

**St. Comgall's N.S.** Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan



**New Faces** – A special word of welcome to our new pupils.... Welcome to Aaron in 6<sup>th</sup> Class and to Pádraig Óg and Finn in Junior Infants. We look forward to an exciting year of learning and wish all pupils success, inspiration and happiness in the year ahead. Here's to a great year!

## IMPORTANT!

A school closure planned for Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September in the Primary Language Curriculum has been postponed until later on in the term. In our endeavours to enrich learning experiences for our pupils, we are awaiting confirmation that an advisor from the teachers' professional development team, the PDST, will facilitate training at our in-school staff planning day. Once, we receive this confirmation, we will inform parents of the new date for the planning day and the necessity to close the school, as per the agreed guidelines of the Department of Education & Skills.

A General Parent Meeting will be held in the school, after the next Board of Management meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Child Protection and GDPR are two of many policy areas that now impact significantly on school life. Therefore, I would like to furnish you with the steps our school has taken to adhere to the new regulations.



I would be most grateful if <u>one member</u> from each family would attend at this meeting to discuss the new issues ~ I promise not to hold you too long!



A school Mass to bless our new school year will be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September across the road in St. Alphonsus. We welcome to St. Comgall's Fr. John McKenna C.C., Scotshouse as our new school chaplain. Fr. John will take over responsibility for pastoral work and sacramental preparation with pupils in the school for our new academic year. Looking forward to seeing families at Mass on the day.

To promote more learner engagement in curricular subjects we have purchased eighteen new ipads. We plan on using these learning devices to help make Internet access to online resources more readily available and hope that they will help the children to be excited by learning, that they will make learning fun and ultimately that they will help them think outside their comfort zone and embrace new technology. We have had an initial training day with Emma of 'Call Tech' and have begun to explore the creation of ebooks on the ipads. Once we are more competent using the devices in class, we will invite Emma to come back and guide us through an introduction to 'Coding' ie to code and solve problems and work together in creative ways.

**The school nurse** will, on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September, attend at the school to carry out vision and hearing tests on Junior Infant pupils.

**County Photos** will, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, visit the school to take individual and group photos of all pupils, families and staff. We'll all have to be looking our best on that day!



Allianz Insurance I have attached application forms on pupil personal accident insurance from Allianz Insurance to this newsletter. We would be grateful if all families would avail of this insurance and by stating that all children registered are being insured, then the cost of 24 hour cover is reduced to  $\notin$ 8 per pupil. Once returned to the school, I am happy to forward all details and money to Allianz, on your behalf.



**Recycling:** Sincere thanks to parents for continuing to generate school funds through the recycling initiative. Our collections for 2017-2018 have credited our school account by €450 and as always these funds will help to pay for our music lessons. Bags will be collected again, in the next two weeks.

**Catríona Donnelly (Principal)**