



Scoil Naisiúnta Rónáin Naofa Cluain Lua

St. Ronan's N.S., Cloonloo, Boyle, Co. Sligo

E-mail: info@cloonlooschool.ie

Website: cloonlooschool.ie

Tel: 071 - 9663684 School mobile: 085-2703682

Dear Parents / Guardians,

7th March 2024

It's been a busy time in school with lots of exciting activities and more planned for the next few weeks.

Monthly Assemblies

Children are working hard. All children in the school has received their Bronze Award and are now working towards their Silver and Gold awards. Children showcased and spoke about their work during our January and February assemblies. Congratulations to those students who received Students of the Month, Sports Stars of the Month and Silver Awards.

Students of the Month

January - Kseniia Kryshstal - Senior Room and Ava Tighe - Junior Room

February - Goda Padimanskaite - Senior Room and Olivia Hadzi-Jovancic - Junior Room

Sports Stars of the Month

January - Ronan Moore - Senior Room and Oleksii Bachu - Junior Room

February - Sam Tighe - Senior Room and Emiliia Samoilenko - Junior Room

Open Evening

An Open Evening will be held this evening, Thursday, 7th March from 5pm to 6pm. We welcome all children and parents who may wish to enrol to visit the school. If this does not suit, please contact the school for an alternative.

Internet Safety Webinar (Free)

Sligo Education Centre have scheduled an Internet Safety online webinar on Monday, 11th March from 7pm to 8.15pm, in collaboration with the National Parents Council, that may be of interest to you. Registration link was sent in an email to you.

Enrolments

We are now accepting applications for enrolment for September 2024. If you would like an application form, please contact the office.

Focus Ireland

We received a letter of thanks from Focus Ireland (Sligo) for our contribution of €110 towards their work which was raised on Christmas Jumper Day. Many thanks for your support for this charity.

Attendance Awards

Congratulations to those pupils who received an attendance award at our December assembly. Prizes were given to pupils who had not missed any days for November and December. Awards will once again be given at our March assembly for pupils who do not miss any days in January, February and March. These awards form part of our DEIS Action Plan under our school improvement planning and form part of the National Attendance Strategy promoted by a joint initiative of Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) with the Department of Education.

Active Schools

The children entered a competition through Dare to Believe Olympic Programme and wrote their reasons why an Irish Olympian should visit our school. They won the competition and Dean Clancy a Sligo boxer who will represent Ireland in the Paris Olympics will visit the school on Monday, 22nd April.

Children have been working as 'Playground Leaders' over the last number of weeks where a game is played during yard time led by the 'Playground Leaders'. Thanks to all the children who have volunteered to lead the playground games.

Fun Friday took place last Friday and a running challenge is taking place for a month. At the end of this challenge Ms. Savage is looking for children to take part in the Junior Park Run (2KM) on Sunday, 24th March at 9.30a.m. in Lough Key Forest Park. Thanks to the Active School Committee and Ms. Savage for all the continued work keeping our school active.

GAA

Dylan Walsh from Eastern Harps GAA is working with the children on Thursdays developing their GAA (Gaelic football) skills.

Gymnastics

Gymnastics will recommence next Thursday and continue weekly until Thursday, 25th April in Cloonloo Hall. Children will walk up through a field using the old 'mass path'. Please ensure your child(ren) have a jacket with a hood or hat, wellies (wellingtons)/boots or old runners and spare socks as their feet may get wet. They will need to wear their dry runners in Cloonloo Hall for the gymnastics class. Thanks to Chris Rushe for granting his permission for us to access his land and to Brendan Doherty for removing a fence and to Eileen and Declan for clearing a path through the field up to the back of the church. A special word of thanks too to Cloonloo Development Association for giving us permission to use the hall. Cost for the 6 weeks of lessons is €15 per child. Costs will also be subsidised by the BOM from DEIS funding.

Swimming - Swimming will begin on Monday, 8th April for all pupils for 6 weeks. Cost will be €10 per child per week which covers the lesson and part of the cost of the bus. The BoM will subsidise the remaining costs of the bus through DEIS funding. ***Please note - swimming begins on the first day back after the Easter holidays.***

Green Schools

An assessor for the school's 7th Green school flag visited the school last week. Children spoke about the work they completed on the area of Global Citizenship - Energy. The trip to the Arigna Mines and wind farm formed part of this work. The written application will be submitted by Ms. Jordan before

Easter. A huge thank you to Ms. Jordan, the Green School Committee, all the children and parents for the hard work and support of the school's work in this area.

