

# Bennekerry N.S. Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> June 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians,

It's hard to believe that we're almost at the end of yet another academic year. It's been busy as always and we've had some wonderful achievements to celebrate. It would be impossible to itemise each one or to name every child individually as there have been so many. However, I will do my best to include as many as possible.

## **Comhneartú agus an Chéad Comaoineach Naofa:**

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Denis Nulty to the parish on May 24<sup>th</sup> for the Confirmation ceremony. As always, he ensured that it was a really special day for our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. The First Holy Communion ceremony was lovely also and the children on both days were excellently prepared and perfectly behaved. Credit goes to the class teachers, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Rice, Ms. Dempsey and Ms. Murphy, who put in so much effort and also to the teachers who came both days to help with little extras. The choir, directed by Mrs. Brolly, sang beautifully and the well-chosen hymns added greatly to the sense of reverence and prayerfulness. A huge thank you to the parents who assisted with refreshments after both ceremonies. The Communion and Confirmation classes chose the Gavin Glynn Foundation as a charity to support this year. This foundation helped the Kavanagh family during Callie's illness and Callie's Dad, Adam, spoke to the classes about how much this support meant to them. We are happy to report that Callie is doing great, and we expect that she will be well enough to return to us on a full-time basis in September. We are looking forward to seeing her smiling face more regularly from then on.

**Ceol:** Our brass musicians took part in the "Popera" project which culminated in a performance in the GB Shaw Theatre on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The presentation was based on the theme of the four seasons and our pupils represented winter. It was a most enjoyable production and the pupils were delighted to be given the opportunity to perform in such a wonderful venue with professional musicians from the INO and RIAM.

The following day, the choir, recorder groups, brass instrumentalists and piano students showcased some of the work they had done throughout the year. The audience were impressed at the standard of musicianship and it was wonderful to see how confidently the pupils performed and how much they enjoyed themselves in the process. Along with the group performances, **Éabha Mc Connon, Seán Breen** and **Alannah O'Dwyer**, all 6<sup>th</sup> class students, treated us to three lovely piano pieces. We are extremely lucky to have Ann Brolly and Gavin Barr working in the school as they inspire the pupils to achieve high standards while always including some element of fun into their classes. Mrs. Bowe, Mrs. Byrne and Ms. Kenny helped out with the brass sessions after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the year and these three, along with Ms. Murren and Ms. Whitney also worked with the choir after school on Mondays. We are most grateful to them because if they chose not to volunteer their time, the lessons simply could not continue.

**Cúrsaí Spórt:** 2018-19 has once again been an exceptionally successful year for sport here in Bennekerry N.S. Having emerged victorious in the boys' and girls' Division 1 Cumann na mBunscol finals in the first term, we went on to create history by also winning the Division 1 Hurling and Camogie finals. Holding all four titles within a single school year is an amazing achievement and this has never been done before by a school in County Carlow. The boys' and girls' basketball teams also reached the Division 1 finals. The girls had a great win over Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc while the boys were unlucky to be beaten by a very strong team from the same school. In the Corn Glór na nGael football competition the girls were beaten by a single point by St. Fiacc's while the boys had a fantastic win and brought home the trophy once more.

Our recently purchased trophy cabinet is being put to good use as it is home to the various cups and plaques which have been awarded to these teams. Great credit must go to the players who showed true grit and determination in grinding out result after result. Credit also to the clubs who have trained them and honed their skills and to the parents who ferry them here, there and yonder to training sessions and matches. Maith sibh!!

A big thank you to our friends in Palatine GAA for the coaching sessions, equipment and the use of their facilities throughout the year. The coaching programme was part of the School-Club Link Partnership and our pupils benefited enormously from these sessions. A special thanks to Martin Hosey who worked with our junior classes. His enthusiasm was infectious, and the pupils looked forward to being actively involved each week.

