



## St. Comgall's N.S.

Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan

*'Enjoy a spook-tacular Hallowe'en, with spine-chilling treats that are healthy to eat!'*

**Board of Management:** The term of office for our new Board of Management will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and will continue until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. I would like, on behalf of the whole school community to say sincere thanks to all out-going members and particularly to our Chairman, Joe Kirke. All members have served voluntarily on our board for the last four years. They have given of their time to attend meetings and to discuss curricular and management policy issues pertinent to the provision of educational excellence at St. Comgall's. May I pay tribute to them for their time, support, advice, contributions and good humour, during all our meetings - all of which we recognise and highly value. We wish them well and look forward to welcoming them back to share in our end of year celebrations.



~ Catríona Donnelly (Principal), Ann Marie Pennell, Alphonsus Scarlett, Christine Clarke (remaining), Finbar Murphy, Joe Kirke, Irene Rooney, Stephanie Fitzpatrick ~

**Hallowe'en Attendance:** Termly attendance presentations were made today to recognise and congratulate those pupils who have achieved full attendance since our September return. Congratulations to our nineteen **be-witching and fang-tastic** ghouls and spirits.... Keep up the great effort!



**Our Opening School Mass** was celebrated on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September in St. Alphonsus Church. Out thanks to Fr. McKenna for celebrating the Mass for this lovely occasion to mark new year beginnings for all staff and pupils. We are grateful that so many families could attend on the day.

**Our Parent Association** held its AGM on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October for the new academic year 2019-2020! Thanks to Thomas McCaffrey / Susan McCaffrey (Chairman / Deputy Chairperson), Elisha McCaffrey / Deirdre Parker (Secretary / Assistant Secretary) and Natasha Duffy / Jacinta McCaffrey (Treasurer / Assistant Treasurer) who have very kindly agreed to take up the new positions on the PA committee for the coming year.

\* To ensure the smooth and efficient running of upcoming P.A. events and to make life easier for Elisha and Deirdre, I would ask all parents to reply promptly to their text messaging.

\* I would like to thank parents for your generous fundraising last year. The possibility of remedial works being carried out on the back school yard was discussed and is presently being considered.

\* The P.A. Committee has asked me to remind parents that they are collecting **€20** per household for the Christmas Raffle, which will be held after Mass on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December in the school. Tickets will be sent home shortly with the children and parents are also asked to bake some treats or donate some baking

**Confirmation** for our sixth class pupils will take place at 11am on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March in The Sacred Heart Church, Clones. Bishop Larry Duffy will be the celebrant at this special ceremony. We wish Matthew, Rocha, Tara, Katie and Dean well on their faith journey as they prepare for this sacrament.

## *During our first term of 2019-2020 ....*

**Maths Week** Ireland 2019 took place from 14th October – 18th October. On the Friday senior classes concentrated on exploring strategies for developing logical reasoning!! A variety of puzzles and games really challenged us to organise those strategies and apply them thoughtfully to the different challenges.



And in the junior classroom a wonderful time was spent on construction and IT work to further promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of Maths.



**Green Flag:** On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September we welcomed Sorcha Brophy, Travel Education Officer, An Taisce, to our school. Sorcha completed a 'Bike Workshop' with pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes, during which the pupils learned all about cycle safety. Naturally, the pupils from Junior Infants to 1<sup>st</sup> class did not miss out, they too got to learn all about cycle safety with their teachers Mrs. Pennell and Mrs Hagan. Watch out for us on the roads!



**Travel Slogan:** We would also like to congratulate Seán Connolly on his entry in our 'Travel slogan' competition. Seán's entry '*Turn off your ignitions for less emissions*' was picked as the winning slogan by our Board of Management at their last meeting. Well done Seán!! Indeed, well done to all the boys and girls, it was a difficult decision to make with such a high standard of entries. The winning slogan will be displayed on our 'Travel Flag' noticeboard. We look forward to another busy term ahead, working on our Travel Flag Theme ... 😊



**The Active Schools Flag:** We are continuing to work towards achieving an *Active Schools Flag* for our school this academic year. The aim of the *Active Schools Flag* is to encourage schools to be more active, more often. It links in with all of the work we are doing throughout the year on 'Healthy Living' - being active, getting exercise, taking care of our minds and bodies. Our playground leaders continue to organise, implement and encourage game activities three times a week during lunch break, which are thoroughly enjoyed by all pupils. We would encourage all parents to become active with their children to ensure that all children receive the recommended one hour of physical activity daily. Get those running shoes on!

**Gaelic Football:** Thanks to Anne McKenna and Monaghan GAA County Board for facilitating another very enjoyable seven-week coaching programme. The focus at all times was on fun, participation and skill development. It's wonderful to see pupils' progress and an improvement in fitness levels with each passing year.



**November 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Creative Schools Week** will take place after the midterm, during which we will celebrate our creativity by undertaking and participating in lessons that explore cultural/ artistic/ creative activities.



**November 8<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**The Shoe Box Appeal** continues to be a worthwhile initiative in our Christmas preparations. As discussed at the recent Parent Meeting, we are asking you, once again, to take part in the project. Boxes will be collected on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November. Leaflets (which will follow shortly) will provide all relevant details related to box contents. A reminder not to seal boxes when covering them in Christmas paper; an elastic band will suffice.

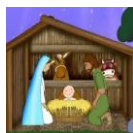


**November 9<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>th</sup> 2019** **Cavan & Monaghan Science Week** will offer primary schools a 'Primary Schools Programme' (*free of charge*) during their festival week. Subsequently, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November, all pupils will attend a 'Bubbly Maths' presentation in Clones Library. An exciting and engaging session awaits...



**November 14<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Parent / Teacher Meetings** will be held after school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November. As always we will endeavour to facilitate meeting times that are convenient for both parent and teachers. Appointment times will be sent out after we return from midterm.



**December 10<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Our Christmas play** will take to the stage in our local Connors Community hall, at 7pm on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December. So, bring along family and friends and enjoy another beautiful and dazzling performance by the children.



**Hallowe'en Break** ~ St. Comgall's N.S. will be closed on the following days; from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2019. It will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Finally, we would like to wish you all ... **spooky** **#thrills**, during a happy and safe holiday!



Catriona Donnelly (Principal)

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

