



St. Comgall's N.S.
Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan
www.stcomgallsnsclones.ie

Welcome Back! – A warm welcome to all our new pupils.... A special welcome to Dearbhail, Aoibhinn and Jack in Junior Infants!

A big welcome to Cara who has joined us in 2nd class – we wish Cara and her family well as they settle into the Connons community.

Finally, we would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to Mrs. Karen Lavery onto our school staff. Mrs. Lavery will cover 'Principal Administration Days' on Thursdays.

We are all very excited and enthusiastic about the busy year ahead. We wish all pupils and staff happiness, inspiration and success for the coming year!



Staying Connected! – As a Green School and to reduce our carbon footprint, we are eager to communicate with parents via emails, our school website and social networking. Therefore, please keep an eye on our website, newsletters and check your email addresses for regular updates on the school. Remember our school email is stcomgallsns@gmail.com

Stephanie, our school secretary, works from 9:15-12:00, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Due to current COVID guidelines, please ring Stephanie to make a phone appointment with teachers, rather than relaying messages at the main school door. We are legally obliged to ensure pupils are supervised at all times under our 'Child Safeguarding Statement'.

Pupil Contact Details: Please ensure that you have notified the school of any change in contact details for your child/ children. In order to comply with GDPR regulations, we ask parents to download and complete the school's '[Personal Data Alteration Request Form](#)' from the website and return it to the school immediately.

Microsoft Teams – Remote learning is a journey for all of us. Microsoft Teams provides many features which we will use with our classes but we won't be using them all right away. The Posts/Conversation area of a class Team is the first part the pupils will see and use when they log into Teams. Mrs. Hagan has given login/ password details to all pupils and we thank and congratulate parents for responding to the 'Tester' assignment in that area. So this is the place where, later this week, we will tentatively post initial 'homework' messages to pupils... so keep posted!

COVID-19 Updates

Return to school: I wish to thank children for ensuring continued adherence to recent COVID-19 guidelines. All pupils mindfully sanitise their hands daily and maintain a safe social distance from each other in the classroom and on the yard.

School absence: The HPSC & HSE have designed a '[Return to School Parent Declaration Form](#).' This form is to be used when children are returning to school after any absence. The link to download the form is on the school website. Please download the form, print and complete same **BEFORE** your child returns to school.

Reminders:

- (i) Pencil cases will remain in school. Parents are asked to purchase stationery for home use.
- (ii) Continue to remind your child/ children of the importance of personal hygiene and safe social distancing.
- (iii) In compliance with public health advice and to show good example to your children, please maintain adequate social distancing from each other and wear face masks when in close contact with other adults during drop off and collections times. In the current climate it is preferable to avoid congregating.



A school Mass to bless our new school year was held last **Friday, 24th September** in St. Alphonsus Church. We thank Fr. John McKenna C.C., Scotshouse, our school chaplain, for leading us in prayer. Fr. John will be responsible for pastoral work and sacramental preparation with the pupils during the year.

PA Meeting: The first **remote** 'Parent Association General Meeting' will take place within the next week. The PA Committee will contact parents shortly with the relevant 'Zoom' link.




ZOOM



GAA Coaching: Adherence to the 'Guidelines on the Safe Return to Gaelic Games' is being maintained during the two coaching sessions with our GAA coach, Anne McKenna. The children are enjoying the coaching - we will continue to follow scientific, medical and public health advice as is issued by the relevant authorities with regard to same.

Allianz Insurance: I have attached pupil personal accident insurance forms from Allianz Insurance to this newsletter. The cost for 'Option B' is €9 per child. However, as a school, we can avail of the cheaper 'Option A' rate, which costs €8 per pupil, providing all pupils on the register are insured. Consequently, please sign 'Option B' for your child and **if** €9 is received from **all** pupils, then I will return €1 per pupil to you with a new 'Option A' form to be signed. I will then forward money to Allianz, on your behalf.



Recycling: Sincere thanks to parents for continuing to generate fantastic school funds through the recycling initiative. Our collections for 2019-2020 have credited our school account by a very impressive **€590**. Due to COVID restrictions, however, we are no longer able to store bags until collection day. Therefore, we ask parents to drop bags off at the school **only** on the previous evening or day of collection. Bags will be collected again this Wednesday, 30th September. **Bags may be dropped off this evening or in the morning.**

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)