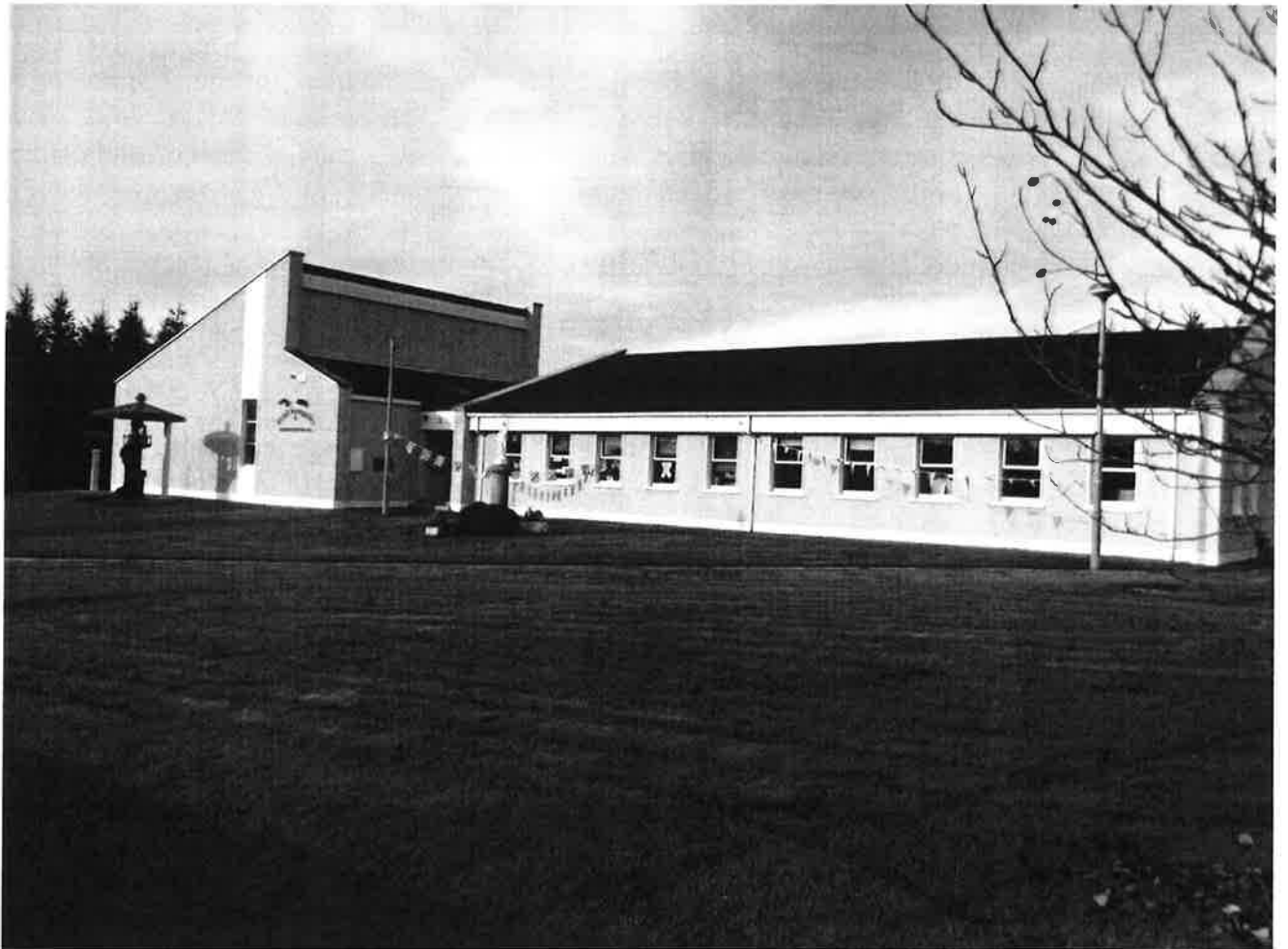


SCOIL ÍOSAGÁIN

Parent Teacher Association

Annual General Meeting

October 2017



CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all parents and teachers here tonight to our annual Parent Teacher Association AGM 2017. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the parents of the new pupils of Scoil Íosagáin and to wish you and your children the very best over the coming years in the school.

2016/2017 was another year of great activity for the school. The impressive academic achievements of Scoil Íosagáin are complemented by a wide range of extra-curricular activities, some of which are referred to below. We really have the teachers to thank for their dedication and support in providing opportunities for pupils to participate in so many character building activities outside of the standard school curriculum.