SEAI Workshop - children will attend an 'Energy and Climate Change' workshop on Friday, 12th April.

Student Council

A student council was formed in February. This allows children to have a voice in our school and bring ideas and suggestions to staff. All children from 1st class up to 6th class are now on a committee in the school either Active School, Green School or Students Council.

Mural

Many thanks to Noelle (SNA) who has painted a beautiful mural on the wall inside the main door. It is lovely and bright and makes a wonderfully welcoming entrance for the pupils, parents and visitors to the school.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

We will celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge next week. Children can dress in green on Friday, 15th as an early celebration for St. Patrick's Day.

RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education)

RSE will be taught to all children starting next week. A letter was sent home with the children yesterday outlining the content of the curriculum and language that will be taught at each class level.

5th and 6th class children will attend a RSE Programme delivered by an outside facilitator next Tuesday, 12th March. 3rd and 4th class children will work with Ms. Savage during this time.

World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day next Wednesday, 13th March. Children are invited to dress up as a character from a book.

Launch of Children's Book

We will launch the children's book of published stories 'A Collection of Sensational Stories' at 9.20 a.m. on Wednesday, 13th March and would like to invite parents to the launch. It will just take a few minutes but could be a nice way to pay tribute to the children for all their hard work. The books look great and the children will be delighted to see their work published in such a professional manner. Not many 4 to 12 year old can say they are published authors 😊 Thank you for your support of this work.

Confirmation Retreat

5th and 6th Class children who are preparing for Confirmation will go to Knock next Friday, 15th March on retreat. Bus will leave the school at 9.20 a.m. and return just before 3.00 p.m. Other senior room children who are not preparing for Confirmation should attend school as normal.

Confession, Communion and Confirmation

Confession Thursday, 14th March 7.00 p.m. Gurteen Church

Confirmation (5th and 6th class pupils) will be held on Sunday, 28th April at 11.30 in Gurteen Church.

Communion will be held on Saturday, 11th May in Gurteen Church.

Parents Committee

The Parents Committee held its inaugural meeting on Friday, 23rd February. There was a great turn out. Thanks to everyone who attended. The principal met with Harriet Reynders (Chairperson) to discuss ideas and suggestions raised at the meeting. We look forward to liaising with the Parents Committee to support and promote your work.

A couple of issues which parents asked Harriet to discuss with staff were time to eat and homework. Children are given 10 minutes to eat before both small break and big break. Sometimes children chat a lot and don't eat during this time but we do encourage them to keep eating. Occasionally, lessons do run on but we will always give an opportunity to eat again once children come back in from yard if this happens. At times children say they do not like their lunch from Carambola. We cannot change their lunches from school, you can log on to the Carambola website and change their lunch at any time and the changes will take place from the following week. If you need updated log on details, please contact us. If you have any concerns about your child not eating their lunch, please contact the class teacher who can discuss it further with you.

Please see below information from our homework policy. We do not want homework to be a source of stress in homes so if you would like to discuss this with your child's class teacher please do not hesitate to contact us. One suggestion we have as a staff is that you start a timer when your child starts their homework and ask your child to stop when they reach the maximum suggested time (see below), then write a note in your child's homework diary that you stopped after x amount of time and what work your child managed to complete during this time. This will give us a clear indication of how children are coping with their homework. Please continue to check your child's homework daily and sign their journal.

As a staff we are open to reviewing the homework given if the majority of parents feel this is necessary, taking into consideration the importance of homework as laid out below.

Homework

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and lifelong learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces what children learn in school and also helps prepare children in the senior room for the transition to secondary school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in your child's education. If you would like further details on our homework policy please contact the office and we can email you a copy of the homework policy as our website is down at the moment.

Children are asked to read each night and we would like to emphasise how important it is for your child to read out loud to an adult each night. This helps build their confidence, fluency and expression which in turn helps their understanding of what they have read. Please encourage your child to tick off each piece of homework as it is completed and then check and sign your child's journal each night.

Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines in terms of length of time children should spend on homework. This will vary depending on your child's class and quantity of homework given.

Infants - 00-20 minutes (max)

Rang 1 and 2 - 20 to 30 minutes (max)

Rang 3 and 4 - 30 to 40 minutes (max)

Rang 5 and 6 - 40 to 50 minutes (max)

If you have any concerns or queries regarding your child and their homework please contact your child's teacher.

