

Whitechurch National School

End of Year Newsletter 2021



6th Class Graduation

We were delighted to be able to celebrate the graduation of our 6th Class pupils with a special 'Drive In' ceremony on Tuesday. Although it was another unusual sort of graduation, it was lovely to be able to come together to celebrate our special and unique pupils and to mark this special milestone for them. The pupils shared their special memories of their time at the school, sang their class song and came together one last time as primary pupils before they embark on their next adventure to secondary school. Speeches were made by their class teacher Ms. Masterson, Ms. Richards and Kirsia Kenna (on behalf of the parents). Canon Mc Kinley also gave a special blessing. The ceremony ended with each pupil being presented with their graduation certificate and receiving a well-deserved round of applause from all of the proud staff, parents and family members in attendance.

Thank you to Ms. Masterson and all the staff who helped with the preparation and organisation of the graduation to make it such a special day for our pupils. Thank also to Sonia Champ for making a balloon arch, to Kirsia, Mary McCarthy and Damien Jackson for helping to ensure the cars all

fitted in with a good view of proceedings, and to Jonny Sommerville for taking photographs of the event.

Goodbye!

We wish all the graduating 6th Class pupils every success as they move on to Post Primary School. They are a talented and kind group of children and we will miss them next year. Congratulations and best wishes to: Cael Bradley Brady, Pearse Carey, Ben Chadwick, Chloe Crombie, David Cron, Jennifer Dooley, Thomas Finn, Lochlann Fitzpatrick, Jake Fulton, Seren Hurley, Izzy Jackson, Peter Kenna, Ruby Kirwan, Ava Mc Call, Alice Mc Carthy, Jessica Milmo-Penny, Hannah Moffett, Pia Mulholland, Emma O'Donnell, James O'Toole, Ethan Robertson, Hannah Robertson, Beatrice Stewart-Miller, Jasper Tuthill, Kody Williams, Tyler Williams and Rosalyn Waghorn. We look forward to hearing about all of the wonderful things that you will do over the next number of years. Please keep in touch and come back to visit us if you can!

As our 6th Class pupils leave, it is not only the children that we will be sad to see go as some families will be leaving our school also this year as

their last child will have finished primary school. We thank those families that are leaving us for their contribution to the life of the school while their children have attended Whitechurch N.S. We extend our very best wishes to the:

Bradley–Brady Family, Dooley Family, Jackson Family, Kenna Family, Mc Carthy Family, Milmo Penny Family, Mulholland Family, O'Donnell Family, Tuthill Family, Williams Family and the Waghorn Family.

We also wish Darragh Carolan Keegan, Jonathan Cosgrave, Sammie Mulligan, Hannah Snowdon, Tiago and Elisa Cunha well as they leave us to move to new schools next year.

Our School Garden

Despite Covid, our pupils still managed to develop their green fingers somewhat this year! Huge thank you to the wonderful Cherry Sleeman who helped to advise on the garden from a distance. She even grew cabbages, beans and peas from seed for us. She brought these to school when they were mature enough to be planted out into the beds. Mr. Kenny prepared the beds for us making sure we had lovely freshly dug soil to work with. This was a great help and saved the children a lot of time. A group of boys from 4th Class planted potatoes, cabbages, peas and beans in spring time. The Senior Infants had a lovely morning sowing radish seeds in April. The pupils in 6th Class planted spinach, beetroot, lettuces and peas. The vegetables have been watered frequently during the dry weather. Having a water butt close to the garden makes watering the plants very easy. There was a lovely crop of rhubarb in the garden. We have two lovely apples trees and we can look forward to picking both cooking and eating apples and raspberries when the school reopens in September. We can also look forward to far more activity in our fruit and vegetable garden next year. Thank you to Cherry Sleeman for her enthusiasm, encouragement and interest in a year when Covid 19 restrictions prevented her from visiting the school and working with the pupils in the way that we have become accustomed to. Below is a pictures of some of our 6th Class pupils enjoying a morning in the fruit and vegetable garden. Heather MacLachlan



6th Class Fun Evening

Instead of the usual overnight trip to Petersburg, 6th Class had a Fun Evening at the school. There was a bouncy castle obstacle course, slushie machine, pizzas, a movie, outdoor games, pinatas, marshmallows on a BBQ, candyfloss machine, popcorn machine, an ice cream van and lots of other treats! Thank you 6th Class Parent Rep, Kirsia Kenna for all her help organising the 6th Class Fun Evening. They really enjoyed themselves, and will remember this for a long time!