We also thank Gearóid Dunbarr, CCRO for Leinster Rugby, who had a number of coaching sessions with the more senior pupils and the Carlow IT students who, in conjunction with the FAI, ran a number of sessions with 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> classes. Benny Kenny, Games Development Administrator for Carlow GAA, visited the school on a number of occasions during the year to coach 3<sup>rd</sup> class in hurling and camogie. These sports are relative newcomers to our programme, but we hope that we can build on our recent successes and that many more of our pupils will be interested in taking up these uniquely Irish games.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, eight boys from Bennekerry N.S travelled with other participants from Tinryland N.S, St. Brigid's, Bagenalstown, Bishop Foley and Ballon N.S. to represent Carlow in a Leinster blitz organised by the Laois Cumann na mBunscol. The boys from Bennekerry were **Fionn O'Toole, Oran O'Boyle, Alex Gordan, Lorcan Kelly, Marc Mulhall, George Cassidy, Joe Bermingham** and **Seán Breen**.

They won their first match against a very good Dublin team and by the second game, this amalgamated team had really gelled and were comprehensive winners against Laois. In their final group game, Kildare proved too strong and with only short breaks between the games, the lads had tired. Therefore, they contested the B final against a second Laois team but unfortunately the heavens opened, and the game was called off. The boys put in a really great performance and should be proud of how they acquitted themselves.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June it was the turn of the girls and **Róisín Kennedy, Marie Cranny, Kate Culleton and Anna Crosby** travelled to Dublin as part of the Carlow team. Other schools involved were Tinryland, Ballyconnell, Scoil Mhuire gan Smal, Gaelscoil Cheatharlach, Queen of the Universe, Myshall and Borris. The Carlow girls had fantastic wins over Dublin, Wicklow and Laois and then went on to meet Meath in the A final. After a very hard-fought battle, the teams could not be separated, and the match ended in a draw. The two teams decided to divide the spoils and were declared joint winners.

These sporting ventures could not happen without the hard work and dedication of staff members. Ms. Deirdre Tomlinson has worked tirelessly over the past number of years to, more than anything else, encourage pupils to participate in sport. She constantly seeks to find ways of inveigling children to join in with some form of activity, be it "Move to Music Monday", "Fun Day Friday", indoor rowing, dance, gymnastics, balance bikes, athletics or of course her main love, team sports. She is supported in her endeavours by other members of the staff, particularly Ms. Niamh Dempsey, Ms. Maureen Brennan, Ms. Marie-Claire Murphy and Ms. Áine Kelly, but all of the staff play their part in one way or another. Our retired colleague, Mr. Eddie Corcoran, is also regularly on hand to help or give words of encouragement.

Ms. Tomlinson somehow finds the time to participate in sports herself. She trialled for and was chosen to represent Ireland in the women's Masters Basketball Tournament in Helsinki during the summer. Buíochas mór duit a Dheirdre, agus go néirí leat leis an gCispheil.

**Leadóg: Ben Cioladis, Eoghan Brennan, Ewan Breen, Kerry Duffin, Laura Broderick, Kate Walsh and Sam McHugh** represented the Bennekerry N.S. in the Leinster Primary Schools Tennis League. We were absolutely thrilled when news filtered through that they had won the mixed-doubles finals which took place on 30<sup>th</sup> May in Greystones. This was a great achievement. Molaimid sibh.

**Spikeball:** Past pupils Isabel Mahon and Caoimhe O'Neill, along with their friend Lan Gaffeny, taught the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils the skills of Spikeball over a few weeks before they then had the chance to participate in a fun tournament in St. Leo's College on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks to the girls and their teacher, Ms. Vivienne O'Neill.

**Lúthchleasaíocht:** Congratulations to **Ben Nolan** and **Danny McMahon** who won silver medals in the 4 x 100m U10 Leinster Outdoor Juvenile Relay final. They will represent Carlow in the All Ireland Finals at the end of June. **Emily Costello** also ran very well on the day and her team finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the U9 final.

