



# Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál New Inn

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### Dates to remember

- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**  
School closes @ 12 noon
- **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August**  
School re-opens @ 9.30am
- **New Junior Infants will go home @ 12.30pm from Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

The calendar for 2017/18 is available on the website under the "News" heading

*Wishing everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer*

### SUMMER

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** heralds the summer holidays and with the weather so nice recently, it's a welcome relief to release the masses out into the summer sunshine & freedom. As always the excitement of the holidays is tinged with a little sadness as the last days brings an end of an era to our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils and sometimes it's the end of some families immediate connection to the school.

This year our last school day is also Mrs. O' Dwyer's last school day with us. Mrs. O' Dwyer has been a valuable member of the staff here since September 1999 and she will be greatly missed as she leaves us. However, this is a time of great celebration for her as she ventures on the next phase of her life and we wish her every good health and happiness in her retirement. Over the past 17 years Mrs. O' Dwyer has spent most of her time teaching as a Learning Support teacher. Two years ago she went back into mainstream teaching 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> last year and 1<sup>st</sup> class on their own this year. She has been delighted to have had this opportunity and she has a special place in her heart for these particular groups of children.

Once again we take this opportunity to thank Mrs. O' Dwyer for all her great work over the years and wish her well in her retirement.

### END OF YEAR & RETIREMENT MASS FOR MRS. O' DWYER

On **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June** we had our end of year school/retirement Mass for Catherine O' Dwyer. Tilly Lawrence & John Fitzgerald presented Mrs. O' Dwyer with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from both schools to acknowledge all the hard work done by Mrs. O' Dwyer over the years.

This was followed by a wonderful spread of goodies in the school hall provided by the Parents' Council. We were delighted to be able to welcome Catherine's family to this occasion. Mrs. Ryan presented Catherine with a lovely painting from the school staff & Board of Management and Mrs. O Dwyer said a lovely few words of thanks.

Thanks to all for their help and support in organising this wonderful day.



*Presentation of a painting to Mrs. O' Dwyer on the occasion of her retirement.*

*Picture includes Mrs. O' Dwyer's family, Fr. Kennedy & Mrs. Ryan*

## STAFFING ARRANGEMENT 2017 – 2018

As with most rural schools split classes are unavoidable and this time of year is always filled with concerns about what classes pupils will be in next September. We always do our utmost to keep split classes to a minimum and next September will see 4<sup>th</sup> class being split. They will however meet up as a group each day for Maths.

The class arrangements are as follows:

Room 1 – Senior Infants – Mrs. Harrington

Room 2 – Junior Infants – Ms. Kinane

Room 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> (Split), 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> – Mrs. Ryan

Room 4 – Learning Support – Mrs. McMillan

Room 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> Class – Ms. Bourke

Room 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> (Split) – Ms. Bailey

## SPLIT THE POT

Our very successful fundraiser “Split the Pot” ran from September until the June bank holiday. Each family is asked to contribute €2 each week and a draw takes place each Friday. The money collected each week is shared between the winner and the school. In all €2,388 was collected for the school and the same was given out in prize money as well as some bonus prizes of free swimming lessons/free book rental and other prizes of sweets, chocolates etc. This year all funds from Split the Pot went directly to the school extension fund. We would like to thank you most sincerely for supporting Split the Pot and encourage you to continue to support this fundraiser next year, no one really misses €2 each week and the lucky winner takes home an average of approx. €85.

Congratulations to our most recent winners:-

**2/6/17** – Ciara McCarthy (4<sup>th</sup>) - €87

**Free Book Rental** – Henry O’ Connor (Juniors)

## LEAVERS

This year’s 6<sup>th</sup> class of just 7 girls are going to 3 different schools, Cashel Community School, Ursuline Thurles & Rockwell College. We wish all 7 of the girls (Clodagh Fitzgerald, Christina Rose Longworth, Éabha Moloney, Aliyah McKenna, Danielle O’ Dwyer, Elsie O’ Neill & Niamh Ryan) the very best in their studies going forward and we hope that they will work well and be happy in their new schools.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> class boys, all 18 of them, (Darragh Browne, Lorcan Butler, Seán Callery, Adam Collins, Jack Donnelly, Gearóid English, John Fitzgerlad, Cameron Fitzpatrick, Seán Fitzpatrick, Billy Grace, James McConnon, Óisín McGivern, Seán Mohally, Cathal Moore, Cormac O’ Brien, Leon O’ Dwyer, Charlie Pollard, & Paul Rice) advance to the local Boys N.S.

We hope that they will all settle in well there and we will still be in touch with them as we work so closely with N.I.B.S.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Our new Student Council for 2017 – 18 was elected last week. The Student Councils’ first role in September is to provide a “buddy” system for the new junior infants. Each member of the Council will be keeping a special watch out for 4 Junior Infants in the yard should they experience any difficulty and the new entrants have been informed of who their “buddy” is.

