



Cloontuskert N.S.

Board of Management Annual Report 2023-2024

Board of Management

Sept – 30th November

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

December 1st – Present

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

School Ethos

School Masses

- A Retirement Mass for Mr O'Gorman & Mr Connerton was held in the school on October 6th.
- A mass for Grandparents Day was held in Ballyleague Church on February 9th
- Fr Daniel called to give ashes to the children on Ash Wednesday
- A Graduation mass for our 6th class children was held at the school on June 19th.

Sacraments

- The Ceremony of light was held in Ballyleague Church on April 11th.
- Confirmation was in Ballagh Church on April 18th
- First Confessions for 2nd Class pupils were in Ballyleague Church on March 5th.
- First Holy Communion was in Ballyleague Church on April 27th.

Religious Inspection

Teresa Melia carried out a Religious Inspection on April 22nd.

Friendship Week

We celebrated Friendship Week from 13th – 17th May. A representative from Cybersafe Kids came in to talk to the children from 3rd-6th Class about online safety & cyberbullying.

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.
- St Vincent De Paul – We raised €177 on Christmas Jumper day in aid of St Vincent De Paul.
- The Christmas Shoe box Appeal: We collected over 50 boxes.

Building Works/Maintenance

Emergency Works

The tarmac was replaced in the playground and car park. The fence around the play equipment was also replaced.

Front Wall

The front wall was rebuilt following a car accident.

Painting

The front wall and windowsills were painted.

Cloontuskert Tidy Towns supplied the paint and repainted the front gates of the school. We are extremely grateful to them for their generosity and support

Clean Up

We held a clean up evening at the school on May 15th. The front wall and windowsills were painted, the windows washed, the whole site strimmed, the beds weeded, and the decorative hedges trimmed. We really appreciated the support.

Energy Assessment

The SEAI carried out an energy assessment of the building on Tuesday, April 23rd.

Staffing

Retirements

Mr O'Gorman and Mr Connerton retired in October 2023.

New Staff

Sharon Feely was appointed as our new Junior & Senior Infant teacher.

Martina Mitchell was appointed as our shared SET teacher.

Sharon Grehan was appointed as our new SNA.

Management

Therese Concannon was appointed as Principal in October 2023.

Lorraine Collins has been appointed as Deputy Principal and Mary Mulkeen as Assistant Principal II.

Policy Development

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

- Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessments
- Privacy Statement
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Health and Safety Statement/Risk Assessments
- Protected Disclosures
- Substance Use Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying
- EAL Policy
- Leave of Absence Policy
- Parental Complaints Procedure
- Records Retention Schedule

School Inspection

We had an incidental inspection by Eilish Magner, Department Inspector on October 17th. She spent the day observing in each of the 3 mainstream rooms. She also did a level 1 Child Safeguarding inspection.

Curricular Development

DEIS Improvement Plan

We finalised our DEIS Improvement Plan having reviewed school performance under the following headings:

- Attendance
- Retention
- Partnership with Others
- Parental Involvement
- Educational Progression
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Wellbeing

New Maths Curriculum

In preparation for the for the new Maths Curriculum, staff have:

- Attended training
- Carried out an audit of resources
- Prepared a resource folder
- Explored online resources
- Chosen a new Mental Maths Scheme, 'Master Your Maths', from 3rd – 6th Class
- Chosen a new Maths Scheme, 'Busy at Maths', for Junior & Senior Infants
- Planned and implemented weekly problem solving sessions with their classes

Modern Foreign Languages

In preparation for the introduction of a M.F.L, the school have applied to take part in the 'Say Yes to Languages' Programme in the coming year.

Parent's Association

The PA are currently running 'Cloontuskert Sweepstakes', a fundraiser around Euros 2024.

They've been extremely supportive this year having:

1. Purchased retirement gifts for Mr Connerton and Mr O'Gorman.
2. Heald a Christmas raffle that raised over €1000.
3. Treated the children to Supermacs after Peace Prom rehearsal and the Peace Prom event.
4. Supported the school read and raise fundraiser with classroom prizes for 'Readathon' winners.
5. Purchased a new goal net, basketball hoops, a ball stop for behind the goals and a Bluetooth speaker for the kids to enjoy music in the yard (yet to arrive).
6. Paid for the ice cream truck after sports day.

