

**Board of Management End of Year Report**

**Board of Management 2022/2023**

*Chairperson:* Fr. John Dunphy

*Patron’s Nominee:* Gerard McCutcheon

*Treasurer:* Vera Bolger

*Secretary/ Principal:* Nicola McGuill

*Teachers’ Nominee:* Mary Cooney

*Parents’ Nominees:* Orla O Driscoll/Graham Hynes

*Community Rep:* Larry McHugh

Five meetings of the Board of Management were held during the school year ‘22/’23. All meetings had a standard agenda, were minuted and opportunities for discussion provided. Child Safeguarding Oversight Report and Report on Bullying presented at every meeting.

**School Ethos**

Scoil Chomhgháin Naofa is a co-educational, Catholic primary school, which gives due recognition to those of different faiths and none. The children were prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (2nd March), Confirmation (25th March) and Holy Communion (20th May).

**School Achievements, Activities & Events**

* 1st / 2nd Class Halloween Performance, Junior / Senior Infants Christmas Performance. 3rd/4th Class Christmas “No One Wraps Like an Elf” Show, 5th Class “Starlight” Performance.
* Girls Football Team reached the Roinn 1 Championship Final and Boys Football Team reached the Roinn 1 Shield Final in Cumann na mBunscol Laois.
* 6th Class participated in the 5-a-side FAI Soccer Tournament with the Girls Team becoming Laois Champions.
* Development of a school vegetable garden.
* 6th Class student awarded 2nd place in the Eason’s Spelling Bee.
* 5th Class completed a 5 week “Our World” programme hosted by Deirdre Brennan of Merc Sharp and Dohme which focused on S.T.E.A.M subjects.
* 1st and 2nd Class attended swimming lessons in Graiguecullen Swimming Pool.
* Whole school celebration of Catholic Schools Week including Grandparents Games Day between grandparents and children.
* Seachtain na Gaeilge activities to promote language and culture such as a flashmob to “An Dreoilín”.
* 5th Class donated €1,000 to C.R.Y Ireland.
* 4th Class awarded Fáinne for Irish language skills.
* 6th Class Confirmation candidates donated €1,212 to Crumlin Hospital.
* 5th Class participated in the “Killeshin School Bake Off”.
* Green Schools Committee and school community achieved our **7th** Green Flag for Global Citizenship and Energy.
* 5th Class studied Global Citizenship and presented 25-minute lessons at a school assembly to aid in our Green Flag application.
* St Patrick’s Day Parade and mass with choir and instrumental group.
* 5th Class participated in cycling and road safety workshops.
* Visit from Ross Bolger, past pupil who has won a two-year scholarship to Idaho State to play with the Bengal Tigers.
* Team participated in the Credit Union Quiz.
* Whole school participation in Athletics.
* Silly Sock Day organised to raise fund for the earthquake victims in Syria/Turkey.
* 5th Class organised and facilitated a tag rugby tournament for 3rd and 4th Classes.
* 2nd and 6th Class Buddy Programme between sacramental classes.
* Peer Tutoring between 5th and 3rd with computer skills.
* 4th Class created and published their class book of narrative writing.
* Well-being Week celebrated by the whole school with mindfulness and well-being activities such as Teddy Bears’ Picnic, 6th class coordination of well-being stations with junior classes.
* Digital learning activities weekly for classes using i-pads e.g. Kahoot, researching for projects.
* 5th Class visit to Merc Sharp and Dohme.
* Science experiments/ Construction skills.
* 4th Class learned how to play chess.
* Outdoor excursions and mindfulness walks to local areas of interest such as the Romanesque Doorway in Killeshin.
* 3rd and 4th Class participated in a pilot SCRATCH coding programme using our new chromebooks.
* School Choir and instrumental groups sang and performed at masses in Holy Cross Church, including Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.

**Policy Review & Development**

Policies worked on and reviewed by the BoM during this year included: Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment, Assessment, Mixing Classes, Anti-Bullying Policy, Covid Impact Report and School Improvement Plans. Thank you to all staff who made valuable contributions to these plans.

**Curricular Development/School Self Evaluation**

Well-being and Digital Learning Plans are ongoing. Plean Scoile Gaeilge is in progress and will be finalised in the new school year.

Station Teaching ongoing in Junior-6th Class including Aistear, Engage Literacy programme in Senior Infants-2nd Class and Well-being/ Compute Skills stations.

Whole school emphasis on Numeracy with Maths Stations in 1st Class and Ready-Set-Go Stations will be introduced in Infant classes in the new school year.

**Staff Training**

Whole staff training for the New Primary Language Curriculum and the Introduction to the New Curriculum. Staff members trained in using Evac Fire Safety Chair. Thank you to all staff who have engaged in these whole-staff training events, as well as significant CPD carried out by staff outside of school hours. Míle Buíochas.

**Parental Involvement**

Many thanks to the Parents’ Association for coordinating our celebrations for Holy Communion, Retirement and Graduation celebrations. Fundraising included School Calendars and the Christmas Hamper Draw. Parents were involved in the choosing of the new school tracksuit for 2023. Meeting for parents and visit to the school to meet teachers for new Junior Infants ‘23/24. Thank you to all parents for their support and cooperation this school year.

**Staffing 2023/24**

Admin Principal, 16 class teachers, 6 SEN Teachers, 3 SNAs, School Secretary, Caretaker and Cleaners. Successful enrolment of projected numbers on 30th September will ensure 16 classes can be maintained after October 2023. The Board would like to acknowledge and thank all of our staff for their tireless hard work and dedication to the school, for providing a happy & welcoming learning environment, for giving each child every opportunity to achieve their potential.

Congratulations to Nicola McGuill who was appointed as our new Principal, Mary Clare Fitzpatrick who was appointed as our new Deputy Principal and Jenna Dempsey who was appointed as a new permanent staff member.

**Finance**

Financial report presented at every BOM meeting & proposed expenditure discussed. School accounts certified annually & submitted to DES & FSSU (Feb ’23). A new suite of 30 chromebooks for pupils to use and a new office desktop were purchased. The school book order for the school year ‘23/24 was purchased and all books are ready for September.

**Communication**

Parent Teacher Meetings conducted in person on 24th/25th November. Annual Reports were issued through Aladdin in June. Particular/Incidental communication is ongoing through Aladdin, homework journals, telephone calls & if required in person meetings. Celebrations of events and activities through the school website and Facebook.

Principal, staff and students would like to thank Mr Conor Denieffe for his 31 years dedicated service to our school. He will be sorely missed and we wish him many years of happiness.

*We would like to thank our staff, pupils, parents, BoM members, local community and everyone who for their co-operation and valuable support. Enjoy your summer holidays!*

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