



## **Cloontuskert N.S.**

### **Board of Management Annual Report 2024-2025**

#### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Chairperson	- Ronan Collier
Secretary	- Therese Concannon
Patron's Representative	- Tony Hunt
Teachers Representative	- Lorraine Collins
Parent Reps	- Paul Kenny - Olive Murray
Community Reps	- Jude Murphy - Dymphna Trautt

#### **LIVING OUR ETHOS**

- Fr Daniel said mass for the children on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> to mark the beginning of a new school year.
- Parents of our new Junior Infants were invited in for a chat over tea or coffee on Friday September 6<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. We hoped that this would give them a chance to get to know each other.
- We acknowledged the wonderful contribution Martina & Sharon, our SNAs make to our school on September 26<sup>th</sup>, SNA Appreciation Day.
- We marked anti-bullying week between 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November. Teachers completed a variety of lessons on kindness, diversity and inclusion.
- We marked Catholic Schools Week with prayer ceremony on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- A mass for Grandparents Day was held in Ballyleague Church on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The children in 6<sup>th</sup> Class attended a retreat in the Father Peyton Centre in Mayo on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March along with the children in Ballagh and Ballyleague National School.
- Fr Daniel called to give ashes to the children on Ash Wednesday.
- A Graduation ceremony for our 6<sup>th</sup> class children will be held at the school on June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- We celebrated Wellbeing Wednesday weekly.

#### **Sacraments**

- The Ceremony of light was held in Ballyleague Church on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Confirmation was in Ballyleague Church on 26<sup>th</sup> March
- First Confessions for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class pupils were in Ballagh Church on March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- First Holy Communion was in Ballagh Church on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **Grow in Love Presentation**

Our school hosted a Grow in Love inservice training evening for Ballagh, Ballyleague and Fourmilehouse National Schools on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Wellbeing Week**

We celebrated Wellbeing Week from the 4th-7th of February. Mrs Mulkeen planned a variety of activities for the children & they thoroughly enjoyed the week.

### **Charitable Activities**

- Our Shoes: We collected over 20 pairs of used sports shoes in support of the 'Our Shoes' campaign. These shoes will go to in need children in Southern Africa.
- We held a jersey day for GOAL and raised €242
- St Vincent De Paul – We donated €200 from the proceeds of our Christmas Concert to St Vincent De Paul.
- €171 was raised for Pieta House by holding a non-uniform day during Wellbeing Week.
- The Christmas Shoe box Appeal: We collected over 50 boxes.

### **ENROLMENT**

We held our Open Evening on Tuesday, February 18th. We currently have 8 on roll for Junior Infants 2025.

### **NEW UNIFORM**

The Board approved phasing in a new uniform from September to gradually replace the current one. The new uniform will consist of a crested ¼ zip top and a t-shirt, along with navy tracksuit bottoms. The parents and children were asked to vote between a blue and maroon uniform. Blue was the most popular colour.

### **STAFFING**

#### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to our shared SEN teacher, Martina Mitchell, who got married on October 12<sup>th</sup>. We wish Martina and her husband, Martin Mulroy, a long and happy life together.

#### **New Teacher**

We have been provisionally granted a fourth classroom teacher for September 2025. This is subject to retaining our projected enrolment figures for the coming academic year.

#### **Language Support Teacher**

The Department have granted us 5 hours a week of English as an Additional Language support for the 2025-2026 school year.

#### **SET Allocation for the 2025-2026 school year**

Our Special Education Teacher Allocation for the 2025-2026 year remains at 35 hours. This means that we will continue to have Martina Mulroy for 2 days a week next year. She will also be covering the Principal's Release Days next year. Our current cluster with Slatta N.S. will remain unchanged.

#### **S.N.A. Review**

Our Special Educational Needs Organiser, Maire Ahern, visited the school on March 21st to

review documents for those children receiving SNA support. Mrs Concannon subsequently submitted an application for an increased allocation of SNAs and is awaiting news of the outcome.