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

Extra-Curricular

Sports

- Our 4th, 5th & 6th Class students won the B Final in the Annual 5 aside Primary Schools Soccer Competition, hosted by Lanesboro Community College and Ballyboro Football Club.
- The Senior room attended a tag rugby blitz in Creggs Rugby Club on Thursday, 21st Sept.
- Children from 3rd-6th attended a Cross County Running Competition at the Racecourse in Roscommon on Tuesday, 3rd October
- The children had G.A.A. Soccer & Rugby coaching throughout the year.
- The children from 4th-6th took part in the Cumann Na mBunscol football blitz in St Faithleach's on May 2nd. The girls team were victorious and made it through to the quarter finals on May 10th. Unfortunately they were beaten on the day by a strong team from Ardkeen N.S.
- The children from 3rd & 4th attended a soccer blitz in L.C.C. on May 13th. They also attended a Basket ball Blitz on June 5th in Castlerea.
- We held our annual Sports Day on 14th June.
- Swimming lessons started on 9th January and lasted for 6 weeks for the children from 1st-6th.
- The children took part in 6 weeks of hip hop lessons with Mary Drummond.

Other Extra-Curricular Activities

- Road Safety Authority Presentation: Karen from the Road Safety Authority is called to the school during September to give a presentation to raise awareness on road safety. The presentation covered all aspects of road safety; walking, cycling and being a safe passenger.
- Drama Workshop - The children in the Senior Room were treated to a Drama workshop which was organized through the Arts Council on Tuesday October 10th.
- A Student Council was formed.
- Wellbeing Wednesday was introduced.
- Peace Proms – The children took part in Peace Proms and performed with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland in the RDS, Dublin at 2pm on February 3rd, 2024.
- The children from 1st – 6th Class has 6 weeks of Computer classes which started in September.
- Children in the Senior Room attended the L.C.C. Christmas Show.
- Fred the Party Professor performed for the Infant Room in December.
- The children celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as characters from their favourite books. Retired teacher and published poet, Margaret Nohilly, also came in to do a poetry workshop with the children from 1st-3rd Class.
- We ran a Scholastic Book Club in October.
- We took part in Design a Christmas Card initiative.
- We took part in the Arts Council's BLAST Programme. Our students designed and painted a mural on our school shed in collaboration with artist Sophie Carroll Hunt.
- We have been successful in our application to take part in the Arts Council's Creative Schools next year. This means that we can avail of a package of supports from the Arts Council including working with a Creative Associate, training and networking to support us in creating our own Creative School Plan, as well as 4000 euro seed funding to begin to implement our Plan.
- We have applied to the Department to take part in their 'Say Yes to Languages' programme next year. This programme introduces primary pupils to a new language by facilitating schools to introduce a Modern Foreign Language (MFL) of their choice. If successful, we would be eligible for a grant from the Department of Education of €500 per classroom to employ a tutor to teach our chosen language.
- We took part in the Food Dudes Programme once again this year.
- We have organised for Music Generation to provide an early years programme for the Junior & Senior Infants and Ukelele lessons to the children from 1st – 6th Class next year.
- We are running a DEIS Literacy & Numeracy Camp this July, 36 children are attending.
- RSE facilitator, Flora Duignan, gave a sexual education talk to the 5th & 6th class children on June 5th.
- Under the direction of Mrs Collins, 4th-6th Class took part in the Junior Entrepreneur Project earlier this year. Regina from Lanesbrew and Damien Gill from Cloontuskert Stud to come in and talk to the children about setting up a business.
- Vet, Pdraig Holmes came in to speak to the Junior children about how to take care of their pets. Local farmer Stephen Mc Gloin also came in and talked to the children about farming. He brought in a baby goat which was a huge hit with the children!

- Tony Kenneally, heritage Specialist, called to the school on the 19th January to discuss birds of prey and garden birds with the children. They really enjoyed his visit.
- The Junior Room went on their school tour to Molly Moos Pet farm on June 13th.
- The Senior Room will go on their school tour to Shannon Adventure Centre on Tuesday, June 18th.

After School Service

Sharon Grehan will be offering an after school service for Junior & Senior Infants from September.

Competition Winners

- We had two winners in the North Midlands Credit Union Art Competition. Congratulations to Thomas Cox who came first in his age group and congratulations also to Lana Cox who was awarded 3rd place in her category. Thomas went on to win a prize at national level for his Credit Union poster.
- Congratulations to Harry Kenny who came second in Roscommon County Council's roadside anti-littering competition.
- Congratulations to Katie Gill who received a prize from the Pioneer's Association for her essay 'The day my dream came true' in the Abbey Hotel on May 23rd.
- Congratulations also to Lana Cox who received a prize in Aras on Chontae on February 21st for her short story 'The Ferryman'. This competition was in conjunction with Roscommon Drama Festival.

Goodbye

Goodbye also to our 6th Class pupils, Éabha, Ethan, Tomás, Jack, Emma, Katie, Toni, Katelyn, Darragh, Sinéad, Luke and Ela. 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 29th August.*