In September 2016 pupils from 3rd to 6th class entered the schools cross country athletics competition in Thurles. The children and their coach Ms. Butler put in a lot of training for the event and were delighted to come home with silver and bronze team medals. In this year's event the athletes came home with gold and silver team medals along with a number of individual prizes.

The Halloween Hooley is one of the highlights of the Autumn calendar for the children and it was no different last year. Even if the event causes a headache for us parents as we rack our brains for original costume ideas, the children love nothing better than to dress up and parade in their costumes/cardboard boxes around the hall!

Last year's Christmas carol service in the Church was a very special event. The teachers directed and choreographed the event to perfection. The children sang beautifully and it was a wonderful start to the festive season.

A retirement function was held in December for Mrs. Mary Ryan and Mrs. Eleanor Kelly to mark their many years in Scoil Íosagáin and to thank them for the education, guidance, support and assistance they provided to the pupils of Scoil Íosagáin down through the years. They are missed by teachers and pupils alike.

The PTA were delighted to be able to continue their support of the school's Literacy Lift Off Programme both financially and by covering the 102 new guided reading books purchased. It is proving to be a very beneficial programme as it gives the children the opportunity to read lots of books at their own level of competency and to gradually lift the complexity of what they are able to read.

The 3rd to 6th class children were given a wonderful opportunity to participate in the Peace Proms organised by the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland in March last year. The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland is an internationally acclaimed and award winning orchestra which has performed all over the world. The event took place in the sports hall of the University of Limerick and the children sang and danced behind a live orchestra in front of a packed-to-capacity auditorium. It was a very special experience for the children and one that they are unlikely to ever forget. Our thanks goes to the teachers for giving this opportunity to the children and for all the hard work required to prepare the children for the event.

The PTA organised a coffee morning in Upperchurch hall following the Lenten ceremony for First Holy Communion which took place in March. The First Communion Morning Tea was such a success in 2016 that it was organised again this year and took place in Upperchurch hall following the First Holy Communion ceremony in May. It is a lovely opportunity for the First Communicants and their families to meet up and wish each other well in a relaxed environment before the busy day ahead.

Swimming lessons for 3rd to 6th class took place again this year and along with the undeniable benefits, the pupils all thoroughly enjoy this activity.

The annual sponsored walk is always a popular event with the children and this year the route was up and around Knockalough. Many parents also completed the walk and a little bit of rain did little to dampen the high spirits of the children!

You will have noticed the very colourful 'Buddy Benches' have been installed in the junior and senior playgrounds. The aim of the benches is to spread a message of inclusion and kindness. If a child sits on one of the benches it can be an invitation to one of their classmates to come play. There is a simple wish behind these seats, that they reduce loneliness and foster friendship in the playground.

The main agenda of the PTA committee is fund raising for the school through various fund raising events and 2016/2017 was no different in this regard. The Treasurer's Report will provide details of the funds raised and also how the funds were allocated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the parents and extended families of the pupils for the tremendous financial support that you have given and continue to give to Scoil Iosagain. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for all of their wonderful help and support at all events throughout the year.

Sharon Harrington

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As we've just heard 2016/2017 was another year of great activity for the school. The selection of extra-curricular activities available to the pupils of Scoil Íosagáin is very impressive. Our Chairperson has just referred to many of these activities, however, I would like to mention a few more.

Again this year pupils were involved in a number of hurling, football, camogie and soccer matches and blitzes. Our sincere thanks goes to the teachers and to Tom Kennedy for their hard work and commitment to coaching the children during the year.

Pupils of Scoil Íosagáin took part in a number of quizzes during the year, including the Credit Union quiz and the Knockavilla quiz. We would like to thank the teachers for the additional time and effort they put into preparing the children for these quizzes.

Scór na bPáistí was again very popular with the children last year. Pupils practised poems, songs and music in the hope of 'getting through' a preliminary round in the school in order to take part in the parish final in Drombane hall. The parish final was a very enjoyable night and it was great to see children overcoming their nerves to take to the stage.

The Chairperson already mentioned the swimming lessons which took place for the children from 3rd class upwards for 6 weeks last year. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that as a result of on-going fund-raising, the PTA is in a position to be able to subsidise the cost of the buses to bring the children to and from those swimming lessons.

Similarly in respect of the Peace Proms which took place in Limerick last March, the PTA subsidised the cost of the buses bringing the children to and from the event.

The school tours were a big hit this year with the older children going to Killaloe for a day of adventure and the younger classes going to the theatre and a playcentre in Limerick. Our thanks to all the teachers for planning and organising such successful trips.

A graduation Mass for 6th class pupils and their parents took place in the school for the first time in June this year. It was a lovely way of marking the end of primary school for the 6th class pupils and their parents.

