

KNOCKANEAN N.S

Newsletter

June 2019

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

This is the final newsletter of the 2018/2019 school year and the pupils look back at some of the events / highlights as they saw them since Easter.

Blue Flag and Coastal Awards:

For the intel mini scientist we did a project on blue flag beaches, we were in contact with the head of the blue flag in Dublin, Ian Diamond and the head of blue flag internationally, Sophie Bachet Granados, who were both very kind and helpful. On 14th of May we received an email from Ian who invited us to the Blue Flag and Green Coastal Awards on in the Atlantic Suite in the Armada Hotel.

When we arrived we were kindly greeted by Claire McGrath who introduced us to Ian, Sophie and Aine who set our visit up. We took plenty of photos with them, afterwards we were given orange juice and cookies (which were lovely) . There were a lot of speeches which were very interesting. Then the 88 awards were given out, 9 of which were given to Clare :)

As we sat down for lunch we were called out to watch the flag being raised, then the photographer from the newspaper took lots of photos of us running on the beach. Soon after all the photos were taken Virgin 1 wanted to get a clip of us running with a blue flag. We watched them interviewing Ian and Sophie. We really enjoyed the day and are so grateful for such a wonderful day. And a big thanks to Ian, Sophie and Aine!

By Grace Herbert, Lily Hegarty, Grace Prendeville and Ella Farrell

Write A Book:

Congratulations to Aoife Horan, Sarah Blake and Sarah O'Dwyer who were winners in the Clare Education Centre Write a Book Competition. They received their prizes at an awards night in the Auburn Lodge on May 7th .



J.E.P:

On the 16th of May sixth class went to the West County Hotel to show of their Jessies project which was The Cinema Spectacular. On Friday the 17th we held the event for all the classes. The juniors and seniors watched Alvin and The Chipmunks Road Chip, after that 1st 2nd & 3rd watched The Secret Life of Pets followed by Daddy Daycare for 4th , 5th & 6th . Afterwards everybody got popcorn, chocolate bars and a miwadi. Each ticket cost €5 and we made €900 on the project. Some of this money will be given to charity and we haven't decided what we'll do with the rest yet.

By James Shalloo Murphy and Charlie Hannan

**Croagh Patrick:**

On Wed June 12th 6th class embarked on their annual climb of Croagh Patrick. We left Ennis at 6.30 and when we got to Croagh Patrick it was overcast. We were split up into groups of 6 and we all made our way up the mountain at our own pace. It was so windy on the way up and particularly at the top!! We had to take shelter at the side of the church. The start coming down was really tricky and we had to be very careful!. As we were coming down the weather improved , with blue skies and some warm weather. When we got down we were treated to food from Campbells pub. We had a really great day!

By Ailis Ni Choileáin and Finnian Cosgrove

Junior Park Rangers:

On Wednesday the 12th of June 5th class visited Lees Road for our Junior Ranger Programme which we have been doing all year. When we arrived we were met by David and Elaine, our local rangers and their helper, Emma. Next we were split into 2 groups. David took group 1, Elaine and Emma took group 2. We placed a sheet under a tree and shook the tree so bugs fell out of it. We then used puter jars to suck the bugs up and magnifying glasses to closely inspect them. We played various games associated with nature. They were very good fun. Afterwards we came back together and Mr Forde had prepared a scavenger hunt for us. We then ran a mile around the track!!!

By Sophie Leahy, Grace Herbert and Lily Hegarty

Science Blast:

On Thursday 23rd of May, all of 5th class went to Mary Immaculate College to present our project 'How to win an All- Ireland Hurling final' for the ESB Science Blast.

For a few months, our class has been preparing for this project. We gathered and analysed data as we watched the last four All – Ireland finals. We displayed it all on a poster divided into six sections, Data, Our Class Predictions, Prediction Results, Other Findings and Helmet Findings. We also had a quiz, a solo challenge and a reaction game on Microbits.

When we arrived at Mary Immaculate College, we were given a stand where we displayed all of our posters. We split into groups and went to see different shows including Marty Jopsin's Dangerous Equations and Gastronomists where they made teachers eat gross things. We got to see lots of other great projects by other schools such as 'Rollercoasters and why we don't fall off them' and 'Why do things fall down and not up'. Our stand was very popular and the judges seemed to like our projects. At the end of the day we got a plaque to show that we took part in the ESB Science Blast. We really enjoyed ourselves and had a great time.