### **DEIS LITERACY AND NUMERACY CAMP**

Mrs Collins has been busy organising a DEIS literacy and numeracy camp which will run from July 14th- 18th.. 36 children will be attending.

### **AFTER SCHOOL SERVICE**

Sharon Grehan offered an after school service between 2 - 3 for Junior & Senior Infants this year.

### **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS**

Our Parent Teacher Meetings were on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

3 past pupils, Olivia Tom, James Bennitt and Billy Murray completed their Transition Year work experience with us.

Aisling Trimble, SNA, also completed a week's work experience with us during the year.

### **STUDENT TEACHER**

Sally Bolger, a Third Year student in St. Patrick's College completed her teaching practice in the Senior Room between September & October.

### **HOT FOOD AUDIT**

Barry Murphy from the Department of Social Protection completed an audit of accounts for our hot meal provision on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

The following policies were ratified by the Board of Management during the school year:

- Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessments
- CCTV Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Working together to facilitate the resolution of internal staff disputes
- Anti – Bullying Policy
- Special Education Needs Policy
- Student Voice Policy
- Dignity at Work Policy
- Disciplinary & Grievance Procedure Policy
- Accident and Injury Policy
- Administration of Medicines Policy
- Communication Policy
- Whole School English Policy
- Our new anti-bullying Policy 'Bí Cinealta'
- Health and Safety Statement and Risk Assessments
- Staff Continuing Professional Development Policy

- Assessment Policy
- Fire Drill & Evacuation Policy
- Staff Induction Policy

### **Draft Policies section on website**

In an effort to include parents in the process of reviewing policies, a folder in the Policies section of our website was created which contains policies under review. Parents are invited to read through these policies and provide feedback if they so wish.

### **SSE in Wellbeing**

We have commenced our school self-evaluation in wellbeing as requested by the Department of Education. A questionnaire has been circulated to the parents, students and staff and the results are currently being analysed.

## **CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT**

### **School Inspection**

Departmental Inspectors, Maire Ni Mháirtín and Niall Larkin conducted a Maths Curriculum evaluation in the school on Tuesday and Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **OIDE Support**

The staff availed of support from Department advisers in the areas of IT, the PLC & DEIS planning this year.

- Oide IT advisor, Colm Bannon, spent a day with us on September 26<sup>th</sup> and helped us to set up Google Workspace in Education. All staff members now have a new email address which has been shared with parents.
- Ronan Hickey visited us on 3 occasions throughout the year to provide support in the Primary Language Curriculum.
- Kate Liston visited in February and spent a day discussing effective DEIS planning.

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

The children from 1st-6th Class completed the 'Say Yes to Languages' Programme . They engaged with a French tutor for one hour per week for 10 weeks.

## **PARENT'S ASSOCIATION**

As always, the P.A. have been a fantastic support to us throughout the year. They:

- Purchased an outdoor speaker for the yard.
- Organised a Last Man Standing fundraiser which was a huge success. A total profit of €3840 was raised.
- Purchased STEM equipment for the school

- Paid for the buses to the hall in Ballyleague for rehearsals for the Christmas show.
- Have offered to support the development of an outdoor sensory space.
- Paid for Music Generation lessons for all children from January - June.
- Will pay for the ice cream van on Sports Day

We can't thank the P.A. enough for their hard work, they have been a tremendous support to us this year.

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Applications**

Mrs Concannon has applied to Inver's Leading Lights Community Initiative for grant aid to purchase literacy resources for the school.

### **Used Clothing Collection**

A used clothing collection was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup> & May 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Ireland Funds**

We received \$1500 from a benefactor in the Ireland Funds towards learning equipment.

### **Cruinniú na nÓg Programme**

We applied to the Cruinniú na nÓg Programme and were delighted to be awarded €750 funding in respect of an Outdoor Mural.

### **North Midlands Credit Union Social & Cultural Fund**

We received €500 following our application to the North Midlands Credit Union Social & Cultural Fund.

