

Scoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa. Christmas Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I would like to thank you for all your support and encouragement during the last few months. As you can see from the newsletter things have been very busy! A huge thank you to all the children and teachers for their dedication and hard work. This term we were very happy to host a school's workshop on Internet Safety. Children of the Digital Age representative visited classes from 3rd to 6th. This is an important issue in our children's lives, I was happy to see a good number of families represented at the Parent's Seminar in the evening.



Our preparations for Communion and Confirmation are continuing. 2nd and 6th classes are working really hard at their preparations and attend mass each Friday

May I also offer a special word of thanks to the Parents Council who have put in tremendous work into the development of the school. They are just amazing! My thanks everyone who supported our Christmas raffle, Christmas Fair and our wonderful Christmas concerts. The children are just fantastic. Photos of all these fantastic activities will be uploaded to our school blog. Have a happy and safe Christmas! I hope Santa will be good to you this year!

Mrs Kelly. Principal

Important Dates:

Closing of school: Friday 21st 12:00

Reopening Monday 7th Jan 9:00

Mid Term : Closed Feb 21st and Feb 22nd.

New Home School Liaison Teacher. Best wishes to Ms. Howe our new HSCL teacher who will continue the excellent work of Ms. Osborne.

Parent's Council News:

We have had a busy start to the year. We had a successful Halloween fundraiser along with Christmas concert, Draw Cards and the Christmas fair. All the boys enjoyed the fair last Thursday which is great to see.

A lot of work goes into organising a fair and even after having to move the date we still out passed previous years with the takings.

We had a massive 215 children visit Santa in our fabulous Santa grotto.

But this day wouldn't be able to go ahead without the staff who helped before and on the day along with ourselves in the parent's council.

It takes up to 40 hours to carry out all the preparation for a fair so we very happy when it comes together and we surpass previous records for numbers visiting.

The Parents Council is part of the school community but without the help of parents, teachers and local businesses we would not succeed so thanks to everyone.

From the funds raised last year it gave us great pleasure to present the school with a set of jerseys togs and socks for our hurling and football teams. The presentation took place in early December.

We are going to use all money fundraised this year towards further developing the grounds of the school to make all our boys playtimes more enjoyable.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

The Parents Council

Christmas Concerts

The school's annual Christmas concerts were brilliant. Our version of A Christmas Carol "Bah Humbug!!" was just wonderful; We would like to thank all the parents, friends and relatives that attended the concerts each night. The



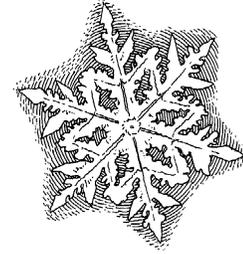
children put on a brilliant show of Scrooge with many outstanding highlights from our brilliant choir to our wonderful Junior

Infants. As always, the school choir, under the excellent leadership of Olivia, was just amazing. Photos of the school concert will be posted on our

school blog in the new year. These photos of our Christmas concerts are always very popular.



Soccer Champions: Well done to our soccer Futsal champions. On December 5th, 10 students from 4th class went to Graiguecullen to take part in the FAI Futsal soccer competition. On the day, the boys played games against St. Fiacc's, Tinryland and the Gaelscoil. Playing with huge pride and determination, the team won all of their matches, the first time a team from Askea has ever topped the table in this competition. Well done to all players on this huge achievement. A big thank you to our wonderful coaches Mr. Egan and Mr. O'Donnell. [Well done to the astro-turf pitch too!!]



Futsal is an indoor soccer competition for schools in Carlow area which is organised by the FAI. Futsal is the only indoor soccer game recognised by the FAI. It has been used for many years throughout the continent. The main emphasis as a Futsal soccer ball is a double layer to kill bounce. It is excellent for enhancing passing skills.

