



## Nuacht na Scoile **Samhradh 2024**

### Principal's Address

As we come to the end of the school year, it is a great opportunity to reflect on all that has happened during the year, here in Scoil Phádraig. The year began with Mr. Galvin's retirement, which gave myself the opportunity to lead the school for the year. It was an honour to do so, and a very enjoyable year. I had great support from the Board of Management, Ms. Davis, the In-School Management Team, all the staff, the parents and most importantly, the boys themselves. I would like to thank everyone for all of this support throughout the year.

We have had great success this year both academically and through our sports, drama and extra-curricular

activities. The boys have been a credit to the school and to their families. We continue to develop our facilities here in the school, with the introduction of our agility course and a new sensory room this year. I would like to wish our 6<sup>th</sup> class all the best for secondary school. They have been an amazing group of boys over the years here in Scoil Phádraig. We are delighted to be welcoming our new Principal, Ms. Sheelagh Murphy, to the school for the start of the new year, and wish her all the best. Ms. Murphy has already met with the staff, and some of the boys, and is very excited to be taking on her new role. I hope all of the boys, and their families, have a lovely summer, and we will see you all at the end of August.

Appreciatively,

Stephen Terry

### Marathon

Our sponsored marathon was held last month. We raised €9,000. Thank you for your support on this initiative. The money raised has gone towards our new sensory room and also a chicken coop and run for our garden.

## Rounders



In June, boys from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> entered the Rounders Cumann na mBunscol competition. Captained by Szymon Dreszer, this was the first time Scoil Phádraig ever entered a team. The three matches took place in The Heath. Kian O'Reilly and Rory O'Dwyer bowled fantastic on the day and there were some fantastic hits from Jayden O'Leary and Ollie Grattan. The boys made it through to the quarter finals, where a very experienced Rath were victorious. We are looking forward to expanding our team next year!

## Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club has had a wonderful 1<sup>st</sup> year on the Canal Rd. The boys enjoy a hearty breakfast before school. It has a positive impact on school attendance and the boy's ability to concentrate in the classroom. Thank you to LIDL for their continued sponsorship this year.

## Communion

Congratulations to the boys from 2<sup>nd</sup> class that recently celebrated their First Holy Communion. The boys all looked fantastic and sang so well. Our school choir also performed brilliantly on the day.

A few days later they boys were all treated to an ice cream when the ice-cream van visited the school!



## School Tours

The boys travelled all over Ireland on their school tour and had brilliant fun! 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> travelled to Emerald Park, Ms Suda's Sonas Room went to the zoo, 4<sup>th</sup> class travelled to Dublin to Croke Park and Jump Zone, 3<sup>rd</sup> class travelled to the zoo, 2<sup>nd</sup> class went to the Reptile Zoo and a play centre in Kilkenny, 1<sup>st</sup> class headed to Carlow to The Dome, Senior infants and our arc classes went to Lullymore and Junior infants went to Playtown in Tullamore.

## Student's Council

A special thank you to our Student's Council this year. They were just wonderful. Every day they helped the teachers and fellow pupils in any way they could.

## Fís Awards

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class Fís Club have recently launched a new youtube channel. It is called Scoil Phádraig Fís. On this platform, our 3 new films have been recently added. The boys have worked incredibly hard on these pieces. The movies are called "Checkmate", "Peer Pressure" and "Old Times". These films will be entered into the Fís Film Project at the end of the month.

Thanks to Laois County Council, the Artists in School Scheme for their support and funding this year. They helped both the students and teachers involved develop a better understanding of film making.



Special thanks to Brendan and Peter from VideoNation for coming into the school and hosting workshops supporting the boys in their planning, organising, shooting, editing and much more! Thanks also to the Heritage Hotel in Killenard for allowing us to use their cinema room for the premiere. Check out our movies on our youtube channel!!

## Hurling



Congratulations to our school hurling teams on their recent success in O'Moore Park! One powerful team defeated Emo in the final and the other team defeated Abbeyleix. The school are so thrilled with the endeavours of the boys! Well done to all involved.



## Sports Day

The school had great fun in recent days with a senior sports day and a junior sports day. There were loads to do on the day soccer blitz, basketball blitz, running races, novelty races, co-operative games and handball. Our medal presentation was held on Monday. This is always a wonderful day, celebrating the strengths and talents of the boys in the school.



## Talent Show

Our annual talent show took place in the school hall today, June 26<sup>th</sup>. The whole school enjoyed watching and celebrating each other's talents. The show was varied with dance performances, saxophone playing, songs, hurling and soccer skills and even the odd comedian thrown in!!

## Teacher V 6<sup>th</sup> Class Match

On Friday, we had the teachers V 6<sup>h</sup> class soccer match. This is our second time to play this current 6<sup>th</sup> class as we had a game in October

before Mr Galvin's departure. Once again, the teachers were victorious!!



*Mr Terry in action*

## Graduation

Our 6<sup>th</sup> class boys graduated on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. We had a lovely service in the school hall.

Refreshments afterwards were sponsored by Bradbury's, our hot school food suppliers. We wish the boys all the best in their new secondary schools and the future.