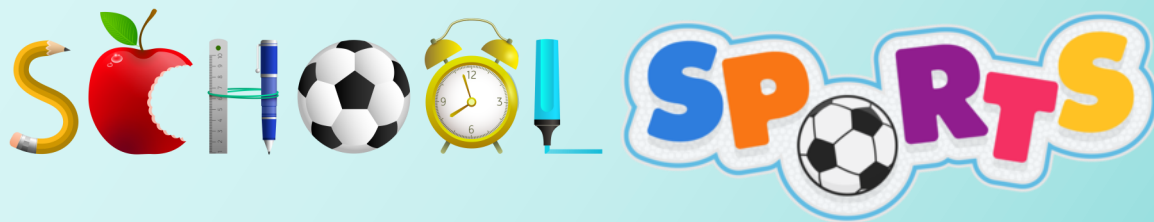
Ciara O Sullivan and Jude Collins



GAA 5 Star Centre

The school was recently presented with the G.A.A 5 Star Flag by Peter Casey, Games Development Administrator, Clare GAA. The GAA 5 Star initiative aims to support and recognise Primary Schools that provide pupils with 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous Gaelic Games activity per week in a manner that ensures the children will experience fun, friendship and ultimately improve their fitness. Recognition as a "GAA 5 Star Centre" is awarded to Primary Schools that undertake to deliver a programme of Gaelic Games activity that is age-appropriate and meets the developmental needs of children within the school.





Horseriding: On the 11th of October a number of children from Knockanean competed in the Interschools Showjumping competition held in Clare Equestrian Centre. The children jumped in both team events and individual events. It was a great day out with lots of rosettes. Thanks very much to the school for sponsoring the team events. Thanks also to the parents who sponsored purple saddle pads for the event and the Parents Council who sponsored the embroidering of the school crest on the saddle pads. We look forward to next year's event already. The following represented the school- Lauren Quinn , Enies Sheehan , Grace Moloney , Amy Butler , Sarah O' Dwyer , Maeve Barry , Ava Hurley , Isabelle Mangan , Andrea , Michael and Saoirse Barry .

On April 13th Knockanean were asked to join Toonagh NS to field a team for the Interschools competition in Limerick . Andrea Barry , Lauren Quinn and Sarah O Dwyer went to Clonshire and came 2nd in the team event . A great day was had by all..

Infants and 1st class blitz: On 21st of May senior infants and 1st class went to a hurling/football and camogie blitz in Gurteen. Also there was Doora and Barefield. Everybody were split into teams which had pupils from the three different schools in it. Sixth class pupils from each of the schools came to referee the matches. It was a great day out for all and everybody got a medal going home

By James Shalloo Murphy and Charlie Hannan

Swimming gala: On Mon June 10th third to sixth class took part in the inter school swimming gala in Ennis pool. 3rd class boys finished in 3rd place, followed by the girls who finished 4th . Then it was time for the 4th class and their girls finished 1st. 5th class girls didn't feature in the medals. Last up were 6th class and our boys came 1st!

By Charlie Hannon and Lauren Mc Mahon

SCHOOL SPORTS

Sports Day: On Tue June 11th we had our sports day. All the pupils participated. We had events such as sprints, novelty races, long races, three legged races, egg and spoon race, wheel barrow races, and bunny hop races for the juniors. At the end we had a find the shoe race and a slow bicycle race. Overall it was a great day.