Science Week

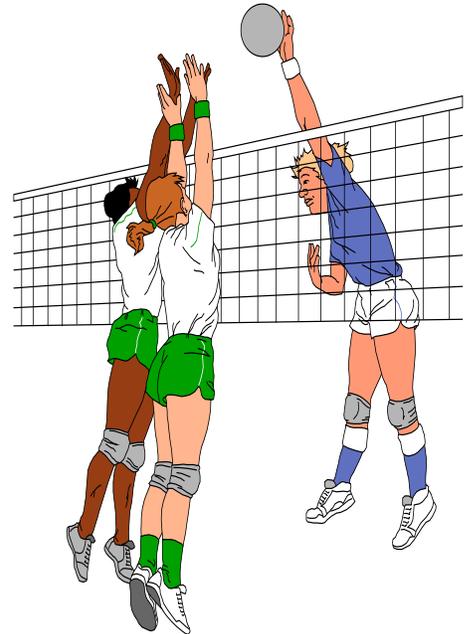
We had a fantastic science week with two trips to Carlow IT. We had a brilliant time with an excellent talk on science with fun demonstrations. We also had a chance to put on our white jackets when we were exploring the DNA of a banana with the Cell Explorers. We also visited the Carlow IT amazing sports dept where our reaction speeds and jumping ability were analysed. The children had an absolutely fantastic time. We would especially like to thank all the staff at Carlow IT who were just so wonderful and encouraging with the children. They are incredible. Just brilliant!! In the New Year, sixth class will be starting their Young Scientist Project on comparing the effective transfer of energy from both triangles and squares. We had a brilliant time last year in Limerick and this coming year should be just as good.

School Fair.

Our Christmas Fair went tremendously well. We would like to thank everyone who supported the fair. A tremendous amount of work from everybody and especially our wonderful Parent's council, went into organizing and running the fair. As you can appreciate Santa is quite busy this time of year and we were exceptionally lucky to have Father Christmas visit the children in our school grotto.

Spike Ball.

Spike ball is being organized as an after school activity for the children in the school hall. The spike ball classes take place every Tuesday and they are enjoyed tremendously by the children. Special thanks to teachers facilitating this lovely after school activity.



Trip to Visual:

5th class pupils attended an art session in the Carlow Visual Arts Centre, where Marjetica's work was on exhibit. Marjetica is an artist who sometimes works with architects. She was born in Slovenia in 1953, is interested in making artwork that helps people to think about their place in the world, where we live and how we live together. Marjetica's exhibition was called SHELTER. The boys were thrilled to get the opportunity to work in small groups and construct their own forts. We had a great time.

Quiz Team

There is training for the school quiz team every Monday and Wednesday after school. A wide range of general knowledge is covered and competition between the boys to get the highest score is very keen. We would like to wish Mr. Farrell and all the boys the best in their forthcoming quiz competitions. The questions the children are learning may be viewed on our school blog, in the Download section. These are proving tremendously popular with schools all around Ireland and further afield. To date 60,000 sets of individual questions have been downloaded. Just amazing!!



Health Award.

On Wednesday 25th Oct, Holy Family B.N.S. celebrated receiving the Health Promotion Flag. Senator Jennifer Murnane O Connor, Councillor Fintan Phelan and Fr. Little attended on the day to join in the fun!

Health Promoting Schools is a HSE initiative, a long term program aimed at involving the school community- students, staff and parents- in a whole school approach to promoting the importance of health and well being. Daily meditation, Go Noodle activities, water filters in the classrooms, weekly sport coaches with a particular emphasis on daily physical exercise and many more activities helped us achieve this wonderful flag. Fantastic achievement. Well done everyone.

Gaelic Football: During September and October, the school's football team participated in the Cumann na mBunscol competition. Facing stiff competition from Bagenalstown, Tullow and Bishop Foley, the boys unfortunately did not progress to the semi-finals. Well done to the team on an excellent effort made this year and hopefully we have more luck next year.

Indoor Hurling: Only a few weeks ago, our indoor hurlers took a trip down to Old Leighlin Community Hall to take part in the Cumann na mBunscol hurling competition. Although losing their opening game to an excellent Newtown-Dunleckney team, the boys regrouped and played their best hurling of the year when claiming a hard-earned win against a very good Ballinkillen team. The outdoor hurling competition will take place later in the school year.

