

## June Newsletter

Since we came back after the Easter break, it has been a very productive and active few weeks for everyone....

- All classes were busy practicing their ukulele playing skills in preparation for a wonderful performance which happened outdoors on Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to David Crowe from Longford Music Generation for his excellent tuition and wonderful patience as he managed to get the best out of every child. Thanks also to the Board of Management who covered the cost of all lessons over the past year and a half. The children were delighted to have such an appreciative audience on the day and we hope you enjoyed the performances.
- The children in 2nd class had a very busy schedule in the weeks leading up to First Communion on May 20<sup>th</sup>. As well as receiving their First Confession on Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>, they also enjoy a few brisk walks down and back to Legga Church, on the new walking trail, as they practiced for their Communion Mass.
- The children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes benefitted from an eight week long Safe Cycle programme and had the opportunity to complete on a short cycle in the locality in early June. Hopefully they will remember the very important skills and safety rules taught to them by the coaches during the programme.
- The girls in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes played some super football and managed to bring a trophy back to the school as they won their division in the Cumann na mBunscol GAA competition. Well done to all the children who were great representatives for our school in the Mixed and Girls League.
- Thanks to Mr Rock for helping the children in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes to complete a course in Scratch computer programming. This project was created by Ericssons and Longford County Council. Representatives from Ericssons visited the school and presented the children with certificates and other goodies in recognition of their hard work.
- Ms Rice and Ms O'Donoghue hosted a fine array of very cute cuddly toys and stuffed animals when the children in Infants and 1st Class had a Teddy Bears Picnic in late May
- All the children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes had the opportunity to try paddle boarding and kayaking in the lake at Lebeen Park during May thanks to Longford Sports Partnership.

- Ms Duffy organised a trip for the children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes to the annual Garda Sports Day in Granard. A great day was had by all and the children had an opportunity to meet children from other schools all over the county.
- School Sport for all Day: All the classes were involved in a very enjoyable Sports Day on Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>. The day concluded with a soccer game between the teachers and the children in 6<sup>th</sup> class. Well done to 6<sup>th</sup> class on their well-deserved 1-0 victory. Everyone also enjoyed an ice cold Mr Freeze pop on a glorious summers day.
- Arva Agricultural Show Award: We were delighted to find out in early May that our school had won the overall award for handwriting and drawing at last summers' Show. A member of the committee visited the school and presented us with a trophy and cheque for 100 euro. Entries for this year's show are ready to go and we hope we will be as lucky again this year.
- The children in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes were involved in a very exciting basketball league which happened here at the school almost every afternoon throughout the month of June. The finals were held on Thursday June 22 and all the classes came out to support the teams. It was a very enjoyable day for everyone involved. The winning teams were presented with medals.
- In May the children in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part in Sports Hall Athletics in the Longford Athletic Centre. This was a very enjoyable event as the children had an opportunity to compete in many events against other schools in the county.
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**Changing classes:** On Monday all the children were told the name of their new teacher for the next school year. You will be notified in due course about any specific items you will need to get for your child before the return to school in September eg pencils, pens etc

**School Books/Book Lists/Book Rental :** In recognition of the cost of preparing children and young people for the return to primary school each September Minister for Education Norma Foley T.D. has announced funding to provide free schoolbooks, including workbooks and copybooks, from September 2023. This scheme will eliminate the cost to parents of providing these resources. Funding is being provided directly to primary schools and special schools by the Department to implement the scheme and schools will now have responsibility for providing schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks to all children and young people at the start of the school year. All schoolbooks will remain the property of the school so that books can be reused in future years. Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to children and young people for the duration of the 2023/24 school year and must be returned to school at

the end of the school year. Parents are requested to remind their children to take care of their books and keep them in good condition during the year. It is not permitted to write on textbooks. There may be some related classroom resources that are not covered by the scheme.

**Parents Association** Thanks very much to the Parents Association and the other volunteers who organised a lovely reception in the school following First Communion on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>. The following week another great reception was organised for the girl's team after their match in Longford. After all the disruption since 2020, it is very nice for everyone to be able to get together and celebrate the special events when they occur and we are very grateful to the PA and helpers for facilitating them.

**Half Day Closure:** The school will be closing for the summer holidays at 12 noon on Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup>. During the holidays, the Aladdin Connect App and the school email account will be monitored periodically.

**Report from BoM Meeting;** At the final BoM meeting for this school year, the members of the Board expressed thanks to the staff of the school for all their hard over the past year. They are also very appreciative of the support of the parents for the work of the school throughout the past year and are grateful for the generosity of parents in the fundraising initiatives which happened over the past year. The BoM are also appreciative of the Family Ministry and Fr Pat for including the children in various liturgical events over the past year. We look forward to working with them again in September.

The BoM welcomes the funding by the DES to provide free schoolbooks, workbooks and copies. As this is the first year of the scheme, the BoM has agreed the current charges for printing, photocopying, art and craft materials, booklet production and a long list of other expenses should remain in place. These charges remain at 40 euro per child and no more than 100 euro per family.

The Bom are applying for funding from the DES to replace the floor covering in two classrooms over the coming year. Advice is also being sought from the relevant experts about the options for developing the field at the side of the school.

Policies ratified: Dignity in the Workplace, Safety Statement, Emergency evacuation policy.

**School Calendar:** The school calendar for the coming school year is available on the school website.

The staff would like to wish all the children and their families a very enjoyable summer break.