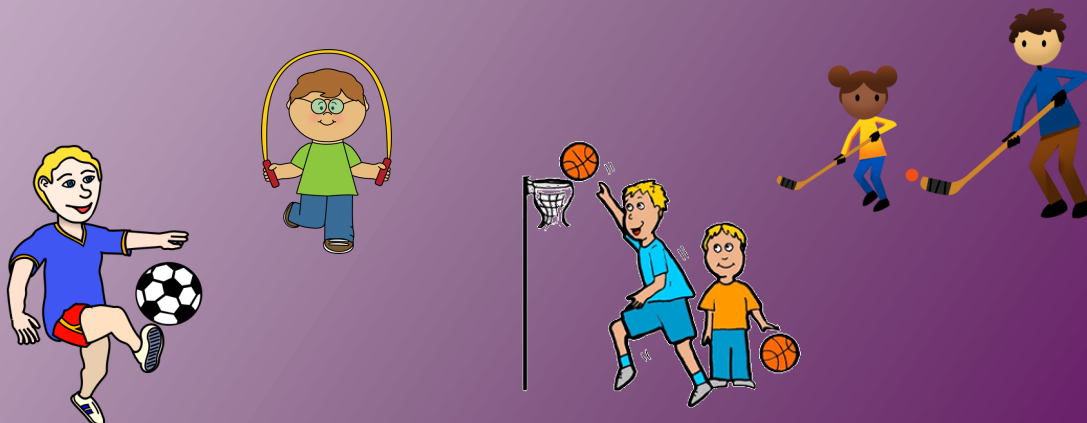
By Lauren Mc Mahon, Finnian Cosgrove,

Yoga: We had three days of Yoga with Antoinette Butler in the month of June. Every class had their own slots which was lots of fun. We all had our own yoga mat and we learned lots of stretches, such as Cobra, Down Dog, Child's pose, Warrior and many more. We found it relaxing and more difficult than we thought. Some people fell asleep during it!

Charlie Hannan, Ailish Ni Choileáin

Wheelchair hurling: Senior infants went to Gurteen to take part in wheelchair athletics. We all got indoor hurleys and we went into the hall. We took turns sitting in the wheel chairs. Then we practiced how to use the wheelchair. It was hard to move the wheelchair and even harder to turn it. Then when we had that done we had to take a hurley and try and hit the ball. It was hard to move the wheel chair and hold the hurley. We also took penalties sitting in the wheelchair and striking the ball. We had a really good day.

By Mark Reynolds and Sarah Mockler



Inis Oirr:

On Wed June 19th 6th class went to Inis Oirr for two nights. When we arrived we went to the hostel and got settled in. Then we were allowed to explore the island. That night we went to a ceile where we danced with people from the Irish College. It was really wet night so after the ceile we went to bed. We had an early start the next morning. We got up at 6.30 because we didn't have our phones and we didn't realise it was that early. We had a lazy breakfast, went for a walk and then went swimming. We also went swimming later that day. The whole class also went to the playground. That night we went for a walk and had a bonfire and hot chocolate!! On the Fri we went swimming and explored the island some more. We also got a ride on the Wanderly Wagon around the island and food at Tigh Ruairís. It was then time to go back to the hostel and head for the ferry. It was an unforgettable experience!!



School Tours



Junior Infant Tour:

On Wed June 19th the junior infants went on a school tour to the Burren Nature Sanctuary. We went on a bus and when we got there we met the leaders who showed us into the lunch room where we ate lunch. Then Edels group played in the inside play area and Mary's group played outside. We played with sand and on the swings. We then went to feed the animals such as goats, rabbits, guinea pigs and one pig. Then we went on a nature trail and we met the carpenter who makes the furniture and the Tooth Fairy Elf. Then we had to run around until we found the fairy fort. Then we went back and the Tooth Fairy Elf showed us purple flowers and she made us be busy bees on the way back. Afterwards we went to the playground and then we went home.

By Sam Smyth and Mia Hedigan

Senior Infants:

We went to Moher Hill farm on our school tour. When we got there we had lunch. After lunch we fed the animals such as sheep, goats, pigs, llamas, peacocks, Shetland ponies, ostriches and deer. We then we went back and had something to eat. Afterwards we went to the play area. Here we played on the bouncy castle and the ball pit. Then we went to the sandpit. After that we went Go Karting. We also got to hold a bunny and an ostrich egg. We fed the goats some milk. We had a really good day.

By Lily Mc Mahon, Amy Mannion and James Cosgrove



School Tours



1st class tour :

On May 29th we went on our tour. We went to Galway aquarium. When we walked in the door we saw loads of tanks. In one tank there was fish and every 30 seconds the water splashed up like a waterfall. There was another tank and it had a submarine you could go into to see the fish. Another tank had a shipwreck in it and it had baby sharks in it!! We also got to hold loads of fish like crabs , starfish and lots more. We also got to touch some fish, put our hands into the tank and the fish would kiss you fingers. Some other fish would try and eat fish out of our hands! We also did experiments and made some things explode. We mixed salt water and normal water to see what would happen and it looked like the sea. After the Aquarium we were going to go to Coole Park but it was too wet so instead we stopped at a shop and got ice creams.

