses Ber Browne & Imelda Sexton delivered a most informative & effective in person RSE morning Session to all our pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes. We wish Nurse Ber Browne all the very best for a happy, long, fruitful retirement & we sincerely thank her for all her service to Cullen NS pupils & their families throughout her long career. We wish Nurse Imelda Sexton all the best, as she embarks on a new chapter in her career!

**Open Day for New Entrants:** Today, Friday June 25<sup>th</sup>, also saw our new pupil entrants being welcomed in for our Open Day this evening when all the other pupils were officially on holidays .This enjoyable event could not have been held sooner, in compliance with Covid guidelines. All new entrants received their own Welcome Pack - Welcome Letter, Information pack, Enrolment Booklet, INTO Publication on Primary School, NCCA Helping Your Child in Infants, Curriculum, Aistear & Play. Our new entrants will be in the fantastic, capable & ever so caring hands of Catherine O'Sullivan & Michelle Twomey!

**Past Pupil Centenarian !:** Heartiest Congratulations to Cullen NS's former past pupil Eileen / Ellen O'Keefe (nee Walsh) of Derragh who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday 2 days ago on 23/6/21. A birthday card was sent to Teach Altra, Newmarket from all of our whole school community wishing Eileen a very Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday & all the very best of health & happiness, in the future!!

Parent Teacher Meetings were held during the week of Monday 14<sup>th</sup>-Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> June, Whole School by telephone, complying with Covid guidelines.

All **Annual School Reports** for all pupils in all classes, **booklists** and calendars for next academic year 2021/2022, along with information on Standardized Testing (Literacy & Numeracy) from the NCCA - National Council for Curriculum & Assessment, were distributed in person to all parents, on Friday evening last 18/6/21.

As Term 3 of 2021 draws to a close on today, Friday June 25<sup>th</sup>, may I take this opportunity to thank you, our parents of Cullen NS who have offered me tremendous support and understanding, not least in these most recent and difficult times. Be assured, that I will always appreciate your trust and value your care which has been shown to me, this past year, since commencing as Principal on 12/10/20.

Our Cullen NS team - teachers, SNAs, office and ancillary support staff inspire me daily with their commitment and care for our children. Their compassion, welcome, integrity, dedication, hard work ethic and example are the foundation of our school. I am extremely proud to be part of such a progressive, innovative, solid & sound team.

We thank God our whole school community has remained **covid free** during the year. I especially want to mention Patricia Bradley & Urszula Sadjak for their dedication & meticulous, thorough attitude to their work in sterilising our school campus daily (both internally & externally).

If necessary, I will be in touch during the holidays, with important updates regarding arrangements for reopening from the Department of Education/Health. We look forward to meeting you all, bright eyed and bushy tailed on Monday morning, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 for Term 1 of our new academic year 2021/2022.

I include an attachment of a beautiful Summer Reflection Prayer by Joyce Rupp. On behalf of all of the members of our Board of Management & all our staff of Cullen NS, we pray for your safety on our farms, roads, water & perhaps air during July & August and we hope everyone of you and your families enjoy a fun-filled, carefree, happy, adventurous, safe, well deserved & sunny Summer !

As always, if I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0877695419 or at [principal@cullenns.ie](mailto:principal@cullenns.ie)

Kind regards and best wishes, God bless,

*Eileen O'Mahony* Principal Teacher

