

An Nollaig



December 2020

St. Comgall's N.S.

Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan

A happy and peaceful festive season to all our families and every good wish for the New Year!

Board of Management 2019-2023: Thanks to the members of our Board of Management for their service to and management of school related issues during their first year of office. It has also been a year of learning for our board members as they, too, have had to adapt to the new 'Zoom' format for holding board meetings. Indeed, on behalf of the school community, I would like to wish them well for Christmas and we look forward to their continued guidance as we move into 2021.



Well done to all those pupils who, this term, were recognised for their hard work, positive attitudes and for their kind, considerate gestures to others. Keep up the great effort and continue to do your best in 2021!

Congratulations to all those pupils who achieved full attendance this term. It was a challenging term and we are most grateful to both pupils and parents for following COVID-19 guidelines which ultimately helped to ensure that we were able to return to and learn in an orderly and calm environment. However, if you were sick, *don't worry*; it was important that you stayed at home to recover and that you prevented germs from spreading to those of us at school. We know that you'll be back to full attendance after Christmas!



The Green Flag: It was a proud day for St. Comgall's N.S., when on Wednesday the 11th of November 2020, we celebrated the awarding of our 'Green Schools Travel Flag'. The entire school community attended An Taisce's virtual awards ceremony. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the hard work, dedication and innovative efforts made by our school in achieving our 'Green Flag' this year. Well done to all the boys and girls for the fantastic work and effort they put in, in order to achieve this award!!

During our second term of 2020-2021



Science Week offered us the opportunity to explore science and its importance in our everyday lives. The senior pupils investigated light in varying STEM activities and even made periscopes! At the junior level we learned about capillary action and created beautiful rainbows.

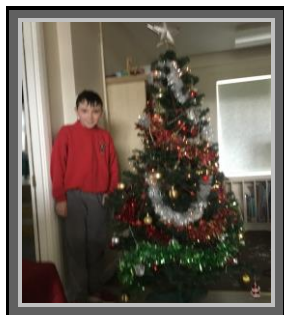


And so, Christmas 2020 began ... *****

Noah placed star on tree...



Seán switched on lights...

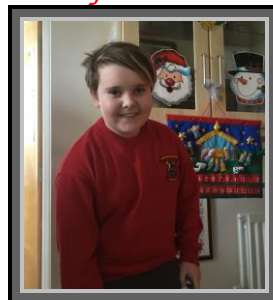


Ava switched on the external lights...



The first names drawn for the Advent Calendar!

Advent: As part of our Christmas preparations, the teachers and Fr. McKenna discussed the significance of the Advent Wreath and the Advent Calendar with the pupils. We continually reminded them about little kind steps we can all take, as we journey towards Christmas, to welcome the birth of the Baby Jesus.



Virtual Santa filled the school with exciting Christmas spirit on Wednesday, 16th December. We had a surprise North Pole 'Zoom' link with an extremely important person – Santa Claus!! As always, Santa proved to be 'fantastically knowledgeable' and had 'inside-information' on so many of our pupils!!! He even read us a poem and we sang him a song. We then waved 'Slán' to Santa as Mrs. Claus was calling him!

Virtual Dráma Courtesy of a link through the Monaghan Education Centre, the junior pupils enjoyed singing and dancing along to *Rockin' Christmas Rhymes* from the Branar Theatre Company. In the senior classroom pupils listened to an adaptation of *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol* from the Livin' Dred Theatre Company.



Santa & Mrs. Claus Not one but two special callers paid a 'socially-distanced' visit to our school grotto on Friday, 18th December. That familiar ring of Santa's bell put a smile on all our faces! We eagerly told him what we wanted and then entertained him with our carol singing. He was really impressed and complemented the children on their beautiful voices! Before saying goodbye, he gave every pupil a lovely selection box and all too quickly the time came when we had to wave him goodbye. Sincere thanks to Mrs. Claus for ensuring Santa was put safely on his way, back home to the North Pole.....!!





Santa Dash As part of our continuing efforts to promote physical activity in the school and as we continue to work towards our Active School Flag, all pupils took part in a 'Santa Dash'... Fortunately the wet weather did not deter our enthusiastic 'Santas' and an exhilarating race was enjoyed by all *****



****School Staff****: I would like to say a special note of thanks to all our school staff and particularly to our teachers who have worked endless hours to ensure that our pupils returned to normal schooling during the coronavirus pandemic. A huge amount of planning went into the preparation for and the return to school and since then our dedicated teachers have been most generous with their time in ensuring that every effort was made to bridge the gaps in pupils' learning due to time lost since March. Ultimately, they ensure that learning takes place in a school that is still a fun, friendly and caring place, while remaining safe! I would like to wish them a well-deserved rest during Christmas and we look forward, in appreciation, to their guided inspiration in 2021.

Christmas Break ~ St. Comgall's N.S. will close today at 12pm, Tuesday 22nd December, 2020 and will re-open at 9.20am, Wednesday 6th January **2021**.

* Finally, we would like to wish you all a... **holiday season filled with sparkle and shine and may all of your wishes and dreams come true...** *



Catríona Donnelly (Principal)