

# Summer Newsletter 2018



## Spooky stroll to school

As part of International 'Walk to School Month' in October, the Active Flag committees organised a 'spooky stroll to school'. Accompanied by their parents, the children, wearing their homemade spooky costumes, made their way to school from the square to Scoil Íósaf. There were prizes for the best costume, games and music in the halla. It was a truly spooktastic event!

## Green schools news

In October we launched our new Fairy Wonderland in our nature walk. Each class painted a fairy door and decorations which were hung on the trees. Thanks to Ms Hennessy for co-ordinating the fairy doors and to the teachers and children for making it a place the fairies will love!! In February, local Bird Watch enthusiast Geoff Hunt visited our school. Geoff spoke to the girls about native Irish garden birds and their habitats. In April Geoff guided 5<sup>th</sup> class in the redesign of our bug hotel. Hopefully it will be fully booked over the summer!!! It's amazing to see up close the small world that is right on our doorstep!

## Concerts

The school held three series of concerts this year. Junior and Senior Infants gave their performances in spring and summer. Under the guidance of their class teacher and Katie Upton, the girls in 6<sup>th</sup> class treated us to a performance of *Hairspray – The Musical*. On each occasion the hall was packed with parents, grandparents, friends and neighbours. All present were amazed at the excellence of the performances. Maith sibh gach duine!

## Swimming Lessons

During March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class completed a six-week swimming course in Killeline. They had a splashing time! Well done girls!

## Music

James Anglim taught music from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class this year. The girls learned how to read music, tunes on the tin whistle and a wide range of songs.

## Panto at UCH

In December, pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class got the opportunity to see the Christmas Panto *Cinderella* at the University of Limerick Concert Hall. Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> class went along to see the story of *Rudolph saves Christmas* at the Millennium Theatre, L.I.T. The girls enjoyed both shows with lots of laughs and songs to keep everyone entertained!

## Christmas cards

In October the girls got creative and designed beautifully festive Christmas cards. The cards were professionally printed and went on sale as a fundraiser for the school. Thanks to Ms Hennessy and Ms Mulcahy for co-ordinating the project.

## Young Scientist

Our young scientist title this year was 'Which type of toy carries the most bacteria.' 6<sup>th</sup> class went to Mary Immaculate on Saturday 21st January 2018. We were all pleasantly surprised by our results. Mr. Patrick O'Donovan T.D visited our stall on the day.

## Grandparents' Day

Scoil Íósaf celebrated Grandparents' Day in February. Grandparents joined their grandchildren in the church for a special prayer service, led by Fr.Duhig. Through song, symbols, verse and prayer Scoil Íósaf pupils expressed their love for their grandparents. Parents and teachers joined the children in honouring and remembering their grandparents and paying tribute to the very important role grandparents play in their lives.

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge is becoming the biggest celebration of our culture and language held in Ireland every year. The girls took part in a variety of

activities to promote the enjoyment and use of the Irish language; an Irish quiz (tráth na gceist), treasure hunt as Gaeilge, caint trí *gaeilge* amuigh *sa chlós* 'Twister' agus a lán cluichí eile. Prizes were awarded to the best Irish speaker (an 'Cainteoir is Fearr') in each class. We enjoyed a ceolchoirm in the halla. Thanks to Eva Downey and Emma Griffin (past pupils and transition year students) for performing on the day.

Míle buíochas le Mrs Donovan don sár iarracht a rinne sí.

### **World Book Day**

In March Scoil Íósaf celebrated **World Book Day 2018** with lots of reading activities! Everyone,, including the teachers, dressed as their favourite book character. Pupils from the senior school came to visit the infant classes and share the pleasure of books by reading with them.

### **Competitions**

In Scoil Íósaf we enjoy entering various competitions. Win or lose the children are encouraged to have fun, do their best and to know that their best is always good enough.

We had many winners in the Glór na nGael Comórtas Ealaíne. Well done to all!