Indoor Futsal: 10 students from 4th class were chosen to represent the school in the recently held FAI Indoor Futsal competition in Graiguecullen. After strong victories over the Gaelscoil, St. Fiacc's and Tinryland, we secured the title for the first time in the school's history. Well done to the boys on this excellent achievement.

Christmas Books: Books make the ideal Christmas present. Please consider the “Doll’s Complaint” written by Carlow author Keeva Delaney. All proceeds to the Cliona foundation.

“Hot off the press and now available in Dunnes Stores nationwide and on their online store is “The Dolls Complaints” a fantastic book written by the very talented 11 year old Keeva Delaney from Co. Carlow

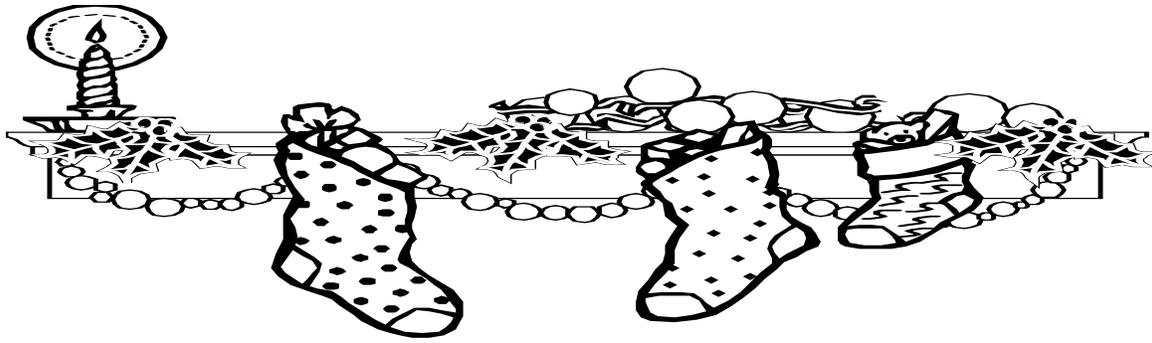
What is extra special about the book is that all proceeds from the sale of the book which is priced at a very reasonable €8 will go directly to Cliona’s Foundation and enable us to provide financial support to the increasing number of families seeking our support -The Cliona Foundation.”



Box of Books : Our “ Box of Books” project is going very well. Each term, every class from 1st to 6th are provided with a large selection of books to promote reading. These are then rotated on a termly basis. The children are encouraged to take the books home to continue their reading. Authors include Roald Dahl, Eoin Colfer, Darren Shan, David Walliams, Francesca Simon etc. The children enjoy the wide variety of books and the project is very positively received by the children.

Written Work Awards: In order to acknowledge the wonderful written work by the boys, a book will be presented to a pupil each month from every class from 1st to 6th. This is a small token to acknowledge the fantastic written work that the boys are doing. Each class will receive a book every month, which will be presented to the pupil with the best written work.

Athletics: In late September, students from 4th, 5th and 6th travelled to Carlow Town Hurling Club to participate in the Carlow Cross Country championships. After excellent training sessions in the school, hopes were high of individual and team success and our boys did not disappoint. Running against up to 100 other students in each race, we had individual medal winners in Gael O’ Rock (4th), Jack Mahon (4th) and Clifford Francis (6th). To top off a fantastic day, our 5th class team finished in 2nd place. This was our best performance ever in this competition and we can’t wait for next year already.

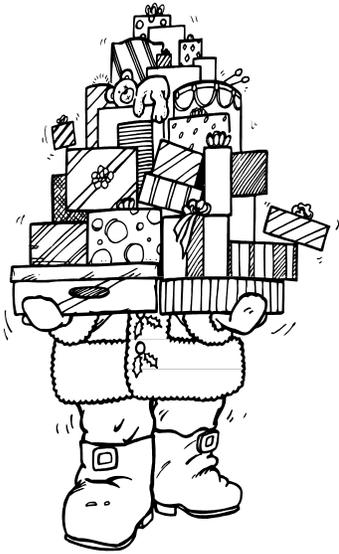


5 Star GAA Centre: The whole school are currently in the process of applying for recognition of becoming a ‘5 Star GAA Centre’. To achieve this, each class must engage in GAA during the school week through games and activities. We are very thankful to Carlow GAA, O’ Hanrahan’s and Carlow Town Hurling Club who are helping out all classes in achieving this status. We will hopefully have good news on our progress by June.