### **Children's Books Ireland book-gifting projects**

Mrs Concannon applied to Children's Books Ireland book-gifting project for books for our class libraries.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

We held a book fair in May which raised €122 worth of free books for the school.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

### **Sports**

- The Senior room attended a tag rugby blitz in Creggs Rugby Club on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Noel Kelly came each Wednesday to coach the children in the Senior Room in Soccer.
- The Senior room attended a football blitz in St Faithleach's on November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Our soccer team won the B Final in the annual 5 a Side Tournament organised by Ballyboro FC in conjunction with LCC last Monday, for the second year in a row! Congratulations to Mrs Collins.

- The children from 4th-6th Class attended a G.A.A. Activity Day in the Dome on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.
- They also attended the FAI 5 a side soccer competition in Lecarrow on February 12th and did very well! The boys team topped their group and narrowly missed out on a place in the final. The girls team topped their group and won the semi final. They played their hearts out in the final and were beaten by a very strong team.
- The senior room travelled to The Hub in Castlerea on April 8th to take part in the Roscommon Primary Basketball Blitz. While both the boys team and the girls team performed incredibly well, we have to say a big congratulations to our girls who won all their games and topped the group. The girls will now advance to the next round of the competition.
- The senior room also competed in the Cumann na mBunscol football competition in St. Faithleachs on April 9th.
- Jerome Kelly has been calling to the school since May 6th to offer Gaelic coaching to all classes.
- Soccer Blitz for 3rd & 4th Class - Pupils in 3rd & 4th class took part in the 5 a side National Schools Tournament in Ballyboro . They did fantastically well and qualified for the B final where they lost 1 nil to Whitehall NS. It was a wonderful day of football and fun.
- Basketball Blitz for 3rd and 4th class - Pupils in 3rd and 4th class took part in a Fun Basketball Blitz in the Hub, Castlerea. This was a great day out and the focus was on introducing the children to a structured game of basketball. The refs coached the children through the rules and allowed some leeway for learning the skills involved.
- National Schools 5 a Side Soccer Tournament for 3rd and 4th Class - Pupils in 3rd and 4th Class attended a soccer competition hosted by Ballyboro FC & Eamon Bolger in conjunction with Lanesboro Community College. The children played brilliantly and were narrowly beaten in the B Final. Congratulations to all our footballs and a very special mention to James Murray who was awarded “Goal of the Tournament”!!

### **Sports Day**

Will be held on June 19th. We have invited last year's 6th Class students back to help run the different stations on the day.

### **OTHER EXTRA CURRICULAR AREAS**

#### **Christmas Card Initiative**

The children designed their own Christmas cards which were available to purchase.

### **Computers**

Computer classes began on Monday, 9th September for pupils from 1st to 6th and lasted for seven weeks.

### **Music Generation**

Music Generation gave weekly ukulele lessons to the children from 1st-6th Class. They also completed a weekly Junior programme with the Infants.

### **Creative Schools**

Alice Dixon was assigned as our Creative Associate for the Creative Schools Initiative.

### **Amber Flag**

Mrs Mulkeen was awarded the Amber Flag on behalf of the school. This is in recognition of our work in promoting our student's wellbeing and mental health.

### **Christmas Plays**

We held our Christmas plays on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Ballyleague Hall. It was a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. One of our parents, Tommy Delaney, spent hours setting up the lights in the hall and ensuring they worked correctly on the night. The P.A. sponsored prizes and ran a raffle on the night. Thank you to County Photos and the Ballyleague Hall committee who also sponsored prizes on the night.

The senior room also attended the LCC Christmas Show on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Santa**

Santa, aka Gerry Keenan, visited the school on December 20<sup>th</sup> with his two elves, Damien & Leisa Gill. They gave the children selection boxes which was generously sponsored by Gerry Mulheir and Deirdre Curley from the Slaughter House, Roscommon.

### **Food Dudes**

The Food Dudes programme started on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The children from Jr Infants – 3<sup>rd</sup> Class received fruit and vegetables daily for 16 days and the children in the Senior Room, for 5 days. Lots of rewards and incentives were provided by the Food Dudes for the children to try a wide variety of fruit and veg.