Ana Carolina de Souza won the Scoil Íósaf Eason Spelling Bee in March 2018. She progressed onto the county finals which were held in JFK Memorial school in Limerick on April 12th. Ana did us proud on the day and did some great spelling. Well done Ana!!

### **Social Awareness**

As part of our Spooky Stroll to school in October we raised money for the NCW Food Bank.

During November Scoil Íósaf pupils filled shoeboxes with gifts for children in need. These love - filled boxes bring joy and happiness to children in up to a dozen countries around the world. Well done girls!

In March we celebrated with a Go Green for Barnardos and a Bunny Hop for Downs Syndrome with junior and senior infants. We raised money for our Early Intervention class in April, when the whole school went bluetasitc for autism!

### **Active Flag Committee**

In conjunction with Operation Transformation's national 10 @ 10 campaign the entire school exercised for 10 minutes on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. There was parachute games, jumping jacks, playground activities and lots more.

We held our Active School Week in June. Each day the girls were encouraged to participate in activities during class, at breaks and as part of homework. Some of the activities included yoga, dance, badminton, rounders, stations, a slow bicycle race and the very popular penalties against the teachers!!! As a special treat an ice cream van came to cool everyone down after all the exercise!! Thanks to Mrs Donovan, Ms O'Sullivan & the Active Schools Committee for organising the events.

### **Literacy lift Off**

Literacy Lift Off is an intervention that gives children lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually raises the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing.

The programme ran for a period of 6 weeks in senior infants. Miss Hennessy (class teacher) worked in collaboration with Miss Enright and Mrs O'Sullivan (support teachers) to deliver the programme which was much enjoyed by the children.

### **School Tours**

Our school tours in June give children the opportunity to experience a variety of new activities!!

**Early intervention class** went on an excursion to Dreamland in Limerick.

**Junior and Senior Infants** enjoyed their visit to Crag Cave in Kerry.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class** went to Free Range Kids camp in Croom.

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class** went to Delta

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class** travelled to Ballyhass Lakes Co.Cork.

### **Religious Matters**

#### **Saint Patrick's Day**

Pupils from Scoil Íósaf have a long tradition of participating in the Mass trí Gaeilge on St Patrick's

Day. This year was no exception with the girls taking part in the choir and playing music for the celebrations in our local church.

### **First Holy Communion**

Congratulations to all the girls in second class who received their First Holy Communion on Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks to the class teacher Ms Michelle Corridan, priests and parents whose combined efforts made this day one the children will always remember.

### **Confirmation**

Congratulations to the girls in 6<sup>th</sup> class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, May 31st. Sincere thanks to the class teacher Mrs White, our school chairperson Fr. Duhig, and parents.

### **Altar Serving**

Thanks to all the pupils who participated in altar serving during the year. Thanks to all the parents for their encouragement and support.

### **Garden Update!**

This year our garden got a makeover!! We installed new planters and raised beds. The children have always been responsible for setting the plants, watering them and compost-making. This year we grew onions, cabbage, lettuce and potatoes. We look forward to harvesting what we've grown and we enjoy eating it too!!

### **Financial News**

Our annual School Walk & Cake Sale in October last was a resounding success thanks to the wonderful support of children, parents and sponsors. The money raised was used to develop our nature walk.. The annual school raffle in May and our Bake Sale in June were very popular. The Board of Management says a grateful "Maith Thú" to all who helped in any way.

### **Sports News**

The girls from 4th, 5th and 6th class attended Sean Choill Outdoor facilities in Corbally on Friday March 9th. There were 3 teams competing on the day and the 6th class team were successful in reaching the

County Finals which were held on Thursday 26th April. They did very well on the day.

### **G.A.A**

This year Noel O'Connor began camogie training with senior infants, first, third and fourth class. Girls from 4th and 5th class participated in an indoor camogie blitz on Friday March 12th in Newcastle West Community Centre. The girls played against a strong Killougheen side on the day but put in a great effort. Girls from 4th, 5th and 6th class played in the West Limerick mini-sevens camogie competition in Knockaderry. It was a glorious day and the girls had great fun.

