

Scoil Naomh Comhghall, Coininsi
St. Comgall's N.S., Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan



We would like to send out good wishes to all our families for Hallowe'en and say a special word of welcome to our new pupils, Lilly, Caoimhe, Katie, Shannon and Colin. We hope that their time at St. Comgall's N.S. will be happy and enjoyable and filled with wonderful experiences and learning.

A New Parent Association: We are pleased to congratulate and welcome our new Parent Association Committee into the school community and we thank all parents for their interest and attendance at the Association's A.G.M. on Tuesday 13th October 2009. On the night new members elected include Eugene Fitzpatrick as Chairman, Debbie Butler as Secretary and Christine Clarke was re-elected as Treasurer. The members will serve on the committee for the coming year and will manage the tasks of the association on behalf of the parent body. Parents have a critical role to play in the school community; it is through a positive partnership between the Parent Association the Principal, staff and Board of Management that we can ensure that your children can get the best that primary education can offer.

School Mass: Our annual school mass on Friday 11th September was a lovely celebration and we congratulate all the children for their wholehearted and reverent participation in the mass. Our thanks to Fr. John Kearns for his celebration of the Mass and we were delighted so many parents, families and friends could be present.

Attendance: I would like to thank parents for sending in notes and letting teachers know reasons for absences of a child from school. Under the terms of the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Education Welfare Officer may request all documentation regarding children being absent from school for 20 days or more.

Fund Raising: Our recycling initiative is proving to be a great success in raising funds for our music/ dance classes. A thank you to all of who contribute, we appreciate your on-going support of this initiative. We plan on holding a collection when we return after the midterm, hence bags can be dropped into the school any day during the first week. Items that may be included are clothes/sheets/fabrics, shoes, mobile phone and used ink cartridges and we would ask that you fill these items into separate black bags. Balance of money in school account, raised through this initiative, stands at €317.24.

Insurance: In relation to insurance and safety concerns, I would like to thank parents for their understanding and co-operation with regard to the allocated times for children's arrival at school and collection from school. School commences each day at 9:20 am, while classes end for infants at 2:00pm and end for first to sixth classes at 3:00pm.

Sacraments: Confirmation has been set for Friday 14th May 2010 in the Sacred Heart Church, Clones, while First Holy Communion will be held in our local St. Alphonsus Church on Sunday 16th May 2010.

Green Schools Initiative: Mrs. Pennell and I recently attended a meeting which focused on the successful implementation of the Green-Schools programme in relation to the first theme of litter and waste in schools. St. Comgall's was officially registered and initial steps towards the Green Flag will be taken in the new term with the election of a Green School's Committee. An overview of the programme will be explained to parents at the next Parent Association meeting.

Charity: We will participate in the Samaritans 'Operation Christmas Child' project again this year. All relevant details are on the leaflet, to be distributed after the break and we would ask that all items included in the shoeboxes are new. To facilitate customs checks during transit, please ensure you do not seal boxes when covering them in Christmas paper. An elastic band will suffice. Collection of boxes will take place in November.

Music/Dancing: Tin Whistle lessons with Mr. Fran McMahon have resumed on Tuesdays and we saw the resumption of Irish dancing classes with Mr. Gerard McQuaid on Monday 12 October 2009. Dance classes will continue for another six weeks with music lessons continuing until the end of the year.

Altar Servers: We thank all our pupils most sincerely for their continued commitment to altar serving in St. Alphonsus' Church. As a new year has commenced we would ask parents to read and sign relevant policy forms (sent home today) indicating your child's interest and your permission for your child to continue serving at Mass. Please return all forms to the school after the holiday break.

Hallowe'en Break: School closes today Friday 23rd October and will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 2nd November 2009.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a... spooky, happy and safe holiday.