Thanks also to the parents who helped to decorate the school. And to the PTA and Hockey Committee for part funding this. Thank you to the following staff members who helped Ms. Masterson and Ms. Richards to supervise the event: Ms. Brown, Ms. Byrne, Ms. Horan, Ms. Deacon, Ms. Lalor, Ms. Wilson, Ms. MacLachlan, Ms. McCobb, and Mr. Megarity.

Senior Infants FUN DAY!

Fun Day was a great success. Senior Infants enjoyed painting activities, music and dancing in the classroom. Later on they had a chance to play a variety of games in the playground like skittles, croquet and quoits, use the space hoppers and lots more. A very special visitor came too and there was lots of magic and party games for the whole class!



Junior Infants' Fun Day!

We had a super fun day during Active Fortnight. In the morning, we went outside and played some really fun games. We played skittles, shooting target, croquet, hoop toss and hit the target.



We then played with the parachute. We played a game called 'Cat and Mouse'. One of us was the mouse. Our job was to run under the parachute and hide from the cat who was on top of the parachute. The cat had to crawl around and find the mouse. We were very good at hiding from the cat!



At break time, we had a picnic outside.



After break, a special visitor came to see us. Her name was 'Amy Fairy'. We played games with her and danced. She also did some really cool magic tricks with us. Amy Fairy brought along her friend- Rupert Rabbit- who was quite naughty. Every time Amy spoke he nibbled her!!





Amy gave us some balloons before we went home.



We had such a great FUN DAY!



Senior Infants enjoying Zumba during Active Week

Absence reasons

Parents, please enter any outstanding reasons on Aladdin Connect App so that we can complete our attendance reports for the DES.

New JI Induction Day

We had a very different sort of induction day for our incoming 25 Junior Infants on Wednesday 23rd June. Each family was invited in 4 small groups to meet with Ms. Richards and their new class teacher, Ms. Deacon. The new pupils got to meet their new teacher, see their classroom, their playground and the school. It was lovely to meet all of our new families and lots of excited new pupils!

A huge thank you to all of the parents in the group with siblings already in the school who have all kindly agreed to act as 'Buddy Parents' to the new parents. This role will be even more crucial in the current circumstances where we haven't been able to run our normal induction programme!

Active Fortnight

Our special Activity Fortnight was held this month and all pupils had a great time with skipping challenges, sports days, trips, Zumba workshops, Cricket, Teachers vs. Pupils day and lots more! Some of the classes have shared their pictures in this newsletter. Thank you to Mr. Megarity and Mr. McMahon for organising the special fortnight!

Senior Infants Sports Day

Senior Infants Sports Day was great fun and the sun shone for us! Everyone was ready to go in their team colours first thing on a Tuesday morning. We had a lots of races including running, egg and spoon, space hopper relay and an obstacle relay too. There was a javelin throwing competition too and it was very close! The winning team overall this year was the Blue Team. Medals and rosettes were presented to the teams by Ms. Richards and there may have been an extra treat too!





Senior Infants enjoying their Cricket session

Science Workshops

On the 1st of June, all the classes had a Science workshop and our class got to dissect a sheep's heart. A parent in the school, Eve Prendergast, brought in some hearts so we got separated into groups and got to learn about it and look into it and it was really cool. Then we were separated again in our groups and we got to go to our own heart in twos or threes and we were allowed cut it open and 'explore' it. It was so much fun and it felt so weird but it was amazing! Thank you to Eve!

Jessica Milmo-Penny (6th Class)



Moravian Cemetery Tour

On June 1st, Canon McKinley gave us a tour of the Moravian Cemetery. We saw a deer on the way in which was very exciting and then Canon McKinley told us the history of the cemetery and about the two kings who ruled Moravia, King Moravia and King Bohemia. After that we all looked around the graves and the oldest grave we found was from 1717! We were told that the men's graves were on one side and the women's graves were on the other side. There were also a group of baby's and toddler's graves that were close together because their bodies didn't take up much space. Over all I really enjoyed going, and thank you Canon McKinley!

Tyler Williams (6th Class)



Marlay Park Day

On the 9th of June, we walked up from the school to Marlay Park, which was REALLY fun. When we arrived we all went to the café. After we all got our treats from the café, we all sat on the benches eating. The next thing we did was to go around to the big field and we played rounders! It was great fun! One team got 9 home runs. The next thing we did was play capture the flag for a while. We also did the sprint that 6th class do every year for sports day. It was really tiring but exciting. Overall Marlay Park was really fun, thank you for bringing us Ms. Masterson, Ms. McCobb and Ms. Byrne!

