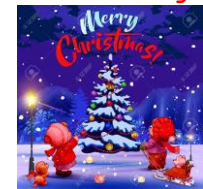


An Nollaig



December 2023

St. Comgall's N.S.

Connors, Clones, Co. Monaghan

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

Board of Management 2023-2027: The term of office for our new Board of Management commenced on 1st December 2023. We welcome onto the Board our two new patron representatives, Mr Stephen McCabe, Chairman, and Helen Maguire, our community representatives, John Connolly and Cathy Kirke and we also welcome Jacinta McCaffrey who was re-elected as our Parent Representative. I would like to thank members for their willingness to serve voluntarily on the Board for the next four years. We wish them well for the future as they work together on issues related to the management of St. Comgall's N.S. for the benefit of all children and parents. I would like to thank our outgoing Board Members for their support and commitment to St. Comgall's N.S. over the past four years which was particularly challenging during Covid-19.



Congratulations 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 2024!



Well done to all those pupils who achieved full attendance this term. Good school attendance is highly valued in our school. If, however, 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! So, congratulations to Fionn, Oisín and Fainche in the Junior classroom and to Fionnán, Kayla, Amy and Maisy in the Senior classroom. This term's certificates were designed by pupils in the Senior Classroom. Don't they look fabulous?

Our hard-working Parent Association raised important funds through their efforts with the successful bucket collection at Clogher Markets. My sincere thanks to our P.A. committee, guided by Susan McCaffrey (Chairperson), Deirdre Parker (Secretary) and Natasha Duffy (Treasurer). Indeed, thanks to all parents for their recent bucket collection at Clogher Markets and for donating prizes and purchasing tickets at our recent Christmas Play. This year, these two events earned a total of €1300 which will be used to fund swimming tuition and music lessons in the coming term. We are grateful for your wonderful parental support which helps to provide a teaching / learning environment that is impressively equipped with varied educational resources and services.

Biodiversity Flag: We continue to make great strides towards achieving our 5th Green Flag. The overall aim of the Biodiversity theme is for schools to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity in the local environment and for students to come up with ideas to help protect the varied flora and fauna in our local area. Here in St Comgall's N.S. we have been working hard towards achieving our Biodiversity Flag. Recently our Biodiversity Committee visited Knocknagrave Environmental Centre. The pupils enjoyed exploring the outdoor education site which consisted of a nature trail, gardens wilded for nature, fruit bushes, native trees and pollinator friendly plants, ponds, water harvesting and composting facilities. They also studied the story of 'water from source to tap' through engaging in fully interactive learning zones. A thoroughly enjoyable and informative day. We are looking forward to submitting our application to secure our fifth Green Flag in the coming term.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal: The spirit of Christmas was evident through another successful '*Team Hope Shoebox Appeal*' collection in early November. Thank you for your kindness and generosity! Christmas is about sharing with those children who are poorer and less fortunate than us. We wish those children hope and happiness for the Christmas season.

Science Week: What a busy week we had indulging in all things science!

EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT SHARKS IS WRONG!

We joined Dr. Nick Crumpton as he took us into the world of sharks. Humans often think of Sharks as menacing sea creatures who will eat you as quick as look at you....but there's more to them than that! We enjoyed a very insightful session in which we learned many interesting facts about sharks!

CSI STORYLAND

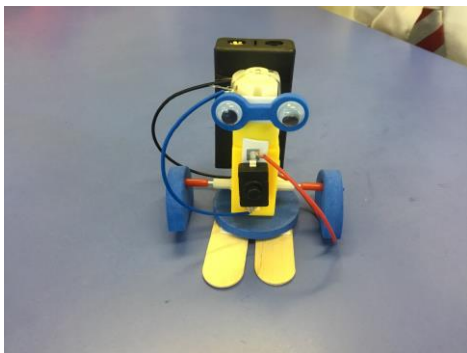
After using storytelling techniques to introduce pupils to crimes and the suspects, we were given a range of clues left at the scene. We, then had to use our science and numeracy skills to reveal the identity of the miscreant!

BEEBOTS

Thank you to Monaghan Education Centre who lent us beebots. Pupils had to input instructions to allow the beebots to move from one place to another. A very competitive afternoon ensued with pupils striving to outdo each other in reaching the destination first.

STEM

STEM Wizz the leading seller of educational toys in Ireland provided us with kits to create our own battery powered machine such as robots, cars and even a mop cleaning machine! These kits help in the development of important life skill sets such as critical thinking, problem solving, social skills and cognitive learning styles. What a great time everyone had in assembling their kits and competing against each other in a race off!



And so, Christmas 2023 began ...



