

*Scoil Naomh Comhghall, Coininsi*  
St. Comgall's N.S., Connors, Clones, Co. Monaghan

October



2015

'Hallowe'en Greetings' to all  
our families.  
May your holiday be filled with  
many mystical memories!

Oíche  
Shamhna



2015

**New Faces:** A special word of welcome to all our new pupils. Welcome to Luke, Ryan, Caoimhe, Robyn and Saoirse in Junior Infants. 'Failte' also goes to Eoin in Senior Infants and Seán in 3<sup>rd</sup> class. We hope that their time in St. Comgall's N.S. will be happy and enjoyable.



**Parent Association:** On Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Parent Association held their A.G.M. on school premises. Congratulations to our committee members who have so generously agreed to serve on the P.A. Committee. We wish them every success for the coming year. Committee members are as follows: John Connolly, Chairman; John Joe Gavin, Secretary and Lorraine Fitzsimons, Treasurer.

To ensure the smooth and efficient running of upcoming P.A. events, I would ask all parents to reply promptly to text messaging from the secretary. I would also like to thank the parent cohort for its very generous €2,000 funding of our new laptops. Such laptops will be crucial in enriching pupils' future learning.

**A New Board of Management:** The term of office of the present Board of Management will expire at the end of November 2015. From December newly elected members will serve on the Board for the next four years. The two parents' representatives on that Board will be Stephanie Fitzpatrick and Finbar Murphy. We congratulate them both and thank them for their willingness to participate in school governance. Sincere thanks also to John Joe Gavin who has been very supportive of initiatives that enhance the welfare of our pupils; whose advice was/ and still is invaluable and whose good humour, over the last eight years, never failed to entertain us. We know he will continue to assist us on school issues into the future. Finally, the Board of Management would also like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Debbie Butler, a previous parent representative, who participated and served wholeheartedly on our last Board for more than two years.

**Attendance:** Congratulations to all those pupils who achieved full attendance this term. A reminder to send in notes to class teachers when children are absent. If your child has an enforced absence (e.g. illness, holiday overseas) and is out of school for 20 days or more, it is necessary to retain any documentation in relation to this as you may be required to supply it to the Education Welfare Officer, under the terms of the Education Welfare Act.

**School Mass/Sacraments:** Our thanks

**The National Flags for Primary Schools:**

to Fr. Mohan for the lovely celebration of our annual school Mass on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. We are delighted that so many families could attend on the day. We wish our second and sixth classes well on their faith journey as they prepare for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. As soon as dates for these events have been arranged with our priests, we will be in touch with parents.

As part of the Ireland 2016 State Commemorative Programme, our school, in December 2015/January 2016, will be visited by Minister Heather Humphreys and a member of the Defence Forces. During a special thirty minute ceremony we will be formally presented with the National Flag. The children will also be taught about how the National Flag should be cared for and the protocol that surrounds this symbol of our nation. An exact date for this event has yet to be confirmed, but once informed, we will be in touch with parents regarding same.

**Green Schools Initiative:** This year St. Comgall's will apply for its third Green Flag award. As the theme of this flag is water, we have taken initial steps to heighten pupils' awareness of water issues. Our application will be submitted, followed by a visit, in the New Year, from an assessor from An Taisce, who will speak to the children and look for evidence on how the water steps were adopted. Should we be successful, then the flag will be presented to us, later in the year, at a specially held award ceremony.

**Maths Week:** Maths Week (Oct 10<sup>th</sup>– 18<sup>th</sup>) saw pupils doing enriching maths activities. Maths' games, challenges and construction exercises were very popular and to the fore, with the greatest emphasis being on enjoying the subject. The **WHOLE** school loved it! Undoubtedly, it was an effective and fun week.



**Science Week:** As we endeavour to promote the Science curriculum through Science Week, the senior pupils will, on Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> November, participate in a 'Discover Science Workshop' in Clones.' Pupils will be involved in an interactive designing session on buildings, the theme of which will be *Design Your Future*. An exciting morning in store!

**Trip:** On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, we visited the Church of Ireland, Drumully. We were welcomed by Rector Anita Kerr and some members of the Church community and learned some very interesting facts about the Church's celebration of the harvest thanksgiving.

**Shoe Box Appeal:** A massive thank you to everyone who supports our annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal! It is very much appreciated by us and certainly by the young people who will benefit from the wonderful surprises in the boxes. We are asking you, once again, to take part in the project this Christmas. Ciaran & Nuala McBride of Gortnacarrow Tyre Service, will support Team Hope by collecting boxes up to the 10<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.

**Christmas Play:** We are hoping to stage the annual festive show in our local Connons Community hall, at 7pm on Tuesday, 15<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 from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. It will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015. Finally, we would like to wish you all a... spooky, happy and safe holiday!

**Sporting Activities:** The sporting schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows... Gaelic football with Anne McKenna will take place over a six week period, immediately after Hallowe'en midterm, followed, after Christmas by Irish dancing with Gerard McQuaid for another six weeks. Then, the Easter to summer term will see the children travel to Monaghan for six week's of swimming coaching. The year promises lots of fun and games with plenty of skills development in store!

**Recycling:** Sincere thanks for your continued support of the recycling initiative. Our collection this week weighed 140kg, payment of which will help fund this term's music lessons. Many thanks for our summer clothes collection in June which raised €70. Please remember that bags can be dropped into the school at any time and may include items such as clothes/ sheets/ fabrics and shoes.

**Christmas Annuals:** The Folens Christmas Annuals have arrived! The festive magazine for each class level (optional purchase by parents), is available at the very competitive price of €2.80, if payment is made online by the school before the 23<sup>rd</sup> November. I would be grateful if you would send in the money after midterm, if you're interested in purchasing same.



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