Pia Mulholland (6th Class)

Sports Day by 6th Class

On Thursday, 10th June, we had Sports Day in the school with 5th Class. Everyone had a colour in their pods and we had to wear our team colours. There were lots of different races like sprints, beanbag relay, sack race, space hopper race and a few more. It was super fun and at the end, we got told where we placed. In the long distance girls' race, Hannah Robertson came 1st, Seren Hurley came 2nd and Pia Mulholland came 3rd. In the long distance boys' race, Jake Fulton came 1st, Tyler Williams came 2nd and Ben Chadwick came 3rd. Congratulations! The orange team came 6th, the red and purple teams came joint 5th, the blue team came 4th, the white team came 3rd, the yellows came 2nd, and finally the greens came first. Overall it was a super fun day and at the end everyone was tired. Thanks Mr. McMahon, Ms. Masterson, Ms. Dunleavy and Ms. Lennon!

Rosalyn Waghorn (6th Class)



PJ and Ice-cream Day

On the 4th of June we had Pyjama Day. Most people wore pyjamas and onesies to school. To our surprise, Ms. Richards, Hannah and David (Student Council Co-Presidents) said on the speakers that the Student Council had a surprise for the whole school, so later on our class was called out and it turns out we were getting ICE CREAM from an ice-cream van! Some people got slushies, too. Thanks to the Student Council for organising this!

Cael Bradley-Brady (6th Class)



2nd Class Sport's Day

During Active Fortnight we had our Sports Day. It was a bit different this year as it took place in school and we stayed in our class bubbles but it was still a lot of fun! First, we cheered for First Class for their Sports Day. They all did really well! Then it was our turn! We had lots of fun races- running, egg and spoon, sack, javelin and an obstacle course. Everyone put their best effort in and showed great sportsmanship despite the heat that afternoon! Well done to all of the teams!



2nd Class Fun Day

Last week a girl called Amy came to show us some magic. We really enjoyed her floppy magic wand and all of her jokes! We got to run around and burst bubbles and then we all took part in a Limbo game. At the end, we all got a balloon sword to bring home. Thanks to Amy for a great afternoon!



Teachers Vs. Pupils

As part of Active Fortnight, we held a challenge between the staff and the 6th Class pupils. All of the other classes got to watch and cheer on the competitors. The teachers won the basketball challenge but the pupils won the skipping challenge so it was very tight until the final space Hopper Challenge. However, the hoppers proved too tricky for the teachers and the 6th class pupils won by miles!! Well done everyone for taking part!



Sport's Day by 1st Class

Sports Day was really fun. We didn't go to St. Columba's College, we stayed in school. We did obstacle, sprint, hopper, egg and spoon, javelin and sack races. We were all good sports. We got medals and rosettes. We loved the jellies and water at the end. The Flamingos won! Second Class cheered us on and we cheered them on.

1st Class Fun Day

The entertainer was a Superhero! She blew bubbles. We popped them. It was so much fun. She did a magic show and pulled smelly socks out of her magic bag. She had a funny broken wand. We did a Superhero dance and played the limbo. We really enjoyed it. We got balloon swords at the end.

Updated School Calendar for next year

We have made a slight change to our school calendar for next year. The updated version is attached at the end of this newsletter. It is also available on our school website.

Extra-curricular activities

We are still waiting for updated guidance from the Des about these next term for onsite mixed class activities. However we know that Swimming will begin again and hockey will also definitely take place. Sign up for activities will be in September.

Staff News

We were very sad to say farewell to both Ms. Sarah Horan and Mr. Tóirse ÓRíordáin at the end of term. Both staff members have been with us in a temporary capacity this year and both have been absolutely outstanding in terms of their work and overall contribution to the life of the school.

We wish Ms. Natasha McCobb well as she has been appointed as temporary teacher for 2nd Class next year while Ms. Coffey is on Maternity Leave.

PTA Family Quiz Night

Thank you to Lindsay Delahunty and the pTA for organising a brilliant family quiz. Paul Delahunty was an excellent compere for the quiz and entertained us all with his witty remarks and super delivery of questions on Kahoot!

The prize winners were:

First- Coffey Family

Second – Waghorn Family

Third – Heard Family

Spot prizes went to the following:

Lily Rose Lalor, Prendergasts, Milmo-Penny, Clarke, Twomey, Quinn, Alice Lyster, Montagues, Jessups, Masseys, and the Steele family. Well done everyone!