This year’s council is comprised of:

Caitlin Clifford, Hannah Dalzell, Aisling Fitzpatrick, Ciara Fitzpatrick, Ella Heaney & Ciara Mohally.

## ACTIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

Active School Week took place on **12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June**. On Monday the whole school went to Dundrum Woods for a walk and we had a packed lunch there. It was a lovely day, with children trying to identify some of the trees growing there and of course they all spotted the swans and cygnets on the pond.

**Tuesday** - We had a Welly Throwing competition followed by a “puc” and “cic fada” competition for pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class.



**Wednesday** - Juniors – 1<sup>st</sup> had yard games while 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> collectively completed 3 full marathons by doing over 307 laps of the G.A.A. field. They also had a penalty shoot out competition in the G.A.A. field.

**Thursday** – 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> played fancy dress football and Juniors to 1<sup>st</sup> had a teddy bears picnic.



**Friday** was Sports day with fun and games all day from the usual races to novelty events both indoor and outdoor and a water station. We were blessed with weather for the week, it was lovely and warm and dry without being too hot. We had an icecream sundae in aid of Downs Syndrome Ireland on our Sports day and in all €219.90 was collected for this charity. Thanks to all who contributed.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>** class went on their school tour to Castlecomer Discovery Park and they had activities such as Orienteering, Climbing Wall, and Tree Top Adventure Walk. All this activity was followed by a visit to Kilkenny Castle and Dunmore Caves. A great day, in fact a great week, was had by all!

See website for photos



## READING CHALLENGE

Mrs. Ryan set a reading challenge for pupils in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> – to read 10 books from Easter to the Summer holidays (10 weeks). Well done to all the girls who completed this challenge – in fact some surpassed themselves and read over 20 books. The winners of the reading challenge were: 6<sup>th</sup> – Niamh Ryan, 5<sup>th</sup> – Niamh Perry, 4<sup>th</sup> – Hannah Dalzell. Most books read by Margaret McGrath.

Each won a novel.

The importance of reading cannot be overestimated. Please encourage your child to read over the holidays. Your local library will be holding reading challenges and events over the summer.

Here are some suggested titles for your children to read over the holidays:

<b>Junior :</b>	Green Eggs & Ham	Dr. Seuss
	The Moon Man	Isabel Harris
	The very Hungry Caterpillar	Eric Corbe
	Talking Teeth	O'Brien Press
<b>Middle:</b>	Charlotte's Web	E.B. White
	A Bad Case of Stripes	David Shannon
	Harry the Dirty Dog	Gene Zion
	Roald Dahl Collection	
<b>Senior:</b>	Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo
	The Chronicles of Narnia	C.S. Lewis
	Are you there God?	Judy Blume
	Time after Time	Judi Curtin

## BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations to everyone who celebrated or will celebrate their birthday between **1/4/17 – 31/8/17**  
*Seán Buckley, Maeve Cummins, Ryan Fitzgerald, Caoimhe Heaney, Willaim Hogan, Niamh Hyland, Conor Moloney, Emily O' Connor, Sadie O' Connor, Jake O' Grady, Kate O' Dwyer, Patrick O' Reilly, Katie O' Sullivan, Éanna Ryan, Cian White, Jack Brophy, Micheál Farrell, Clara Flanagan, Annie Flynn, Luke Kelly, Leah Lonergan, Charlie McGonigle, Lucy O' Connor, Kyle O' Grady, Lili Mai Ryan, Sarah Stafford, Maria Buckley, Lorcan Butler, Cara Cummins, Emma Durkan, Cameron Fitzpatrick, Billy Grace, James McConnon, Óisín McGivern, Lou Matthia, Cormac O' Brien, Niamh Fitzgerald, Kate Fogarty, Elizabeth Houlihan, Kate Hennessy, Emily McGrath, Addison Burke, Rachel Corcoran, Katie Durkan, Grace Heaney, Abigail Moore, Louisa McConnon, Hannah Dalzell, Niamh Marnane, Ciara McCarthy, Keelin Burke, Caoimhe Grace, Éabha Moloney, Aliyah McKenna, Elsie O' Neill, Niamh Ryan*

**JUNIOR TOUR...** Took place on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**. Juniors to 1<sup>st</sup> class went to Fota Island. All staff went on this trip to supervise the children who were very well behaved. They liked being able to see the animals so close to them and they had a ball despite a heavy shower which we managed to shelter from. We were all treated to an icecream on the way home. All in all a great day. See website for more photos.

## INDUCTION DAY

On **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June** we held an Induction Day for our new entrants. We have 24 new pupils for Junior Infants in September and a new boy for Senior Infants and a girl joining 3<sup>rd</sup> class. This gives us 26 new pupils on roll in September and 25 school leavers so our enrolment is just increased by one. Hopefully our expanding enrolment has started to level out now! All our new pupils got to meet their teacher and see their lovely new classroom and thanks to 6<sup>th</sup> class who organised some games for them in the yard. A word of thanks also to the Parents' Council who provided a little cuppa on the day.