### **School Soccer Tournament**

To coincide with the World Cup Soccer Championships, Mrs Balfe organised a soccer tournament for girls from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class. Each team was assigned a country. In the final the team from came Columbia out on top. We would like to say a huge thank you to international women's footballer Claire O' Riordan who presented the scoil Iósaf world cup 2018 certificates and medals to the winners and runners- up. Morocco and reached the final. Claire presented an Irish Jersey to players of the match on the day.

### **Basketball**

West Limerick Primary School Basketball blitz took place in the community centre on Wed 6th June. These are the girls who took part: Keira McGowan, Anna Suchan(Captain), Aisling Enright, Kate Donovan, Sarah Hogan, Ella McAndrews, Zoe Lai, Orla O'Connor, Weronika Paszkowska, Aya Hourani, Robyn Lyons, Gabriela Duda. Noel O'Connor and Ciara Kelly trained them all year. They were narrowly defeated.

### **Early Intervention Class for Children with ASD**

The **Early Intervention class** was set up in September 2013. It caters for children who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. At present there are six pupils in the class, with one teacher and three SNAs. We are committed to providing the highest quality of education in a positive, warm and caring environment where the children are respected and nurtured. We work in

conjunction with Limerick Early Intervention Services (LEIS) who provide multi-disciplinary support for the class..

### **Sensory room**

We are thrilled to announce that our new sensory room is up and running! Each class has had the opportunity to explore the room and they all agree it really is magic! The room has many wonderful elements including a bubble tube, a disco ball, a projector, grass, a ball pool and music. We love it to play and relax in there. For more information check out our website

### **Our School Website**

Our website has been given a revamp this year. Along with the parents' page, book lists, school information, Green Schools, Active Flag, etc., each class now has their own section to share their work. A calendar outlining upcoming events and school closures is also on the site. Thanks to Nicola Madigan of Arra Web Design for her fantastic work on the website. You can find us online at [www.scoiliosaf.ie](http://www.scoiliosaf.ie).

### **Uniform sale**

We'd like to make our school even greener by setting up a pop-up shop for our uniforms & tracksuits. We're asking all parents to encourage their girls to donate their uniforms & tracksuits to the pop-up shop. Donations can be handed in between 9am-2.30pm from now until 3rd July. we also encourage you to support the shop at the school for our sale day on the 4th of July 10am – 3pm.

### **Parent's Council**

Parents play a major part in supporting school activities during the school year; the school walk and fun event, Green School initiatives, the healthy lunch programme and much, much more. This strong relationship between parents, pupils and teachers has made Scoil Íosaf the school it is today. Our new parent's council members are:

**Chairperson:** Averil Adair

**Secretary:** Jacqui Callaghan

**Treasurer:** Helen Barry

### **Staff News**

We are very proud of the smooth day-to-day running of the school. A big 'Thank You' to Bernadette, our school secretary, and Jerry, our school caretaker, who contribute greatly to the 'behind the scenes' success of our school. Deirdre, Ita, Cathy Ann, Kathleen and Christine our Special Needs Assistants are also a great asset to the school and much loved by the children.

### **Warm Wishes for a Happy Retirement**

We wish to congratulate our school caretaker Mr. Gerry Hennessy who retires on September 14th after 18 years of service. Gerry is a great favourite with pupils, parents & staff alike. He will be missed. Thank you Gerry. We wish you health, wealth & happiness in the years ahead. Go n-eirí an bothar leat.

### **Slán agus Míle Buíochas**

Slán agus beannacht to the sixth class girls who are leaving us to go their different ways at Second Level. We wish you well girls and don't forget to come and visit us.

Finally, on behalf of all of us here in Scoil Íosaf, I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable holiday—with lots of sunshine!.

Emily Stack White

Principal/Príomhoide