The PTA committee wrote to a number of supermarkets in Thurles earlier this year asking for their permission to assist with bag-packing as a means of fund-raising for Scoil Íosagáin N.S. Dunnes Stores got back to us with dates in September 2017 which we immediately accepted. This turned out to be a very successful means of fund raising for the school and we would like to express our sincere thanks to all parents who gave up their spare time to assist with bag-packing over that weekend.

Once again our thanks to the teachers, staff, parents and all who support the school for their effort and dedication in making the school year a successful and happy one for all.

Kelley Harrington

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Dear Parents,

Fáilte romhaibh go léir and a warm welcome to you all to tonight's A.G.M. We are now well into our new school year 2017/2018. Together we will make every effort to ensure that your children are safe and happy at school. Their learning and educational development is our primary concern. You are your child's primary educator and we welcome and value your support and co-operation throughout the year. Together we can ensure that we are doing our best to meet your child's needs. A special welcome to parents of all new pupils. We have 16 new Junior Infants who have settled in very well in their first two months of "big school" and are full of enthusiasm in all they do. Two more pupils have enrolled in other classes bringing our total enrolment to 140 pupils this year.

Literacy Lift-Off/Guided Reading

Our literacy improvement programmes continue this year in all classes. These interventions give children lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually lift the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing. With the help of extra teachers from the Special Education Team and other adult volunteers alongside the class teacher, children are being taught in small groups, ensuring more individualised attention. Due to this, all children receive the benefits of good literacy practice and are exposed to a far greater range of reading books suited to their instructional level.

We thank our volunteers, Mary Harrington, Mary Ryan and Eleanor Kelly for giving their time to assist the teachers in implementing the programme to benefit our pupils. Sincere thanks to the PTA for funding additional books this year and for covering the books also.

Curriculum Changes

A new Primary Language Curriculum for English and Irish is currently being phased in from Junior Infants to 2nd Classes in all schools. The Oral Language Strand of the curriculum is being implemented this school year.

Homework Journal

Homework is an intrinsic part of school life and a consolidation of what has been done in class that day. We advise that a definite, uninterrupted time be set aside each night for homework. With no distractions, good progress can be made and homework can be completed more carefully. The Homework Journal gives parents a definite guideline of the work to be completed. We would urge parents to support the work of teachers in taking a few minutes to check homework and only sign the Journal when they are happy that their child has completed it satisfactorily. The school's homework policy, which has been distributed to new parents in the enrolment pack and is available on the school website, contains guidelines on what's expected regarding homework and how long your child should spend on homework. These guidelines were sent to parents on an information note at the beginning of this term also. Please contact us if you have any concerns regarding your child's homework.

School Discipline

School Discipline is always a topic which needs to be discussed openly between parents and teachers. It is in all our interests that a high standard of discipline be maintained in our school. We compliment our students for their excellent discipline overall. However with 140 pupils, needless to say there are breaches of discipline that must be dealt with by teachers. Some of these may appear minor to parents but our policy is to nip indiscretions in the bud to avoid

more serious trouble later. On occasions, it may be necessary to discuss a pupil's behaviour with parents. This is for the good of the particular pupil and his/her fellow students so that he/she may realise that parents and teachers are united in getting the message across that certain behaviour cannot be tolerated. The issue of bus safety and the expected behaviour of our pupils is also addressed with pupils regularly. Included in our school code of behaviour policy is the list of bus rules, playground rules, general school rules, sanctions for misbehaviour etc.... This policy was distributed to all parents in recent years, to new parents in the enrolment pack and is available on the school website. We would urge you to read through these rules with your child/children regularly as a reminder to them of expected behaviour. I would earnestly request that parents co-operate and support teachers in their efforts to ensure that good discipline prevails in our school for a happy and safe environment for all our pupils.

School Policies/Plans

Copies of all school policies/plans are available on request from the school office should parents wish to view them at any stage. The school website contains information on school policies also.

School Tracksuit/Uniform

Please ensure that your child wears the acceptable school uniform. I ask parents to ensure that their children wear the navy and blue uniform or the school tracksuit. Plain black tracksuit bottoms with a black/white t-shirt or school T-shirt are also permitted, no jerseys allowed or bottoms with visible logos/labels e.g.: Canterbury, Adidas etc. It is essential that the child's name is written on each garment so they can be identified easily. There is a lost and found area located in the porch of the old IT room where items lost & found will be displayed for parents to come in and search for missing clothes.