Aughris Beach Trip (Senior Room only)

Children from the Senior Room will go to Aughris Beach on Wednesday, 10th April for an Explorers Seashore Safari. The project is funded by the Marine Institute and is free to the children however we ask for €5 per child as a contribution towards the cost of the bus. The BoM will also contribute towards the cost of the bus from DEIS funding.

The Explorers Seashore Safari brings the children to the seashore to participate in a field trip involving interactive activities learning about marine habitats, living things and environmental awareness and care on the shore. The class will be accompanied by an Explorers education officer and all sampling equipment will be provided for exploring the seashore. Children will need to bring jackets with a hood/hat, wellies (wellington boots) and a change of clothes along with snacks.

Drama Workshops

Children will take part in two drama workshops in May around themes of intercultural objects and archaeological exploration and conservation. These workshops will also support the development of a new piece of theatre, Museum of Believing. Many thanks to Heather Rose (a parent in our school) and her team for offering to deliver these workshops to the children in Cloonloo N.S. It is rare to find a show designed for the small spaces and such a wide age range as we have at our school, and it can be difficult to take our students to a theatre due to busing costs, and limited target ages of most shows so this is a wonderful opportunity for pupils in our school.

Information from the Board of Management Meeting of 5th March 2024:

- The BoM would like to compliment the Parents Committee on their work to date. They are delighted that a new Parents Committee has once again been formed in Cloonloo N.S, and the BoM would like to convey their thanks to all those involved and those who attended the meeting in Gurteen. It is wonderful to have such a committed and interested parent body.
- The BoM would like to thank the pupils and staff for their work on the various pupil committees - Active School, Green School and Student Council. The BoM are very impressed that every child from 1st class to 6th class is on a committee and having their voice heard in school.
- The BoM would like to thank Noelle Higgins for painting the mural inside the school main door.
- The BoM would like to welcome enrolments for the next academic year and encourage our parent body to promote the school to friends and family.
- The website is down but quotes have been received and a new website will be under construction shortly.
- RSE policy was ratified.
- There has been a reduction in our Special Education Teaching hours' allocation of 2.5 hours per week for the academic year 2024-2025. This brings our allocation to 35 hours. We will retain one full time special education teacher and have 10 hours available to hopefully cluster with another school.
- Thanks to Cloonloo Development Association for granting permission to use the hall for gymnastics. Thanks too to Chris Rushe for permission to access his land, to Brendan Doherty for removing a fence and to Eileen and Declan for clearing a path for the children to walk to

the hall through the field. It is lovely to see this old 'mass path' once again being used and it is a safer way for the children to travel as well as being a great adventure for them.

Jackets

Please make sure children have a jacket with a hood in school every day. The weather is very changeable and we try to ensure that children get fresh air at break times (weather permitting).

Pupil Absences

The school is obliged, by law, to inform Tusla when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 school days in one school year. Teachers have to fill in the category of absence when informing Tusla. **Any absence must be explained to the class teacher by either a written note in the homework journal or email.** This explanation must come from the parent and we cannot accept an explanation from a child. The reason for the absence is then recorded on the Aladdin system and unexplained absences are marked as such on the system. Please note if absences are illness related this will be indicated to Tusla.

A letter will be sent to you if your child is absent for 15 days and again if they reach 20 days to confirm that Tusla will be notified.

Important Upcoming Dates

Open Evening - Thursday, 7th March 5pm to 6pm

Internet Safety Webinar - Monday, 11th March 7pm to 8.15pm

GAA - Thursdays

Gymnastics - Thursdays, until 25th April

RSE Training for 5th and 6th class - Tuesday, 12th March

First Confession - Thursday, 14th March 7.00 p.m. Gurteen Church

Confirmation Retreat to Knock - Friday, 15th March

Easter Holidays - Friday, 22nd March at 12.00 return to school Monday, 8th April 2024

Swimming - Monday, 8th April for 6 weeks until Monday, 20th May

Aughris Beach trip - (Senior Room only) - Wednesday, 10th April

SEAI Workshop - Friday, 12th April

Dean Clancy - Monday, 22nd April

Confirmation - Sunday, 28th April 11.30 a.m. - Gurteen church

Communion - Saturday 11th May - Gurteen Church

Drama Workshops - Wednesday, 15th May and Friday, 24th May

If you have any queries, please contact Eileen in the office and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Surlis

Principal

c.c. Staff and Board of Management members