



St. Comgall's N.S.

Connors, Clones, Co. Monaghan

Witch-ing you a spook-tacular Halloween!

Mrs Donnelly's Retirement: Thank you to pupils, parents and staff both present and past who joined with us on Friday 6th October 2023 to celebrate our past principal, Mrs Catriona Donnelly's, retirement. After participating in our annual school mass, presentations by pupils, parents, staff and Board of Management were made to Mrs Donnelly in grateful appreciation for her commitment and dedication to St. Comgall's N.S. over the past nineteen years. We congratulate her on her retirement and know that her tireless commitment and passion for imparting knowledge and skills has been nothing short of inspiring. Her profound dedication has left a permanent mark on the minds of her pupils, who have immensely gained from her vast knowledge and expertise. As a school we extend our sincerest congratulations to her, on her retirement and express our deep appreciation for the consistent input she has made to our school during her many years of service. Her impact on our school community will never be forgotten. After a lifetime of diligent work and commitment, her retirement is a richly deserved climax of her efforts. We hope that she enjoys this new chapter in her life and savours every moment of retirement.



Busy Bee Ceramics: On Wednesday 6th September 2023, as a final project with Creative Schools, the pupils visited Glaslough where they had a hands-on experience of creating their own clay master piece. Brenda McGinn, owner, taught us about the soothing effects of working with clay. We also had an opportunity to tour and admire the nearby Biodiversity Garden. The weather was fabulous and the trip was a wonderful beginning to the new school year.





Children's Book Festival: took place recently whereby the pupils were given opportunities to participate in activities and events in collaboration with writers/illustrators/storytellers online. It is hoped to inspire a love of reading for all pupils as it has shown that instilling a love of reading at a young age is the key that unlocks the door to lifelong learning. Next term we will be introducing DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read) where all pupils will be encouraged to either read independently a book/magazine/comic of their choice or listen to a story being read.



Biodiversity: As we continue to work towards achieving our fifth Green Flag, 'Biodiversity' we were delighted to welcome Ross Cochrane from Heritage for Schools on Wednesday 11th October 2023. He informed the pupils about the diversity of trees, plants and wildlife that we have at St. Comgall's N.S. They learned about how bats capture their prey, which berries are safe to eat and how trees and plant life communicate with each other! A wonderful day of learning was had by all. A Biodiversity Committee has been formed and members will aim to update everyone on the progress of work towards this flag as the year progresses.



Soccer Coaching: All classes really enjoyed participating in seven weeks of soccer football coaching provided by Pat McCabe. The pupils were very lucky to have had the chance to improve, practice and learn new skills in such fun and well-organised lessons during the first term. Thank you to Pat, our coach, who was so helpful and enthusiastic when working with the classes.

Maths Week is always a great initiative to encourage our pupils to take part in fun maths-based activities! Plenty of hands-on activities with manipulatives and maths online workshops were explored and thoroughly enjoyed by both pupils and teachers. One of our challenges 'What is the longest length of paper you can make from one sheet of A4?' had all pupils reaching for their scissors! Congratulations to Gareth Parker, who stretched his A4 page, to 1128cms followed closely by Kayla McCaffrey whose page reached 1120cms. Currently the senior classes are trying to spend exactly €500,000. Are they spending it wisely? Or will they be in trouble with the bank manager? Once completed you will see how financial savvy your children are or not!





Music: We are delighted that Mrs Maria Maguire has commenced music lessons with pupils from 1st class to 6th class. Pupils will receive tuition in tin whistle and traditional/modern singing throughout the year. She will also be involved in helping to coordinate our Christmas Play this year 'Cinderella & Rockerfella' and we would encourage all pupils to fully participate with her during these lessons in order to gain optimum benefit.

Pumpkin Carving: All pupils had a chance to display their Halloween creativity by partaking in our pumpkin carving activity. Many scary faces were carved and the pupils delighted in competing against each other in creating the scariest pumpkin. All pumpkins were lit up and displayed outside the school for the previous two nights and I know many people in the community were truly frightened! Enjoy scaring your family and friends with your fabulous pumpkin creations!