**Gleacaíocht:** Several gymnasts from the school recently travelled to West Street, Swansea to take part in a gymnastics competition and all did very well. **Ali Donoghue, Anna Mulhall, Emily Lanigan, Tara** and **Emma O'Neill** brought home bronze medals while **Millie Nolan** won silver and **Tara O'Neill** and **Emily Lanigan** were also part of a silver medal winning team. At the National Acrobatic finals in Abbotstown, **Chloe Holohan** finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 11-16 category and **Ali Donoghue** won a silver medal in the Grade 2 competition.

**Cluichí Pobail:** Huge numbers of our pupils are involved in all sorts of activities at present for the Community Games. This coming weekend will be particularly busy as the county final for athletics takes place in Ardattin. We could not possibly name every event but wish all our pupils the best of luck with their endeavours and hope they enjoy every moment of their involvement. While the majority of the National Finals are held later in the summer, some events take place each year in the month of May. This year the Bennekerry/Tinryland U10s, U12s and U16s draughts teams all won medals in the All Ireland on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Pupils from our school on these teams were.....

U-10 gold **Paidí Breen, Eddie Keenan, Joshua Crosby, Michael Breen** and **Danny Donegan**

U-12 silver **John O'Neill, Mark Buggy** and **Cormac McConnan**

U-16 silver **Seán Breen, Chloe Ryan, Marie Cranny, Conor Buggy** and **Quinn Morrissey**

**Rothair beaga:** The Infant Classes had terrific fun using the balance bikes which we had on loan for two weeks from Sports Partnership Carlow. These small bikes have no pedals but that did not prevent some of our younger pupils from travelling at speed!

**Seachtain na Gníomhaíochta:** Active Schools Week took place from 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May. The pupils enjoyed wearing their PE uniform every day and being even more active than normal, including partaking in the Run Around Europe and interesting new activities such as yoga and indoor rowing. Thanks to parent Ger O'Connor who led the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes in taster sessions of yoga and Carlow Regional Youth Services who provided the equipment for the indoor rowing.

**Cuairt na nGardaí:** Community Gardaí, Martin Ging and Darren Leahy, visited the two 5<sup>th</sup> classes on 28<sup>th</sup> May to meet the pupils and talk about the work they do.

**Eachtraí Charthanachta/Charity Events:** As our school has grown, it has become increasingly difficult to organise a Fun Day for all our pupils on one single day. This year the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils ran the event over two consecutive days. In this way it was possible for all pupils to engage in a wide variety of outdoor fun activities in addition to buying raffle tickets, hot-dogs, buns and jumble or having their nails and faces painted if they so wished.

There were other novelty stalls such as guessing the number of jelly beans in a jar, target kicking and some which involved water balloons and wet sponges!!! Everyone had a most enjoyable time and the 6<sup>th</sup> class did a really fine job on organising this major event.

The raffle will take place tomorrow and the grand total of all money earned will be publicised once the final sums are done. The proceeds of the event will be shared between the Gavin Glynn Foundation and St. Clare's Kitchen, a local charity which does such good work.

**Comórtas Lus na Gréine:** Thank you very much to everyone who bought sunflower seeds in aid of Carlow/Kilkenny Hospice. A total of €232 was raised in our school alone. An inter-school competition for the tallest sunflower will take place in September. We have a terrific record in this competition so look after those plants carefully over the summer and hopefully we may have yet another winner this year.

**Lá na Geansaithe:** On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, we held a "Jersey Day" in support of the Bennekerry/Tinryland U-14 girls' team who will take part in the National Féile finals in Galway on the last weekend in June. Go n-éirí libh.

**Gairdín na Scoile:** The vegetables that the 5<sup>th</sup> classes planted earlier in the spring are doing really well. Hopefully we will be able to make soup using our own organic produce when we return in the Autumn.

**Oíche na dTuismitheoirí Nua:** The parents of the incoming Junior Infants were invited to attend an induction meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The pupils and their parents/guardians will visit the school next Monday and Tuesday so that they can get to know their teachers and become familiar with the school building and classrooms before the “big day” at the end of the summer holidays.