School Text Books/Book Rental Scheme:

Our School Book Account this year was in excess of €5,500. The Book Rental Scheme ensures that rental fees are as cost-effective as possible for parents, giving excellent value for money. To ensure the continued success of the scheme all books must be kept covered and cared for so that they can be used in future years, thereby making the book rental cheaper for all concerned. It is important that all books are returned to the school at the end of each year to be passed on to the next class.

Healthy Lunches

The school operates a 'healthy eating' policy with regard to lunches. The school rules state that fizzy drinks, crisps, chocolate bars, cereal bars, sweets or chewing gum are not permitted. Please ensure that your child has a healthy lunch in line with school policy.

Green Flag

The Green Schools programme promotes responsible behaviour among school children and the wider community towards the environment. Scoil Íosagáin successfully earned the fourth green flag for the school last year for the "Sustainable Transport and Travel" theme. We compliment the Green Schools Committee, their teacher who mentors them and all our pupils in their continued good work to ensure our school is a Green School.

School Celebrations

The First Holy Communion was an extremely successful and enjoyable school celebration last year. The pupils both past and present played their part to perfection in the school choir and in their overall preparation and participation. I would like to compliment you their parents,

their teachers who prepared them and the pupils themselves in making this occasion so very special.

Extra-Curricular

Our pupils have once again competed with distinction in many extra-curricular activities during the year:

- Cumann na mBunscoil Boys U/13 and U/11 hurling/football competitions.
- Cumann na mBunscoil Girls U/13 and U/11 Camogie/football competitions.
- Primary Game – 4 pupils were sent to trials for the Primary game in both Hurling and Ladies Football.
- Athletics Cross Country Championships in Thurles:
 - 3rd/4th Class Girls – Won Silver in Team event
 - 3rd/4th Class Boys – Won Gold in Team event
 - 5th/6th Class Girls – 5th in Team event
 - 5th/6th Class Boys – 7th in Team event
 - 5 Individual Medal winners in the top ten
- Thurles Library Writing Competition: 2 winners
- Credit Union Quiz: U11 & U13 Teams participated.
- Knockavilla Quiz – winning 1st in 3rd/4th Class category and 1st in 5th/6th Class category
- Internet Safety and Awareness project – 5th/6th Class won an Ipad for the school.
- G.A.A Quiz – Mid Final – 3rd & 6th place (participated in County Final)
- A special word of thanks to all who contributed to our fundraising for charities which included the following:
 - Readathon for MS Ireland → €1003
 - Copper Hunt & Easter Raffle (Children Helping Children Charity) €425
- Christmas Carol Service – A magical & spiritual celebration of the Christmas Story was enjoyed by all.
- School Tours-
 - Junior/Senior Infants and 1st Class travelled to Limerick to see a 'Pinnocchio' show and visit 'Kidstown' indoor play centre.
 - 2nd/3rd Classes travelled to 'Adventure World Camp' in UL Limerick
 - 4th/5th/6th Classes travelled to 'UL Sport Adventure Centre' in Killaloe
- County Schools Soccer Blitz – 2 teams participated
- St Brigid's Crosses
- Pancake Tuesday
- Winners of Clodiagh Rangers Schools Cup – Annual Competition vs Rossmore NS
- Sponsored Walk
- Skills Blitz – 2 teams of 3 in hurling & football.
- Scór na bPáistí
- Seachtain na Gaeilge: Outdoor Céilí and whole school Tráth na gcéist
- Swimming: 3rd – 6th Classes at Thurles Swimming Pool
- Halloween Hooley
- Garda Visit to promote general safety and Internet/Phone Safety also
- Clan Cluana Drama Group – Diarmuid agus Gráinne performed for all classes
- Green Flag – 4th Green Flag awarded to school for 'Sustainable Transport & Travel'
- Christmas & Summer School Bulletins

- Peace Proms - 3rd – 6th Class pupils performed in the University of Limerick, alongside professional singers and the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. It was a fantastic experience for our pupils to perform in such an amazing concert. Well done to all.

I would like to congratulate our pupils for their spirit, endeavours and sportsmanship in extra-curricular activities. I thank sincerely all those adults both inside and outside the school who prepared and coached them for various competitions and events.

We look forward with enthusiasm to a busy term ahead preparing for and participating in Lunchtime Leagues, quizzes, Art competitions, football competitions, the Halloween Hooley, the Readathon and our Christmas Concert.

P.T.A.