### **The Dig**

We were lucky enough to be chosen by the Arts Centre who partnered with Performer and Writer, Paul Curley, to deliver a performance of his show, *The Dig*, in our school on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The children from Jr Infants to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class attended and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

### **Science Week & Maths Week**

Science week and Maths Week were celebrated in our school. During Science Week, the children from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class were invited to a Science Fair in Mercy College in Roscommon.

### **Cycle Right**

The Roscommon Sports Partnership completed the Cycle Right Programme with the children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class.

### **Drama Workshop**

Sarah Byrne from Tí na Falla Theatre came to give a one hour Drama workshop to each room during wellbeing week.

### **Internet Safety Day**

John O Connor Garda visited on the 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, Internet Safety Day, to speak to the children in the Senior Room about cyber safety. The school also purchased a Cyber Safety training bundle which included training webinars for parents and teachers and a series of lessons for the children. We will have access to these resources until June 2025.

### **Hip Hop Dance Classes**

The children completed Hip Hop Dance classes with Ms. Drummond over a 6 week period.

### **World Book Day**

In celebration of World book day, on 6<sup>th</sup> March the children dressed up as a character from their favourite book.

### **Garda Visit**

We were very lucky to have four Garda visitors to our school during the year. The Garda allowed the children to inspect their Garda Car and the Garda Motorcycle. It was a very exciting visit and we would like to say a big thank you to parents Gardaí Michéal & Nora and their colleagues Éanna and Amanda.

### **School Tours**

The Junior Room went to a Let's Go Camp in Athlone on June 6th.

Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class are going to The Shannon River Adventure in Rooskey on June 18th

### **BLAST**

Mrs Collins applied to the Arts Council for consideration for their BLAST Creative Arts programme next year and was successful. This means we will be working with an artist on a project of our choice next year.

## **COMPETITION WINNERS**

### **Success at Roscommon Drama Essay Festival**

Congratulations to Lana Cox who was a winner in the recent Roscommon Drama Festival Essay Competition. Sixth class pupil Lana was presented with her award at a ceremony in Roscommon County Council offices in February.

### **Pioneer Essay & Art Competitions**

Congratulations to Lana Cox who won a prize for her essay for the Pioneer Competition. Congratulations also to Lauren Rice who won the art competition.

### **Credit Union Art Competition**

Congratulations to Olivia Onifade in 1<sup>st</sup> Class who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Credit Union Art Competition.

### **BUILDING WORKS/MAINTENANCE**

- Lir Fire Services, serviced the alarm system
- Grant aid in the amount of €40,375.90 was secured from the Department under Emergency Works to have repairs carried out on our boundary wall.
- James Feeney power washed the roof, fascia and soffit and paths.
- Frank Mannion cuts the grass fortnightly.
- Kevin Madden serviced the De-Fib in September.
- The blinds were repaired in the Infant Room and replaced in the Middle and Senior Classrooms at a cost of €1200
- Therese contacted Roscommon County Council about the paths outside of the school
- Thank you to Damien Gill kindly removed the tree and fence that fell during Storm Eowyn .
- Thank you to Michéal Farrell who installed the netting behind our goalposts, as well as the goal post netting itself.
- Solar panels were installed on March 31st .
- Engineer Albert Looby is preparing an application to the Multi-annual Climate Action Summer Works Scheme.
- One of our security cameras and the monitor box in the Office had to be replaced.
- Investment will have to be made in servicing the playground equipment .
- We received €4000 from the Sliabh Bawn Community Benefit fund towards attic insulation.

### **ROAD SAFETY**

We have been raising our concerns about road safety in Cloontuskert and the need for traffic calming measures throughout the year. We have been in touch with members of An Garda Siochana, Roscommon County Council, our local councilors, the NTA and reporters from the Roscommon People and Roscommon Herald. Our efforts are continuing.

### **GOODBYE**

Goodbye also to our 6 th Class pupils, Lana, Lauren, Tyler & Shane. We wish you all the best as you move on to Secondary School and we hope you are very happy.

*Wishing everyone a safe, enjoyable summer  
and see you again when we return  
on the 28th August.*