**Slán le Rang a Sé:** We want to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell and God bless to our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. They have been a pleasure to know and have achieved wonderful things during their time here in Bennekerry N.S. We wish them all the very best for the future and we are looking forward to welcoming their parents and guardians to a **Farewell Ceremony at 2pm on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of June.**

**Turasanna Scoile:** One of the highlights for our pupils each year is the annual school tour. The following venues were chosen this year and each proved very popular.

- Junior Infants – Nore Valley Park, Co. Kilkenny
- Senior Infants – Castlecomer Discovery Park
- 1<sup>st</sup> Class – Wells House, Wexford
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class – Lullymore
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Class – Wexford Heritage Park
- 4<sup>th</sup> Class – Causey Farm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Class – Kilkenny Adventure Centre
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class – Dunmore East Adventure Centre

**Comórtais Ealaíne:** Congratulations to **Emma Doyle, Sophie Mc Donnell** and **Sarah Keenan** who received certificates of merit for creatively expressing the theme of “*Celebrating local Catholic schools*” in the CPSMA Art competition.

**Summer Stars Summer Reading Programme, Carlow County Library:** This reading programme runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August and is an excellent way to keep your child reading during the summer holidays. Children who participate will receive their own Summer Stars Reading Card and a reward stamp will be added to their card at the Library for every book they read. We highly recommend “Summer Stars” to all our pupils.

**SSE:** Our SSE process on SPHE, Well-Being and PE has been ongoing throughout the year and staff members are agreed that we have met our targets and that learning in these areas has been enhanced. Ms. Jean Pender, school inspector, visited the school on June 7<sup>th</sup> and was very impressed with our engagement with the process. A special assembly entitled “Ned’s Mindset Mission” served well to revise and consolidate much of the teaching which went on in relation to “Growth Mindsets” and “The Power of Yet” during the year.

**Tuairiscí Scoile agus Liostaí Leabhar:** School Reports were posted today. The results of standardised tests in Maths and English are given on the reports and it might be a good idea to reread the letter of explanation which I sent recently. If you have lost this letter you can find it on the school website, [www.bennekerryins.ie](http://www.bennekerryins.ie). Further information on the format for school reports and the interpretation of standardised test results is available on [www.ncca.ie/parents/assessment](http://www.ncca.ie/parents/assessment) .

Booklists for all classes were distributed earlier in the week. The revised Book Rental Scheme represents very good value and I am delighted that so many of you have decided to partake in the scheme. We are still looking for copies of some books to “buy back” so that we can add them to our store of books for rent. If anyone has “Small World History” or “Small World Geography and Science” for either 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> classes, Planet Maths 5 or 6 or “Grow in Love 7” in good condition which you no longer require, please send them in and we will arrange to purchase them from you at a fair price. Jones Business Systems has been supplied with copies of all our booklists and they are also published on the school website. Please remember that we will have a Bennekerry N.S. personalised “Homework Journal” for all pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> class upwards. This will be available from your child’s class teacher in September at a cost of €4. Do not buy any other Homework journal if your child is in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class as this new journal will contain valuable information which teachers will be referring to on a regular basis.

**Táillí Scoile:** The School Contribution for Art and Craft, photocopying and personal accident insurance will remain at €30 next year for one child and €25 for additional siblings.

Drama : €15 per pupil. Swimming : €50 (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Classes).

Music Generation Recorder lessons will cost €25 per pupil in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Classes for 30 recorder lessons. These lessons are subsidised by Music Generation and the Parents' Association. We hope to offer trumpet and trombone lessons as an after-school option for pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class who wish to build on the skills they have already learned. Further details will be given in September. **Pupils going into 3<sup>rd</sup> class should purchase an "Aulos" recorder over the holidays** so that you are all ready for action when lessons begin in the new term. *(Please do not purchase any other brand as it is important for all pupils to have the same type to ensure a good quality tone.)*

The gold bag recorders are approximately €20. The cheaper (blue bag) instrument is perfectly adequate for classroom use. The more expensive instrument (gold bag) would only be required if the pupil intended to do music in secondary school.

