

- **Mrs Foley ag éirí as a Post:** As I had already indicated in the last Newsletter, Mrs Foley (special education teacher) is retiring tomorrow after 18 years in Castlelyons NS. Mrs Foley was appointed in October 2002 and served as class teacher here for many years before spending the last number of years as one of our special education teachers.
After qualifying from Carysfort College, she started her teaching career in Conna NS, followed by a number of years in Araglen NS and then Gaelscoil de Híde, Fermoy, before joining our staff here in Castlelyons in 2002.
Mrs Foley was an excellent teacher and educator and had a particular flair for the teaching of English and in the area of special education. Above all, one of her outstanding qualities is her compassion and kindness which she always showed to the children in her care. She was a fantastic colleague who will be greatly missed in Castlelyons NS.
I wish, on behalf of the entire school community, to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mrs Foley for her contribution to the development and success of the school down through the years and to wish her good health and happiness in her retirement. Gabhaimis buíochas ó chroí leat Margaret agus guímis saol fada agus gach rath agus sonas ort sna blianta atá romhainn. (Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, we intend to celebrate Mrs Foley's (and Mrs O'Regan's) retirement in a more public fashion at a later stage.

- **Fáilte Arís:** We extend a 'Céad Míle Fáilte' again to Ms Phil Mc Grath (SNA) who replaced Mrs Angela O'Regan recently and to Miss Róisín Mc Laughlin who will take up her teaching position here on Monday, replacing Mrs Foley as special education teacher.

- **20 Lá as Láthair / Poncúlacht:** This year in school, our priority is everyone's health and well-being. While it is accepted that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress, we acknowledge that this year is different and we must make exceptions. We thank you all for erring on the side of caution by keeping your child at home when feeling unwell, getting GP advice when the symptoms are of the Covid-19 category and observing all the guidelines around isolation etc. This means that overall school attendance figures will be lower this year in comparison to previous years. However, if we manage to keep the school open and keep each other

safe, we are doing the right thing. Our attendance strategy initiative will have to be put on pause but please continue to adhere to **punctuality**.

Going forward, we would appreciate if you would please let us know **details of all your child's absences, preferably through the Aladdin App or by email (castlelyonsns@gmail.com)**.

The school is obliged by law to inform Tusla (The Child & Family Agency) when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 school days in one school year. Obviously, the whole idea is to miss as little school time as possible. As the school has to fill in the *category* of absence when informing Tusla, it is essential you also give the *reason* for absence when informing the school.

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard and for following the protocols.

Please note, if absences are Covid-19 related, this will also be indicated to Tusla.

- **Tuáillí Láimhe**: We remind parents to ensure your child has a face cloth / small hand towel in a plastic bag coming to school each day along with some tissues in another bag. Please ensure that the towel is changed for a clean one daily.
Thanking you for your cooperation in this regard.

- **An Chéad Chomaoineach**: Comhghairdeas to the children in Rang 3 on receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the First Time in St. Nicholas' Church on Saturday 19th September. A special word of thanks to Fr Gerard Coleman PP, their current teacher Ms O'Connor and their teacher from last year Miss Forde for the preparation you all put in to making the ceremony so beautiful and so special.
Also, sincere thanks to Mrs O'Regan who came out of retirement to play the organ, our three singers from Rang 6, Emma Counihan, Lucy Shimmin & Caoimhe Gray Walsh, members of our Parents' Association who provided refreshments after the ceremony, Carmel in the office and John McCarthy, our caretaker for the work you all did in preparation for the occasion.
Comhghairdeas a pháistí agus go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

- **CLCG Chaisleáin Uí Liatháin**: Congratulations to Castlelyons Camogie team in their success last Saturday, overcoming Inniscarra in the County Final and best of luck to the hurlers this Saturday in their County Final against Blarney.
Comhghairdeas a chailíní agus gach ádh a bhuachaillí!

Parents 'Association News

As we all know 2020 has been a challenging year for us all both personally & professionally. The Academic Year 2020/2021 will also have significant challenges, one of

which for us as a Committee will be fundraising for the year ahead. We are limited in the amount of interaction we can have with the Students and School & are following the guidelines as set out by the Government so we would like to outline our plan for the year ahead so as that you & your children know what is happening and you can lend your support as best you can.

Halloween - Unfortunately our Annual School Disco cannot go ahead, in its place we will have a "Sponsored Spooky Stroll" on Oct 23rd during school hours, each child can dress up in their costume & will receive a sponsor card the week previous. All proceeds will go directly to the Special Needs Outdoor Play Area. All participants will receive some Halloween Goodies after their walk from the PA and we will run the art competition as normal (this will be confined to Castlelyons NS only this year).

Christmas - This year we will have two fundraisers, the design/colour your own Christmas Card & the Christmas Raffle.

Card packs will issue earlier than usual to allow sufficient time for handling etc
The Christmas Raffle on the last day of school before the break will also change format to allow for social distancing but will go ahead. It will be particularly difficult for Committee members to go door to door looking for prizes this year so if you or a business you are involved with are in a position to give a prize, sponsor a service, provide a donation it will be happily received by Andrea Quirke, Clódagh Clegg or Colette Hosford & feel free to make contact as early as you like & it will be held safely until December.

Clothing Collection - we hope to have a one day collection in February or March with a date to be issued after Christmas.

Another fundraiser - we may hold one other small fundraiser at the latter end of the school year.

As you can see from the list above we have lost some significant fundraising sources, such as the Halloween Party, The School Quiz, The Bake Sale and Pot of Gold, however we did not want to replace all of the above as we appreciate everyone's circumstance has changed this year. If you could please support the ones we have outlined as best you can & hopefully some semblance of normality will return in 2021/22 for us all.

Andrea, Colette, Clódagh, Jim, Michelle & Lisa

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Nelius de Róiste (Príomhoide)