**Principal’s Report to Parents**

**Following the Board of Management Meeting held on May 11th, 2023.**

**Primary Curriculum Framework**

The Department of Education published the new Primary Curriculum Framework on March 9th, 2023. The teaching staff had a very successful training day on Monday, May 8th. The focus was on the vision for the new Curriculum, the principles underpinning the framework, the key competencies that children will develop, the reorganisation of curriculum subjects, and the weekly and monthly time allocated to each curriculum area. The teachers also spent time on thematic teaching and integration.

The staff plans to engage with the new Curriculum Framework in the 2023/2024 school year. This will involve a more flexible approach to teaching and a focus on thematic and integrated teaching. This means that pupils will, for example, spend a block of time on a particular topic or theme while focused on learning outcomes relating to Literacy, STEM, SEE, Arts Education and/or Wellbeing. Teacher planning will embrace the curriculum subjects and suggested time allocations outlined in the Primary Curriculum Framework.

The essence of the PDST Webinar on Disciplinary Literacy was encapsulated in the workshop sessions relating to the Primary Language Curriculum.

**Free School Book Scheme**

The FSSU Guidelines relating to the Free Primary Schoolbooks Grant and Administration Support Grant were issued on May 11th, 2023. The school will organise the required schoolbooks, workbooks, and copies for all pupils for the 2023/2024 school year. **Parents will not have to pay anything for schoolbooks, workbooks, copies, or hardback copies.** These will all be in the child’s classroom ready for their return at the end of August 2023.

Parents will need to buy pens, pencils, rulers, colours (e.g., twistables, markers or colouring pencils), a pritt stick, a rubber, a pencil parer etc. Fifth and sixth-class pupils will need a non-scientific [calculator](https://www.easonschoolbooks.com/search/go?w=sharp%20calculator%20el240) and a [mathematical set](https://www.easonschoolbooks.com/product/index/Helix-Oxford-Maths-Set).

The Board of Management has agreed that **all Parents will be required to pay €50 to the school for photocopying, art and crafts, texts and Aladdin Connect.**

**Trocaire Jumble Sale**

Huge congratulations to the fifth-class pupils who organised a very effective jumble sale on March 30th, 2023, and raised an amazing €2,500 for Trocaire. The children were absolutely super and had a myriad of stalls and games set up for all the classes to enjoy. They had a fabulous bake sale and raffle also. All the classes visited the Jumble Sale and greatly enjoyed the games and the goodies on offer. Thank you to all our fifth-class pupils and to their teachers, Ms. Phelan and Mr. Walshe for the tremendous effort and organisation they put in to ensure the Jumble sale was a great success.

**Building Update**

The Principal and Deputy Principal had a meeting with the Architect and the Builders to discuss the final snag list and to complete the final repairs of the new building. We are delighted to note that all repairs and remaining work will be completed by May 19th.

**Report on Middle Leadership Project to the Centre for School Leadership (CSL) Forum**

Over the past year, the school leadership team has been working on a project for the Centre for School Leadership. The leadership team consists of Máiréad Hennessy (Principal), Fionnuala Larkin (Deputy Principal), Martina Gibbons (Assistant Principal 1), Joan Murtagh (Assistant Principal 2/AP2), Marie Fitzpatrick (AP2), Michelle Hannafin (AP2) and Clare Owens (AP2). Our project focused on having effective meetings and team collaboration. The Principal presented a report on our school experience of the leadership project to the CSL Forum in the Gresham Hotel on Wednesday, March 29th.

**NCCA Focus Group on SPHE and PE.**

Three members of the NCCA and a facilitator from Hub na nÓg worked with a focus group of 14 pupils to elicit pupil voice in relation to SPHE and PE on Wednesday, April 9th and 25th. The pupils were absolutely brilliant at sharing their ideas and opinions. A report will issue to the school on completion of the pilot. The result of the pilot will inform the new Wellbeing Curriculum in the areas of SPHE and PE.

**Mary Ryan’s Retirement**

The Staff of SNI, Mary’s family and invited guests, enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Mary’s twenty-seven years of service as a cleaner at SNI on April 25th. Mary was presented with a voucher on behalf of the BOM, a voucher and hamper on behalf of the PA, a watch, and a piece of jewellery on behalf of the staff, and a cake created by Natalia Bielinski. Irish Dancers from SNI organised a fabulous ‘Riverdance’ style of dance in Mary’s honour. The Board of Management wish Mary health and happiness in her retirement.

**Sixth Class Graduation**

Sixth class, their teachers, SNAs, Fr. Ger and Sr. Eileen have their Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, June 22nd at 11.15. Each pupil will be presented with a graduation certificate, their class hoodie, and their yearbook.

**Recent Activities and Achievements in SNI**

1. **EU Quiz Success:** Teacher Ciaran Walshe brought the senior quiz team to Woodenbridge in Arklow for the European Union Quiz. The Quiz was organised by Wicklow County Library and 14 teams from around the County took part. The team were delighted to come in third place and each received a €50 one-for-all voucher.
2. **Balto Knights Chess team:** Travelled to Naas on 15th March and took part in a chess tournament. Thank you to Mr. Tom Hannafin for all the work he is doing in teaching chess in the school.
3. **Badminton:** Maeve Phelan brought a team of boys and a team of girls to Baldoyle to take part in the Leinster school’s badminton competition. The girls’ team continued to the final on Wed 1st March. They came third which was a great achievement in an All-Ireland Event
4. **Concern Debating:** The school debating team got to the final of the Shield Debate and attended Kildare Education Centre with a group of twenty-five supporters.
5. **Groovy Hands Drumming Workshop:** Dave Morrisey’s Groovy Hands Drumming was greatly enjoyed by all classes over three Fridays in February/March.
6. **Peace Proms:** The school choir attended the Peace Proms at the RDS in February 2020. They sang brilliantly on the day and the RDS was packed to capacity. Thanks to Clare Owens, Síle Carr, and Martina Gibbons for organising the Choir.
7. **Dave’s Jungle** was also enjoyed by all classes over a number of visits.
8. **Pat Hunt Heritage Expert:** discussed nature in the Hedgerows and visited the Tearman Gardens with first and fifth classes.
9. **Food Dudes:** was organised the week of February 27th and all the children got to taste lots of different fruits and vegetables for their breaks.
10. **ILSA Spring Conference “Passport to Success** – Aligning Teaching and Learning” was attended by Fionnuala Larkin, Mairead Hennessy and Joan Murtagh in the Clayton Airport Hotel on Friday, March 24th, 2023.

**‘Taking My Place in the Tent’**

The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin is organising a celebration in Carlow Cathedral on June 16th for Confirmation pupils and sixth classes. The pupils will present the poster that they created for Confirmation to Bishop Denis on the day. A small number of pupils will attend the Cathedral and the remainder will watch the celebration via. livestream.

**Upcoming Activities and Dates:**

Please see attached calendar for upcoming activities and events in SNI. A hard copy of the calendar will be sent home with the children on Monday

Further details will issue from teachers if necessary – e.g. in relation to the school tours.

Sent on Behalf of the Board of Management