Attendance: The Department of Education recently issued a campaign to support regular school attendance of children and young people. 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 Hallowe'en. Here at St. Comgall's N.S., overall attendance is excellent and to celebrate this achievement, we have re-introduced our termly attendance certificate and reward system. Congratulations to the following pupils; Fionn McCaffrey (JI), Jack McCaffrey, Aoibhinn McCaffrey (2nd Class), Molly McCaffrey, Maisy McCaffrey (3rd Class), Finn McCaffrey (4th Class) and Kayla McCaffrey (5th Class) who have all achieved full attendance this term. Well Done!





Calendar of Events



Starting November 10th 2023 **Dance tuition** with Ayisha from Fusion Dance School will take place each Friday this term beginning 10th November 2023 for 6 weeks. We look forward to learning many new dance routines that will be showcased at our annual school play.



November 9th 2023 **Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal** is delighted to announce that the filling of shoeboxes will take place again this year! The shoebox appeal gives gifts to many vulnerable children who may not receive anything at Christmas. We support this initiative and hope you will continue to support it too. The boxes will be collected on Thursday 9th November.



November 10th 2023. The **Biodiversity Committee** will travel to Knocknagrave Environmental and Education Centre, Tydavnet where they will participate in interactive games to learn about how they can protect the environment. They will also visit the biodiversity garden which is a haven to wildlife and serves to highlight the links between biodiversity and good water quality. They will then report back to the whole school on what they have learned and how we, as a school can protect our environment.



November 16th 2023 **Parent / Teacher Meetings** will be held in each classroom after school on Thursday 16th November. As always we will endeavour to facilitate meeting times that are convenient for parents. Appointment times will be sent out after we return from midterm. Please let us know via text or a telephone call if the times suit.



November 16th 2023 **A Parent's Association** meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 16th November in the school. Prior to this meeting I would be grateful if all parents could peruse both the 'Code of Behaviour Policy' and the 'Anti-Bullying Policy' which are both available on the school website. These policies have been drafted with the participation of all pupils and now we ask you, the parents for your suggestions and recommendations. Any proposed amendments can be discussed at this meeting before being ratified at the next Board of Management meeting. It is also hoped to elect parent representatives for the new Board of Management, which will take up office on 1st December 2023. Any parents who wish to be nominated are asked to forward their name to Susan McCaffrey (Chairperson) before this meeting.

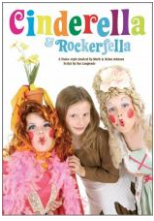
A date and schedule for the fundraising at Clogher Markets will also be finalised .



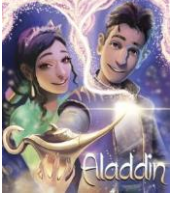
November 13th – 17th 2023 **Science Week** activities will be explored in-class and online with classes through digital and blended formats during this week. The focus will be on how science can improve our lives now and in the future. Interesting and engaging sessions await...



November 20th 2023 **School Closure** The school will be closed on Monday 20th November 2023 to facilitate all teachers attending a Primary Maths Curriculum seminar organised by OIDE. The revised Primary Maths Curriculum aims to stimulate interest in the learning of mathematics and help students understand and acquire basic mathematical concepts and computational skills. In addition, it aims to help students develop creativity and the ability to think, communicate and solve problems.



December 14th 2023 Our Christmas play will take to the stage in our local Connors Community Hall, at 7pm on Thursday 14th December. This year's production is called 'Cinderella & Rockerfella, so, bring along family and friends and enjoy another beautiful and dazzling performance by the children.



December 11th 2023 **Pantomime** - All pupils will attend the pantomime 'Aladdin', in The Market Place Theatre in Armagh. Will the evil Abanazar destroy Aladdin's dreams to get rich and marry Princess Jasmine? Or will the Genie of the Lamp grant Aladdin three wishes and save the day? And will Widow Twanky ever find a man? The pupils will find out on this globe-trotting, action-packed escapade which will be a treat for all. The cost of this trip has been funded with monies raised from our weekly school tuck shop and sincere thanks to all parents who have made this initiative such a success.



Happy Hallowe'en High Jinks! We dressed up and enjoyed fun and frolics out on the yard with 'Hallowe'en Games'. We did great spooky Hallowe'en dance moves and achieved really high scores in our ghostly game of bowling!!

Enjoy a happy and spooky Hallowe'en from St. Comgall's ghouls and witches!!!

Hallowe'en Break ~ St. Comgall's N.S. will be closed on the following days; from Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November, 2023. It will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 6th November 2023. Finally, we would like to wish you all ... **spooky thrills**, for a happy and safe holiday!



Ann Marie Pennell (Principal)