



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!

Weekly awards celebrate good behaviour, effort in school work, having a positive school attitude, for being helpful or friendly towards other pupils and teachers, to name but a few. Congratulations to those pupils who impressed teachers and received the 'Star of the Week' awards since October midterm. We will encourage children to continue to do their best in 2018.

A culture of regular school attendance continues to be highly valued in our school. Well done and congratulations to Kayla, Seán, Robyn, Caoimhe, Eoghan, Liam, Luke, Saoirse, Donnchadh, Ava and Fionnán in the junior classroom for full attendance. Well done also to Michael, Rocha, Tara, Katie, Dean, Luke, Matthew, Ethan and Jack in the senior classroom for their excellent attendance this term. Keep it up!



Goodbye and good luck to the best school bus driver in Ireland! We wish our bus driver, Pádraig, congratulations on his retirement. It has been a blessing to work with Pádraig over these past years, and to have known that, no matter the weather, the pupils were always in the safest of hands. Pádraig accommodated us with transportation to so many school events and his kind and generous nature made bus journeys most enjoyable. That's the special kind of person he is! It's hard to imagine our school without him but we hope that retirement brings him a future of new experiences and adventures! All the best Pádraig and we look forward to officially marking your retirement in the New Year.

For funds raised through another successful Christmas raffle and cake sale, I extend my heartfelt thanks. We are extremely grateful to Siobhán McQuaid for her event organisation and to all the hard-working parents on our Parent Association who donated prizes and who sold raffle tickets for the event. Our thanks also to all the sponsors for their generous support of the raffle. This event and cake sale earned a total of €3,180. Both events will afford us the opportunity to purchase more ICT and science resources. As teachers we thank our parents who are so supportive of teachers' efforts and who endeavour to ensure that all aspects of their children's learning are adequately resourced.

During our second term of 2017-2018



Christmas Shoebox Appeal: The beginning of Christmas was marked with a successful 'Team Hope Shoebox Appeal' collection. The giving of shoeboxes, filled with lovely gifts, for those poor, less fortunate children in Eastern Europe and Africa helped us realize the real meaning of Christmas. We hope that the contents will bring those children hope and happiness for the Christmas season. What a wonderful preparation for Christmas – well done children!

Cavan & Monaghan Science Week offered primary schools a free 'Primary Schools Programme' in mid-November. Subsequently, on Friday 17th November, all pupils attended a 'Science is Magic' show in Clones Library. An exciting and engaging session stimulated interest in areas of science such as electricity, energy and friction through entertaining interactions between the pupils and host. The show helped to further promote awareness and understanding of the importance and relevance of science to everyday life.

Christmas 2017 begins ... *****

Alesha places star on tree...



Donnchadh switches on lights...



Luke places star on tree...



Liam switches on lights...



Our Christmas play, 'Bethlehem,' was another wonderful performance by the pupils. On Tuesday 12th December their singing of festive songs delighted a packed house in our local Connons Community Hall. Our gratitude to Kellie, Stephanie, Anne, Martina and Phyllis for make-up matters. And thanks to the P.A. for the interval refreshments. A huge amount of work was demanded of this production, so my thanks to Mrs. Pennell for her wholehearted commitment! Thanks also to Mrs. Hagan and Mary for their support with props and costume concerns. The DVD by Sean Connolly is now available through the office at €5 per disc. Finally, my sincere thanks to our parents' generosity in donating so many prizes towards the raffle – it was a huge success and realised a very impressive €810 on the night. So far, money raised has paid for more costumes, heating oil, decorations, treats on the night and the pupils' Christmas lunch. The remainder will help pay for music and swimming lessons throughout this school year.

The Christmas pantomime trip took place on Tuesday, 19th December. The junior pupils travelled to the Garage Theatre, Monaghan for the annual production which, this year, was 'Little Miss Muffet's Christmas Capers.' As our pupils were the only group in attendance for that performance, the pupils received special attention and thoroughly enjoyed the interaction with the actors and actresses. It was a real Christmas treat!



Show Time: An enjoyable morning was spent in Largy College on Wednesday, 20th December as our pupils enjoyed a selection of entertaining songs, dances and sketches, 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 looked in their uniforms.

Santa Time: There was no shortage of the Christmas spirit on Thursday, 21st December as the day culminated in 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 happily headed off to prepare for his busy workload on Christmas Eve.



Recycling: Our first collection for the new term will take place on **Tuesday, 9th January**. A reminder that items for recycling may include clothes, sheets, fabrics and shoes. This initiative continues to be a tremendous success. Sincere thanks to parents for generating much needed school funds through this initiative.

Christmas Break ~ St. Comgall's N.S. will close at 12pm on Friday 22nd December, 2017 and will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 8th January 2018.

✴ 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)