



June 2020 -Scoil Réalt na Mara Echo

Welcome to the Scoil Réalt na Mara news letter. The news letter aims to bring home some of the excitement of School life in our wonderful school.

GOODBYE TO THE 6TH CLASS OF 2020

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End of an era, a tribute from our Principal

Tribute to Scoil Réalt na Mara 6th Class of 2020

Unprecedented times dashed so many expectations and significant moments in your lives such as receiving the sacrament of Confirmation and graduating from your Primary School Education. But you have prevailed with such resilience, I couldn't be prouder. This will undoubtedly stand to you later in life. Although the pandemic brought many challenges, difficulties and disappointments, it also presented an invaluable opportunity of time with our families. I hope you can focus on the precious moments we gained from these uncertain times. Thank you for the character, spirit, determination, respect and ambition you exuded in school. You had much to offer over the years, challenging and inquiring questioning. Learning through inquiry. Creativity in artwork, ideas and slogans for Green Day, inventive costumes on World Book Day and the many projects you presented. You showed great leadership on school committees, on the pitch and were extremely competent in presenting a respectful and convincingly persuasive viewpoint and have a wealth of general knowledge. You entertained us on stage year after year and are a group of children with so much to offer. The support and camaraderie you have shared has cemented friendships for life. You have always strived to reach your full potential while at school and I hope you continue in this vein in all aspects of your future endeavours and life. Congratulations and good luck on your new journey. Wishing you every happiness and success in the future. Well done.

End of an Era

It is sadly the end of an era for nine families. It has gone by with the blink of an eye and it is hard to believe that your children are already spreading their wings and departing. I thank Patricia and John Kennefick, Caroline and Tim Cotter, Lorraine and Eoin Fitzpatrick, Nuala and Aidan Heavin, Anne Smyth and Simon Kelly, Liam and Gillian O'Callaghan, Veronica Crowley and Ciaran Scully, Joan and Sean Paul and Maura and Terence Murphy for all your support and contributions over the years. Don't be strangers. It would be wonderful to see you all at any future events being held in the school or community. I wish you all every happiness in the future.