I would like to thank the committee members of the P.T.A for a job well done over the past year. They have been a very capable, co-operative, enthusiastic and hardworking group who contributed greatly to many of the above-mentioned events and projects. We thank the PTA for their input in developing school policies, for their assistance with school projects such as the Buddy Benches, all other activities and events, for their financial contributions to enable our pupils access to a broad range of varied activities and experiences and all that they do to benefit our school and pupils. The teachers and pupils of Scoil Íosagáin appreciate the work of this committee as it is most beneficial for the smooth running of the school. We look forward to working with the in-coming committee and we wish you well in the year ahead.

FÁS

A word of thanks to the local Fás team for the maintenance and general upkeep of the school grounds. This work is much appreciated.

Juvenile GAA club

The school is delighted to be involved with the local GAA club in making the school pitch available to them for training sessions and I thank them for their help in maintaining our school pitch.

It continues to be a privilege for me to be the Principal of such a vibrant and active School Community. We have extremely well-behaved and enthusiastic pupils a fact that is often commented on by substitute teachers and visitors to the school. They are a credit to themselves and their families. I compliment all our staff as their dedication, hard work, creativity and commitment is second to none. I wish to thank the Board of Management for their expertise, their genuine interest in the school and their complete support in managing and running the school over the course of their four year term.

Finally I wish to sincerely thank you, the parents of Scoil Íosagáin, for your support and goodwill throughout the year. Here's looking forward to continued good relations between school and home in the coming year.

Ní neart go cur le chéile

Le gach dea-ghuí

Alma Ní Chuinn, Príomhoide

Board of Management Report

The current Board of Management was appointed in November 2015 for a four year term until 2019. The eight members are as follows:

Chairperson	PJ Harrington (appointed by the Patron)
Patron's Nominee	Rev. Donal Cunningham (appointed by the Patron)
Principal	Alma Quinn
Parent Nominees	Richard Ryan, Martina Ryan
Teachers' Nominee	Michael Corcoran
Community Nominees	Anne Ita Treacy, Joan Carew

The following school improvements, maintenance works and management duties were carried out by the board over the last year:

- Dept. of Education Summer Works Scheme – Secured grant funding from DES for installation of new gas boiler and heating system for the school. The conversion from oil to gas heating was a directive from the Department of Education. Works completed this Summer.
- Deep cleaning of school carried out following Summer works
- Windows cleaned and floors polished
- Paint touch ups carried out in the school
- School entrance gate painted
- Repairs to school wall
- School front step repaired
- Staffroom furniture upgraded and storage units for classrooms purchased
- New shelving installed for storage of Guided Reading books and art supplies
- Classroom window handles replaced where necessary and glass door repaired
- Minor electrical maintenance carried out
- Paving blocks at front of school repaired
- Yard sprayed for weeds, front and back yards cleaned
- Recycling taken to Cashel Recycling Centre
- Health and Safety Risk Assessment undertaken
- Policy review in collaboration with staff and PTA as follows:
 - Child Protection Policy
 - Anti-bullying Policy
 - English, Maths, Science and History Curriculum Plans

- Implementation of new Procedure for Arrival & Reception of pupils in the morning as follows:
 - In line with best practice regarding Health and Safety, Child Protection and on the advice of our insurers and CPSMA –
The school will open its doors to receive pupils at 9.00am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Official supervision is provided by the staff within the school building from 9.00am onwards. Parents are requested not to drop pupils before 9.00am as they will not be supervised nor permitted into the school building. The school bell rings at 9.15am, no pupils should arrive later than 9.15am. Classes will commence each day at 9.20am. Classes will end each day at 2.00pm (Infants) and 3.00pm (All other classes)
The Board of Management cannot accept any responsibility for pupils who are on school premises outside of these specified times.
Parents support and co-operation is important and appreciated to ensure the health and safety of our pupils.

Planned Projects

- IT grant received for upgrade of IT equipment. It is planned to purchase a set of Ipads for use with group work in Maths, Literacy Lift-Off, Guided Reading or Station Teaching, replacement of Interactive Whiteboard in 5th/6th classroom and upgrade of wifi system in the school
- Front entrance of school to be painted
- Basketball posts and rings to be painted
- Painting maintenance within school building
- Refurbishment of toilet floors throughout school
- All classroom flooring to be replaced with Marmoleum

The Board of Management would like to compliment the Principal and Staff for their commitment and dedication to our school and pupils. The Board thanks also the PTA for their financial contribution towards the purchase of maths equipment and additional Guided Reading books to cover the shortfall in DES funding and for the two colourful Buddy Benches, a lovely initiative and addition to the school playground.

Sincere thanks to the PTA and all parents for their continued support and co-operation which is essential in ensuring the smooth day-to-day running and management of Scoil Íosagain for the benefit of all our pupils.

Yours sincerely

Board of Management