

Principal's Report – June 2019

Tuairisc an Phríomhoide – Meitheamh 2019

New Pupils: We continue to welcome new families who are coming to live in the Newtownmountkennedy area and all classes have been joined by new pupils. Our current enrolment is 364 and we hope to see this increasing in the coming school year.

Sacraments: Well done to 2nd class on the occasion of their First Holy Communion and to 6th class on their recent Confirmation. We would like to thank Fr. Smith, Fr. Daly and Paul Thornton for all their help in making these ceremonies memorable.

Gaeilge: Míle buíochas do mhúinteoirí agus do daltaí ó CCA as ucht na ranganna Gaeilge a eagrú i mbliana. Bhaineamar an-taitneamh as Labhraigh Loinsigh. Buíochas do Ms. Egan as ucht suim sa Ghaeilge a spreagadh sa scoil. Beimid ag múineadh Corpoideachas trí Ghaeilge an bhliain seo chugainn.

St. Catherine's School: We welcomed pupils and staff from St. Catherine's School to our Seachtain na Gaeilge activities in March and to our Fun & Run Blitz in May. We were delighted to be invited to sing at their Christmas Carol service in December. We hope to continue to build on these links in the coming school year.

Summer Camp for Children with Autism: Best wishes to all involved with next month's Summer Camp, which runs from Monday the 1st of July to Friday the 12th. Thanks to Ms. Nolan for co-ordinating this camp and to Mr. Keddy for linking with Bray Emmets GAA Cúl Camp. We are very grateful to Willie Braine and all in Bray Emmets for facilitating this.

GAA Fun & Run: We were delighted to welcome pupils and staff from St. Catherine's School, Greystones Educate Together National School and St. Patrick's Primary School in Curtlestown to a Fun & Run Blitz in our school a few weeks ago. We will continue to play this wonderful game and promote inclusion in all aspects of our school life.

Cumann na mBunscol: It was another busy year of hurling and Gaelic football activities for pupils of all ages in our school. Thanks to Mr. Keddy for co-ordinating GAA activities in our school and to Brian Doyle for supporting the development of GAA in our school through the Gaelic Nursery Programme. We thank Mr. O'Riordan for his continued involvement in sports activities in our school.

Music Generation: We were delighted to avail of this Wicklow Arts Office initiative again this year. Many of our pupils have benefitted from the expertise of our music teachers Sinéad, Joan and Karen. We hope to continue with this programme in the 2019-20 school year.

School Initiatives: We were delighted that our children got to experience many initiatives in school this year such as Nurture Groups, the Junior Entrepreneur project, the Festina Lente outreach programme, the Heritage in Schools programme and the Burns By My Side reading to dogs scheme. We thank Mary Wallace who was our Artist in Residence this year.

Parents' Association: Many thanks to all parents who got involved in activities this year as well as PA committee members who regularly help with fundraising, refreshments, meetings and school events. All of these efforts are much appreciated.

Awards Ceremony: Thanks to all parents who came to our awards ceremony last week. It was lovely to see so many people celebrate the achievements of our students. We were delighted to remember Barra through the Sunshine Awards. Thanks to Colm, Tracy and the McGrath family for donating these very special awards to our school. A very special thank you to all the parents who help maintain Barra's garden. Barra will always be remembered in our school.

6th Class Graduation: The 6th class Graduation ceremony takes place at 2 pm on Tuesday 25th June. We wish all children who are leaving our school well as they continue on to the next stage in their journey.

Staff Changes: We wish Mr. Keddy well as he continues in his new role as Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator. We send our good wishes to Ms. Hegarty and Ms. Healy as they continue on parental and maternity leave. We welcome Ms. Maguire back from maternity leave. Ms. Maguire and Ms. Wellwood are both now permanent members of our teaching staff and we wish them every success. We are very grateful to Mr. O' Riordan and Mrs. Mullen for all their help in covering leave this year. We thank Ms. O' Mahony for all her work in our school and wish her well as she returns to Cork. We wish Ms. Donlon, Ms. Mc Conn and Ms. O. Egan well with their career breaks and we look forward to welcoming new teachers to our school in September.

Board of Management: We thank the Chairperson and the Members of the Board of Management who manage our school so professionally and are so generous with their time in seeking to ensure our pupils enjoy the best educational opportunities.

As we come to the end of another school year I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and good wishes. It has been a busy school year – one that has seen a lot of changes. In April we said goodbye to Mrs. Dempsey after 25 years of service to the Newtownmountkennedy school community. We are very grateful for all her hard work and dedication to our school. We were delighted to see her back for our communion and confirmation celebrations. We wish her well as she continues her retirement.

Our school closes at 12.30pm on Friday 29th for the Summer Holidays. There will be a Whole School Assembly in St. Joseph's Church at 11am. I would like to wish you all a lovely, relaxing and safe summer and look forward to seeing you all on 9 am on Thursday 29th August when our school reopens for the new school year. Bainígí taitneamh as an sos!

Deirdre Lennon