Eilis Casey

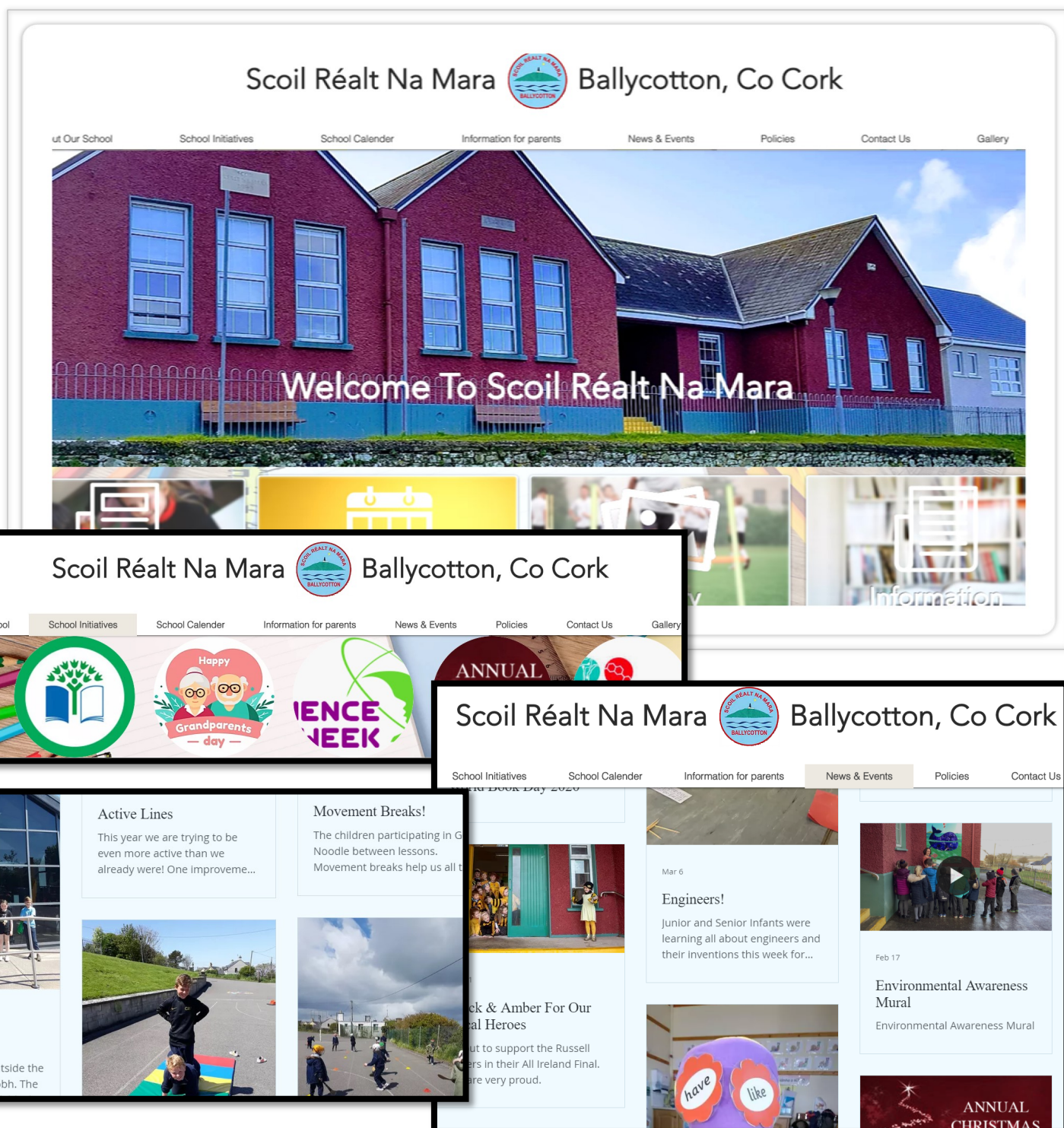
Principal

New website – Take a look

As part of the “to do list” the Parents Council in conjunction with the School staff have performed a major makeover of the School website. The new site brings improved user interface and is altogether more dynamic and fresh. It contains useful links to items such as events, the school calendar, information for parents, policies, parents council activities, and a gallery.

A very special thanks to Damien at Bay Aera Networks for his huge efforts in bringing this project to fruition.

Check out <https://www.scoilrealtnamara.ie/> for more details.



Covid-19 Thanks to Front Line staff



No doubt we are all worn out with news of Covid-19 and the havoc it brought to our shores. As a school community we have adapted to the reality of home schooling and all the changes it brought. Our School community would however like to say a huge thank you to all those front line staff living in our community and wider afield that have worked tirelessly and bravely in the face of this adversary. We are really mindful that this was done whilst they dealt with their own changing situation on their own home fronts.

So to put it simply you are our heroes one and all.



6th Class 2020 Hoodies

The Parents of the out going sixth class have commissioned and had manufactured unique stylish hoodies for the class to commemorate their final year in the school. No doubt this year will go down in history with the events of the past few months so the message on the hoodies captures this well!!

"CLASS OF 2020 THE ONE WHERE I WAS QUARRANTINED"

They have been seen about the village being worn with pride. We think they are super cool.

So a big thumbs up to everyone involved in organising this.

Fantastic & Fishy



You may have noticed something fishy going on around the school yard in the last few weeks that perhaps caught your eye. Well your eyes are not deceiving you!! The main yard wall area in front of the school has been transformed into a wonderfully colorful marine themed extravaganza. Gone are the dull grey blocks to be replaced by a bright sea blue backdrop and some super cool sea life creatures!!

It is a feast for the eyes and senses with everything from Lobsters, Octopus, Turtles, Fish of all sorts and lots of other colorful marine life.

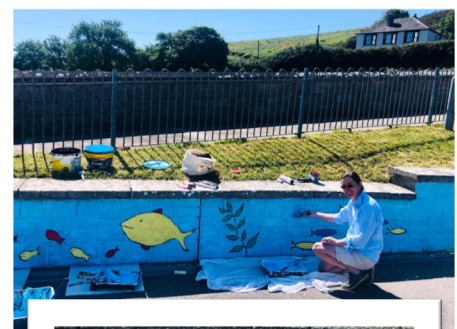
The whole project was dreamt up by the Parents Council as an initiative to brighten up the School yard area which had become tired following many years of fun and of course the recent school extension. Special thanks to Lydia Hugh-Jones & Susan McCarthy who came on board to design & draw the wonderful sea creatures!

The whole project was brought to fruition despite the lock down restrictions so there was a lot of social distancing painting and hard work which it turned out was a great way for everyone to get to meet again from a safe distance.

And that is not all believe it or not! Because thanks to the kind donation of former pupil Pearse Flynn and the good people at Rose Construction we managed to get the Basketball markings redone along with the yellow step edgings and the school safety markings on the road side adjacent to school.

Furthermore we have added some super cool playground markings which will enhance the playtime experience for all our Children. This is being funded by the local community through the Parents Council.