By Jessica Hassett and Siara Moore

2nd class tour:

On May 30th we went to the Ailwee caves and the Birds of Prey centre on our school tour. We left the school at 9.00. When we got to the Ailwee caves we had our lunch and waited for our turn to go into the caves. Once inside we saw waterfalls , a bears skull and some bones from bears. We saw stalagmites and stalactites. We also saw straws that are really delicate and hang from the roof of the cave. We saw the “bunch of carrots” which was a very unusual stalactite. We also saw a pillar where the stalagmites and stalactites join. We then went to the Birds of Prey centre where we saw a snowy barn owl called Jess. Before the show we looked around and saw all the birds and then we watched the show on birds of prey. Our guide told us some facts and afterwards he asked us questions . Those that got it correct got to hold the birds. We then had our lunch and came back to school.

By Orla Blake and Eilbhe O Gara.

School Tours



3rd class tour:

On June 17th we went to Mullaghmore and The Planet. We went to Mullaghmore first and had our lunch when we got there. After our lunch we started climbing to the top. The surface we were walking on was rocky and dusty. We had a guide called Tony. As we were walking Tony told us about the rocks, about fossils and badger claw marks. He told us about different flowers like the bloody crane's bill, The bird's foot trefoil and the spring gentian. We climbed continuously to the top of the hill. When we got there, Tony told us about how the cows come here in the winter. Then we began the long trek back to the bottom. When we [finally] got to the bottom, we went back to the bus and set off for The Planet. When we got there, we all got out of the bus. First, we did Quasar, then we went to Tumble Towers and third we did bowling. We had a great day.

By Meadhbh Mockler and Connla O'Halloran.

4th class tour:

On May 28th we went on our tour to Lahinch. First of all we did surfing in Ben's surf school. We all got wetsuits and went to the beach. We practiced on the boards on the beach before we went into the water. On the water we lay on our boards for the start and we then got out and practiced standing up. We then went back up and tried standing up on the boards. It was really difficult!! After surfing we went inside, got out of the wetsuits, had a snack and were split into 2 groups. One group did archery and one did rock climbing. Both were good crack! Then the groups switched around. We went to the shop on the way home. We had a really good day!

By Osgar O'Gara and Kate Mc Mahon



School Tours



4th class -Coole Park:

On Mon June 17th we went to Coole Park. When we got there we walked into the visitors centre. We were split into two groups. One group went off walking and the other group stayed inside. The group inside were shown a video on animals that could be found in Coole Park. The group outside went on a nature walk. We looked at different plants and trees. Afterwards our guide played a number of games with us. In one game we had to guess what kind of bird it was based on its sound. In another game we had to guess plants by their smell. We then went back to the walled garden and lunch before we left for home.
By Osgar O'Gara and Kate Mc Mahon

4th class -Ardnacrusha:

On June 24th we went to Ardnacrusha. When we arrived we got goggles, hard hats and high viz jackets. We walked outside and looked at the facts and the history of the place. We also saw a video of how 33 people died while building the power plant. We also went into an art room where there were paintings on display showing the building of Ardnacrusha. We went upstairs and saw the turbines. We went into another room and watched a video how the power station works and nothing had broken since it was built!! We also saw lots of artifacts. There were also loads of buttons that were never changed and they still all work.

By Orla Mulligan and James Mc Mahon

5th class tour:

On June 18th we went to UL activity centre in Killaloe. When we arrived there we were greeted by a man named Ross. They gave us a quick introduction about the rules and the behaviour that was expected from us. We then received our wetsuits, helmets and lifejackets. Next we split into 4 groups, 2 boy groups and 2 girls groups. Our first activity was kayaking with Ross which was some craic! Next we went on a raft with Joe, we got to do flips and cannonballs off the raft which was great fun! Our third activity was wind sailing with Noah and we all

School Tours



5th class tour continued:

we all played our part in helping the boat get to deep waters safely so we could jump off. Our final water activity was canoeing with Eabha and that was some fun!! Once we got showered and changed we started our land activities. Our first activity was the high ropes from where we could see the whole of Clare . This was really a game of trust!! Next we did team work games and finally we did archery where we learned how to use a bow and an arrow! Mr Mullen & Mr Forde also took part in this and they were average !!...probably could need more practice!!

By Sophie Leahy, Grace Herbert and Lily Hegarty

Can I take this opportunity to thank our school community- parents, pupils, Board of Management, Parents Association, teachers and staff, Fr. Jerry and Canon O'Carroll, for all their hard work, dedication, commitment and help, in what has been a very busy year. We wish 6th class all the best as they leave us and move on to secondary school and we thank them for their enormous contribution to the school over the last eight years. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on August 28th

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Jim Curran'.

Jim Curran