**Éide Scoile:** When purchasing uniforms for the coming year, please remember that pupils must wear **plain flat black/navy shoes or boots**. The **navy track suit bottoms** should also be **plain with no obvious stripes**. (Small, discreet logos are acceptable.) Girls should wear navy/white/grey socks/ tights.

School sweatshirts are available from Nicola's Embroidery, Johnstown, Bennekerry (Tel.086-6392184) Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.30 pm. The sweatshirts may be ordered by phone or by calling to the house but not by text.

The **1<sup>st</sup> of August** is the last date to place orders required for the beginning of the new academic year.

School ties are available from Shaws, Tullow Street.

It is essential to have all coats, jumpers, sweatshirts etc. clearly marked with your child's name. A laundry marker (available from the Wool Shop in Haddens) is a worthwhile investment as it will ensure that names won't come off in the wash during the year.

We have a large number of items in "Lost Property" at the moment but cannot return them to their owners as there are no visible names on them. If you are missing any uniforms, please come in and check before the end of the year as any remaining items will be passed on to charity shops over the summer.

**Tuairisc an Bhoird Bainistíochta :** The BoM are delighted with how well the all-weather pitch, which was installed last summer, has worked out. This facility is used by 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes on a rotational basis during break times.

The walking-track around the pitch is an added bonus and together these facilities have ensured that all of our pupils were able to be outside at break-time right throughout the winter and all had plenty of space in which to move about and exercise. A complete report outlining the work of the Board of Management during the year will be published on the school website.

**Parents' Association:** The Parents' Association has been very active all year. The officers are:

Chairperson	Ms. Olive Fanning	Vice- Chairperson	Ms. Michelle Bible
Secretary:	Ms. Bríd Kavanagh	Joint Secretary	Ms. Colleen Scully
Treasurer:	Ms. Frances Cole	Assistant Treasurer	Ms. Mary Murphy

They organised two "Bags2School" collections and a wonderful Family Fun Quiz as well as the very successful Easter Draw. The results of this draw are on the school web-site.

Members of the PA helped out with refreshments after the Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies as well as on the first day back for parents of our new Junior Infants and also the Induction Evening for new parents. They also supported the school in promoting information evenings entitled 'Stay Safe and RSE in the Primary School' and "Internet Safety and Cyber-Bullying".

Important information in relation to safe usage of the internet which was given by facilitator Ger Brick is also on the school website. Funds raised by the PA were used to support music, drama and swimming in the school and also to fund the new trophy cabinet which can be seen in the front hall.

The Parents' Association is not an exclusive group. It is there for all parents and while we are aware that life is very busy, you are welcome to attend all or any meeting which takes place throughout the year. Fresh ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

**Dáta don Dialann:** The PA are planning a Family Fun BBQ for September 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Palatine GAA club. Please keep the date in mind as it promises to be an exciting occasion filled with fun activities. A meeting will be held in the school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September to make arrangements for the day and all suggestions and volunteers are welcome.

**Ploughing Championships:** As our school will be on one of the main routes to the venue for the National Ploughing Championships, the Gardaí have advised us to close the school for the three days of the competition. Therefore, on health and safety grounds, the Board of Management has decided that the school will remain closed on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2019.

**Summer Holiday Arrangements:**

Bennekerry N.S. will close for the summer holidays on **Friday, 29th of June at 12 noon.**

Infants may be collected at 11.45am in order to alleviate traffic at the gate.

The school will re-open for all pupils on **Thursday, 29th of August** at 9.20am.

The reception of the new Junior Infants will take place between 9.45 and 10.15am.

Finally, I hope you all have a very well-deserved break over the summer months. Keep safe and enjoy the break from routine. If you wish to continue your child's learning during the holidays there are many age appropriate and fun suggestions on the website "helpmykidlearn.ie". Enjoy!

Beir bua agus beannacht,

Tonia Cleary (Principal) \_\_\_\_\_