Thank you!

We would not have enough room in this newsletter to thank everyone sufficiently for all of their help this year in so many ways. So please know that whatever role you played in helping out at our school this year, it was very much appreciated! Our school community is made all the stronger for the active role our parents play in the life of the school. Thank you for giving your time to help out at the school this year:

PTA Hockey Committee:

Neal Megarity, Gail Garry, Ruth Kennedy, Lisa Carey, Sandra Stewart and Kirsia Kenna.

Board of Management:

Canon Horace Mc Kinley, Rowan Hillis, Geoff Sparling, Hugh St. Leger, Pat Marchant, Gerry Pullman, Terri Lalor, Sarah Richards.

Traffic Action Group:

Judy Brown, Andrea Deacon, Keith Quinn, David Mc Guinness, Mel Steele, Naomi Mulligan, Gerry Pullman & Geoff Conn

PTA Class Parent Representatives (updated)

Sarah Courtenay (JI), Emma Richmond (SI), Sonia Champ (1st Class), Cathy Heaney (2nd Class), Lisa Carey (3rd Class), Summer Killingsworth (4th Class), Holly Nolan (5th Class), Kirsia Kenna (6th Class).

School Garden: Cherry Sleeman. (The BOM also gave Cherry a present to thank her for all of her work over the year).

PTA Committee: Lindsay Delahunty, Sarah Jenner, Rowan Hillis, Etain Magennis, Fiona Masterson, Sarah Courtenay, Sonia Champ, Ciarán Kirwan, Geoff Sparling, Máiréad Dorney-White, Rania Mehanna, Kirsia Kenna and Rachel O'Donoghue.

Final Words....

What a very unusual and challenging year this has been! Everyone rose once again to the unprecedented challenge that Covid posed and did their very best to make sure our pupils were safe, learning and had fun! The words bubbles and pods took on a new meaning for us and we got used to all of the extra sanitising and hand washing throughout the day. Thank you to our parents and the pupils who engaged with us while doing schoolwork from home in Term 2. We know how difficult it was for so many of you who were juggling working from home, illness, looking after relatives and trying to do schoolwork with children. Your support and efforts to carry on really helped to make things run as smoothly as it could.

Parental support with our Covid prevention measures was very much appreciated throughout the year- we know that all of the extra times pupils

were at home would have caused some childcare issues especially. Our pupils too were just so wonderful this year and got on with things in a cheerful and positive way- their resilience and adaptability is an inspiration for us all!

The staff have all worked extremely hard in very challenging circumstances and I am so proud to be working with such a great team who go out of their way for each other and the pupils in our school.

The DES have informed us that when we come back in the new school year, we will be working from the same Covid prevention plan as this year however, we would be hopeful that things may ease up somewhat later in the year. We really do

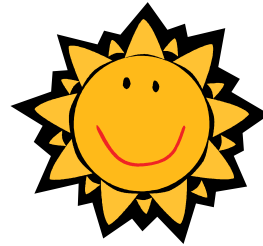
look forward to having parents back in the building at some point in the future!

Parents, pupils and staff are now all looking forward to a much needed summer break and I hope that everyone has the opportunity to refresh and recharge before the next term.

Thank you once again for your support during the school year. It has been so very much appreciated.

Have a healthy and happy Summer break everyone!

Sarah Richards
Principal



Whitechurch National School
Calendar for 2021-2022

Term 1 Thursday August 26th – Wednesday 22nd December 2021

August	26 th	School opens at 8.10 a.m.
October	22 nd	Half-term - school closes at 2.00 p.m.
November	1 st	School re-opens at 8.10 a.m.
December	22 nd	School closes for Christmas Holidays at 11.30 a.m.

Term 2 Thursday 6th January – Friday 8th April 2022

January	6 th	School re-opens at 8.10 a.m.
February	18 th	Half-term. School closes at 2.00 p.m.
February	28 th	School re-opens at 8.10 a.m.
March	17 th	School closed for St. Patrick's Day
April	8 th	School closes for Easter Holidays at 11.30 a.m.

Term 3 Monday 25th April- Thursday 23rd June 2022

April	25 th	School re-opens at 8.10 a.m.
May	2 nd	School closed for May Bank Holiday
June	6 th	School closed for June Bank Holiday
June	23 rd	School closes for Summer Holidays at 11.30 a.m.

Please note that in the event of school closures, resulting from prolonged adverse weather conditions, there may have to be some flexibility in relation to school holidays. Staff, parents and guardians will be kept informed of this as the year progresses.