Spikeball: The school’s spikeball team have just begun training for this year. After a hugely successful outing last year which resulted in our A team reaching a Leinster semi-final, hopes are high of continued success again this year.

Basketball: Each Friday, boys from 2nd class upwards are very fortunate to get 30 minutes of outstanding training from Jim Connolly. Following last year’s success in the County Finals, basketball training for the school’s team has already started. Let’s hope we can bring home more silverware to Askea in 2019.

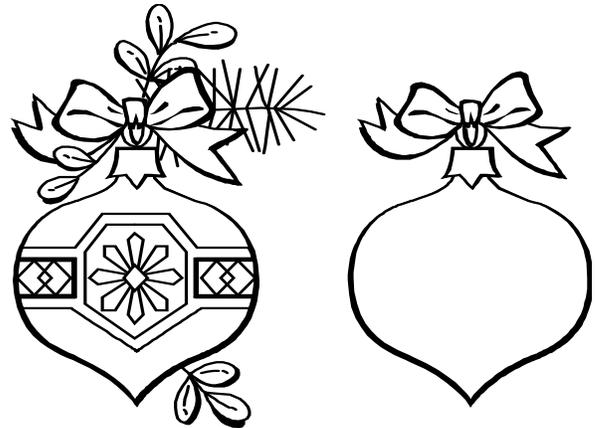
Karate: We have been very fortunate that Brian Whelan from Carlow Martial Arts Sanctuary has begun working with our 2nd and 3rd classes every week. From practising different techniques to working with punching bags, the boys are always looking forward to their slot the following week. Karate has also been proven to be an excellent way of improving concentration and focus, which has certainly been the case for the boys in these classes. Well done boys and keep up the good work!



Sport's Talk with Eric Donovan: The boys in Ms. O' Reilly's 5th Class were very fortunate to receive a visit from professional boxer and former European medallist Eric Donovan recently. Speaking about training commitments, lifestyle sacrifices and a positive attitude, Eric was blown away by the enthusiasm and eagerness shown by the boys during the workshop.

Halloween Monster March: Just before our Halloween holidays, the school has great fun on our annual 'Monster March' around the school grounds. Students from each class along with some eager teachers dressed up in everything from scary doctors to superheroes and TV characters.

Swimming Swimming has been going very well with 5th and 2nd class attending lessons this term. This is a brilliant opportunity for the children to learn a lifelong skill in a safe and positive environment. Well done to all concerned.



Cross Country Challenge

Well done to all the boys who took part in the inter schools cross country challenge. Hundreds of children from all over Carlow took part. The boys were fantastic. Well done all the boys who did so well in the cross country run. A remarkable achievement. Photos of the boys taking part in the cross country run may be viewed in the Active School section of our school blog.



National Maths Week

We had a very busy National Maths Week. Every class from 1st 2st, 2nd, 3rd,4th,5th and 6th took part in an online Halloween Maths Quiz. These are located in the download section in our school blog. It was a wonderful event which the children enjoyed tremendously.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Holy Family Boys have been awarded 3rd Place in the schools category of the 2018 Carlow Tidy Towns! Congratulations to everyone on this wonderful achievement.



Greamaithe.



Irish Talking Dictionary:

In secondary school there is a very strong emphasis placed on oral Irish. Up to 40% is awarded to spoken Irish in state exams. To enhance the children's vocabulary, we have been creating little talking Irish vocabulary booklets. Each is about two minutes in length and contains twenty spoken Irish words which are accompanied by appropriate graphics. These have been introduced to the pupils in 5th and 6th class. This resource will be a very useful resource for the boys when they graduate to Secondary school. These and many other wonderful resources can be viewed on our school blog at askeabns.wordpress.com

NOLLAIG SHONA!

