**Board of Management End of Year Report**

**Board of Management 2023/2024**

*Chairperson:* Fr. John Dunphy

*Patron’s Nominee:* Gerard McCutcheon

*Treasurer:* Vera Bolger

*Secretary/ Principal:* Nicola McGuill

*Teachers’ Nominee:* Clair Keating

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

*Community Rep:* Larry McHugh

Six meetings of the Board of Management were held during the school year ‘23/’24. 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 (5th March), Confirmation (24th February) and Holy Communion (27th April)

**School Achievements, Activities & Events**

* Election of new BOM
* Junior and Senior Infant Christmas Show
* Christmas Food Hamper collection
* Little Pickers for 1st and 2nd classes
* 5th Class ( Mr. Ball ) Participation in Junior Entrepreneur Programme
* 5th Class ( Ms. Fitzpatrick ) Participation in Junior Enterprise Programme
* Fire Safety Training for all teachers
* Internet Safety Talk for parents
* Visit of Joe Wicks to the school
* Farewell Celebration for Mrs. Byrne
* Art and craft Display Day for the School Community.
* Girls Football Team won the Roinn 1 Championship Final and Boys Football Team reached the Roinn 1 Shield Final in Cumann na mBunscol Laois.
* Boys’ and Girls’ teams participated in the 5-a-side FAI Soccer Tournament with the Girls Team becoming Mid-Leinster Champions and Boys’ Team becoming Laois Champions.
* Football Blitz for Senior Classes
* Progress of school vegetable and herb garden.
* Participation in Woodies’ Budding Gardeners Project 2024
* 4th Class student won the Carlow U12 Community Games Handwriting Competition.
* First Responders Workshop for Senior Classes with an emphasis on First Aid, CPR, the recovery position, and the steps involved when contacting the Emergency Services.
* 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.
* Book Week activities to promote a love of reading
* RSA workshops for all class levels.
* 4th Class awarded Fáinne for Irish language skills.
* 6th Class Confirmation candidates donated €1,440 to Éist
* St Patrick’s Day Parade and mass with choir and instrumental group.
* 5th Class participated in cycling and road safety workshops.
* Team participated in the Credit Union Quiz.
* Whole school participation in Athletics.
* Activities to ensure maintenance of Green School Flags
* Jersey Day was organised to raise funds for Holy Communion and Graduation Celebrations.
* 3rd and 4th Classes GAA Skills with Laois GAA Coach
* Participation of the “Be a Hero” Campaign to promote school attendance
* 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.
* Amber Flag Award for excellence in promoting good mental health.
* Digital learning activities weekly for classes using i-pads e.g. Kahoot, researching for projects.
* Science experiments/ Construction skills.
* Chess tournaments
* Outdoor excursions and mindfulness walks to local areas of interest such as the Romanesque Doorway in Killeshin.
* 3rd and 4th Class participated in SCRATCH coding programme using our new chromebooks.
* The Dance Republic visited Infants-Second Class
* S.T.E.M. Workshops for 3rd to 6th classes
* The school has been accepted for the Creative School Process run by the Arts’ Council. We have been awarded funding to the value of €4000 as well as the support of a Creative Associate. Many thanks to Ms. Keane, our co-ordinator.
* Expression of interest has been forwarded for the Hot Meals Programme.
* Expression of interest has been forwarded for the Languages First Programme.

**Policy Review & Development**

Policies worked on and reviewed by the BoM during this year included: Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment, Anti-Bullying Policy, Admissions Policy, Protected Disclosures Policy, Disciplinary and Grievances Procedures Policy, Critical Incident Policy and Plan, School Attendance Policy, Job Sharing Policy, Career Break Policy, Review of Digital Learning Policy, Equality and Anti-Harassment Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Data Protection Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy. 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 ongoing.

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 in Infant classes. Maths Resource Boxes are in place for the implementation of the new curriculum for Mathematics. Thanks to the Parents’ Association for their fund raising.

**Staff Training**

Whole staff training for the New Primary Language Curriculum and the Introduction to the New Mathematics Curriculum. Staff members trained in Fire Safety and First Aid. 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 responsible for the funding of the new Maths Resource Boxes. Meeting for parents and visit to the school to meet teachers for new Junior Infants ‘24/’25. Thank you to all parents for their support and cooperation this school year.

**Staffing 2024/2025**

Admin Principal, 16 class teachers, 5 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 2024. 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.

**Finance**

Financial report presented at every BOM meeting & proposed expenditure discussed. School accounts certified annually & submitted to DES & FSSU (Feb ’24). The school ceiling has been repaired and a number of classrooms will be painted during the summer. Repairs to be carried out on the boundary fence. The school book order for the school year ‘24/’25 was purchased and all books are ready for September.

**Communication**

Parent Teacher Meetings conducted in person on 30th November/1st December. 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.

*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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