Christmas Art: The pupils displayed their creative side on the windows this Christmas and ensured that the school was cheerfully decorated for the Festive season! Thank you to Elaine Agnew who demonstrated to the pupils the art of painting murals on the windows to create optimum displays.

Clones Christmas Lights : Thank you to all pupils and parents who participated in the switching on of the lights on the Diamond in Clones on Friday 24th November. Their carol singing certainly got us in the festive mood and we all enjoyed meeting Santa and Mrs Claus on the night.

The Great Christmas Switch On ~

Both Fionnán and Kayla were two of the lucky children to be pulled from the hat to help light up St. Comgall's N.S. for Christmas as this is their final year. Also Aoibhinn and Brendan joined in the Christmas preparation by helping to switch on both the indoor and outdoor lights. Well done everyone.



Aladdin: All children enjoyed a fabulous fun filled day in Armagh on Monday 11th December 2023. Firstly we enjoyed a tasty lunch in 'Embers' restaurant generously paid for by McEneaney Group, Monaghan. Then we headed across the road to 'The Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre' where we laughed and enjoyed the antics of Widow Twanky and Aladdin and booed at Abanazar. This trip was funded through our tuck shop initiative, whereby change received after paying for their Friday treat is saved and used to fund trips such as this. Thank you to all parents who continue to support the school in their fund raising efforts by sending in €1 per week for their child's Friday treat.



Our Christmas play, 'Cinderella & Rockerfella,' was performed on Thursday 14th December to a packed house in our local Connons Community Hall. It was a most enjoyable occasion. Thanks to our make-up artists, to the P.A. for the interval refreshments and to you the parents for your attendance and your donation of such generous prizes for our raffle. Finally, to my background production team - Mrs. Hagan, Mrs Martin, Mary and Stephanie. Their support and enthusiasm breathes success into our shows each year, their commitment is unwavering. Indeed, our raffle was a huge success and again realised a very impressive €650 / £10 on the night. This money will be used to fund swimming tuition and music lessons in the coming term. We would also like to thank Connons Community for the use of the hall on the night. Without this local community facility occasions such as this could not take place.



Show Time proved to be another enjoyable occasion in Largy College on Wednesday, 18th December, as our pupils enjoyed entertaining songs, dances and sketches that were very competently performed by the secondary students. Thanks to Principal, Sharon Magennis for making us feel so welcome and for commenting on how well the pupils behaved throughout the performances.



Dancing with Fusion Dance School with Ayisha finished on Wednesday 13th December. Each session was exciting, challenging and fun-filled, Ayisha taught the pupils many new fun dance moves which proved useful for our Christmas play. Hopefully, we'll have an opportunity to develop this skill further in the future. A reminder that on **Tuesday, 9th January swimming coaching commences** with all classes. Please note the attached information sheet for further details.



Santa Time: The school was filled with exciting Christmas spirit on Wednesday, 20th December with a surprise visit from an extremely important visitor – Santa Claus!! As always, Santa proved to be a fantastic singer; he gave a gift to each child and then happily headed off to prepare for his busy schedule on Christmas Eve.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendar of Events



Starting January 9th 2024 Swimming lessons will take place each Tuesday morning in Coral Leisure Centre, Monaghan for a period of six weeks. The bus will leave the school promptly at **9:20am** to ensure that we are ready to begin our lesson at 10:00am. I have attached information received from the Coral Leisure Centre regarding their policy for school swimming lessons. I would be grateful if you could discuss this with your child/ren before our first lesson. I have also attached further details pertaining to this activity for your attention. The cost for each lesson is €4.50 per child which will be funded by the school. We are very grateful to the Parent's Association for covering the cost of the bus each week.

January 30th 2024 Enrolment for Junior Infants starting school in September 2024 will take place on Tuesday afternoon, 30th January from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Parents and pupils will be welcome to tour the school, speak with staff and participate in exciting activities in the Junior classroom. Please bring your child's Birth Certificate and P.P.S. Number with you on the day and we look forward to seeing you then.



Bag Collection: The A bag collection will take place on Tuesday 30th January 2024. Bags can be left inside the school wall at any time and will be stored under the veranda until collection. We thank all parents for their continued support in this recycling initiative.



School Closures The school will be closed on the following dates:
Monday 5th February 2024 – St. Brigid's Day
Thursday 15th February and Friday 16th February – Mid Term Break
Monday 18th March – St. Patrick's Day

Christmas Break ~ St. Comgall's N.S. will close today at 12pm, Friday 22nd December, 2023 and will re-open at 9.20am, Monday 8th January 2024.

* 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...** *



Ann Marie Pennell (Principal)