## Swimming

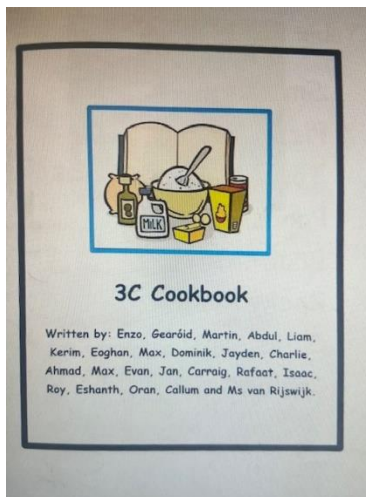
Boys from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> completed 6 weeks of swimming lessons this term. Well done to all the boys on their participation.

## Basketball

On Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> our school hosted a basketball tournament. 9 teams competed on the day. Our school had 2 teams representing us on the courts. Both teams reached the finals. One team proudly claimed gold and the other team were

narrowly defeated by an experienced Holy Family school team. Thank you to all involved on making it a successful day.

### Cook Book



The boys from 3C created their own cookbook this year. The book consists of 8 recipes that the boys have tried and tested during the school year! The class favourite has to be the smarties brownies!!

### Bible Studies



Boys from 6<sup>th</sup> class participated in Bible studies this year. The boys

really enjoyed learning about the scriptures. In appreciation to the time and work that was put into these lessons, the boys donated some of their Confirmation money to Aid to the Church in Need, a charity close to the heart of facilitator Ailish. The charity works with vulnerable and suffering Christians in 140 countries. In thanks for this donation, the charity donated 30 bibles and other religious gifts to the school.

### Soccer

A 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class soccer tournament and a 6<sup>th</sup> class soccer tournament were held over the last few weeks. Everyone enjoyed, well done to all involved.

### Coding

This year our school applied for and received a STEM grant. We were delighted to use this grant to invest in developing coding in our school. Coding develops mathematical thinking and problem solving in a fun and enjoyable way for children. We purchased Sphero robots and the Sphero Indi to promote coding. We are looking forward to using them from September onwards.



## Sensory Pod

Our hot school meal providers, Bradbury's sponsored our new sensory pod. Thank you for this kind donation. So many of our boys will benefit from this state-of-the-art calming and relaxing space.



## Pickle Ball

Our school pickleball team had their 1<sup>st</sup> competitive game this year. The played against a school in Maynooth. We are looking forward to having more competitive games next year,

## Open Day

We recently held our Junior Infant Open Day. The boys got a chance to see their new classroom and meet some of the teachers and SNA's they will be working with. The parents also got to meet our new principal for September Ms Sheelagh Murphy. She addressed

the parents and encouraged them to read with the boys over the summer. She is looking forward to beginning her journey in our school alongside this group of boys.

## Summer Camp

A summer camp for boys and girls will take place in Scoil Phádraig again this year. It is a private camp run by teachers at the school but it is not affiliated with the school.



## The Green Team

The Green Team have been working hard all year helping to reduce the amount of rubbish that goes into our bins by encouraging the whole school to recycle more. The boys collect the recycling every afternoon to be put in the blue bin. Since the Green

Team have begun their recycling campaign, we have seen a massive reduction in the volume of rubbish leaving the school. We encourage all boys in the school to make an extra big effort to recycle. Remember the three 'Rs in recycling Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. A big thank you to the boys in 6B who enjoyed a well-earned pizza party to say thanks for all their hard work.

### The Garden



The Garden committee have been very busy since spring. Every class has planted some seeds that were growing on windowsills all over the school. The planting beds have been filled with potatoes and the Polly tunnels with tomatoes, strawberries, courgettes and peppers. We have recently planted apple and pear trees beside the pond. We also have a new pumpkin patch planted!

### Chicken Coop

In some exciting news, we have recently purchased a new chicken coop as previously mentioned. Welcome Penny, Cluckles, HeniferLopez and Beyonce! A big thank you to Tom and Harry for all the hard work caring for the hens. The boys in 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> also enjoyed a well-earned pizza party to say thanks for all their hard work.



### Rainbows Programme

We are enrolling for the school year 2024/25. Rainbows is a programme for children and young people experiencing grief and loss. It offers support in a safe place where children can share their experience of loss through death, separation or divorce with others in a similar situation. It is open to boys and girls of primary school age in the local community. For more information

email

[rainbowscoilphadraig@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowscoilphadraig@gmail.com)

### Social Networks

We ask all parents to respect the confidentiality and privacy of our school community. We ask all parents to refrain from making any reference to our school, teacher, pupils or other parents on social media. Mr Galvin and the staff are always available to discuss any concerns you may have in relation to your son at short notice. We strongly encourage this mutual respect.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Ms Sullivan on her recent wedding. Wishing you both a lifetime of happiness together.

### Best Wishes

Best wishes to Ms Fitzgibbon on her upcoming nuptials over the summer months. Wishing you all the happiness going forward.

### Career Break

We wish Ms Reddin all the best next year on her career break.

### Farewell

Farewell to Ms Higgins. She has been in our school as 3<sup>rd</sup> class teacher for the past 2 years. Tomorrow will be her last day as she

takes up a position in a school closer to home. Best of Luck Ms Higgins.

### Holidays

Our Summer holidays commence on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Bus pick-ups -11:30 - all buses

ARC, Junior Infants & 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Classes - 11:40

Senior Infants & 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes - 11:50

School reopens Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Special Thanks

On a final note, the staff and boys would like to say a special thanks to Mr Terry and Ms Davis leading the way this year. Mr Galvin left big boots to fill and this was done seamlessly. Thank you to you both for a most enjoyable year - enjoy your summer!!