Finally a special word of thanks to Pat Walsh Paints in Midleton who donated the paint for this project, Martin Tattan for his time in preparing the yard area & Joan and Sean at the Trawl door for supplying the Ice Creams to the painters.



Ka hard at work



Róisín & Gail enjoy a well deserved break



Susan having a laugh in the sun



Lydia works her magic

Tribute to our School Staff– Principals message

I hope you join in my sentiment that the staff of our school were undeniably superb and gave 110% in the face of adversity. I feel so fortunate to be surrounded by such dedicated and conscientious staff. Engaging in professional development, distance learning while faced with their own challenges.

Being so far removed from the children has been extremely difficult and a challenge in itself. Many thanks to all those who sent positive feedback and words of encouragement at this difficult time.

It was greatly appreciated and at a time when it was much needed. I for one think we are fortunate to have such committed staff. I assure you, we as a staff will continue to maintain the commitment on our return to school.

Eilis Casey

Principal

Green School success for Scoil Réalt na Mara

The 2019/2020 academic year marks the 23rd year of the Green-Schools programme in Ireland. Despite the temporary closure of our School in March, the dedication of the school to submit their Green Flag application after a two-year effort to create sustainable environment in our school was both poignant and exceptional. Our focus this year was on water conservation and thanks to this we were part of the collective saving of over 592 million litres of water by the school community throughout Ireland. A big thank you to Miss Irwin, Miss O Connor and Miss Farrell on the teaching staff not to mention the committees and the pupils you have done us proud yet again! We are looking forward to seeing the Green flag flying high and proud in our Village next September!!



Parents Council - Your School needs you

The past two years for the current Parents council members have been epic to say the least. And we as a Parents group can be proud of the many improvements we have brought to our school with the help of the community. Just to name a few we have listed some of the main achievements over the last year or so.

Will Slíney Art work wall	Split the pot	I-pad donations	Christmas Concert raffle	Healthy eating week donation
School Garden	Remembrance Christmas tree	New basketball court marking	Sea food & Shanty stall	Santa Claus visit support
Yoga	Underwater world painting	Playground floor paintings	Grandparents day support	School Calendar
Road signs	Charity clothes collection	Cyber Safe Ireland presentation	White board purchase	Quiz night at the Schooner

Our main focus is to create a welcoming school that is inclusive for all parents and to promote relationships between the school, the children, the parents and the Ballycotton Community. For the next school year in September we would really appreciate new members to come on board to freshen things up a little. So please over the summer consider if you can give a little time to your School, **We promise it's a bit of craic also!**

Ballycotton Community delivers more I-pads to our School

Thanks to the various Fund Raising initiatives by the Parents Council we are happy to report that we were able to hand over 3 new I-Pads to the school earlier in the year. This together with the 5 we received earlier in the year really enhances the technology tool / pupil ratio. It goes without saying these tools will greatly benefit our Children in the class room environment, and will bolster the Digital learning programme in place amongst the Teaching staff.

On behalf of the Parents Council we would like to thanks everyone for their tireless support of such initiatives

New Spuds

Ballycotton is famous for its potatoes as we all know so not wanting to miss out on the act Scoil Réalt na Mara decided to grow our own!. The brainchild of Róisín & Ted. The garden was established in front of the new extension by use of some large tractor tyres and an old boat. Together with the potatoes we have raspberries and lettuces to keep the kids happy and healthy! Our Principal Miss Casey was on hand to dig the first crop and they look super. Looking forward to the Autumn time Róisín plans to have pumpkins for harvesting which may come in useful at Halloween!!

Thanks a million to Róisín & Ted for bringing this interesting educational twist to our school.





We are proud to announce that Scoil Réalt na Mara has been awarded the Pieta Amber Flag in recognition of a special effort the school has made to promote positive mental health in our school. The Pieta Amber Flag initiative recognises the individual efforts of primary and secondary schools, companies, and groups to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental well-being. A huge thanks to Miss Irwin, Miss O'Connor and Miss Farrell for their efforts with this. Earlier in the School term the Village community chipped in to support the initiative by their kind donations to the Parents Council whom in turn funded a term of Yoga Classes for the kids' which was well received.

Well done everyone

Just for fun– Word Search

See if you can find these local hot-spots in our very own word search

BALLYCOTTON BAY WORD SEARCH

C R W E I V D N A L S I F H G O J B N S
 V E L M A I S U N V I L L E L B J P E I
 I H X I T R E O V Y R R A G O R A B E L
 L A M D F D D B O G R O A D P I Q A N V
 C R A D L E A N D T A B L E R E K L O E
 B B A H E J B A A N R P O C I N R L R R
 R Y H N T N I O P H S I N A P S A Y C S
 E L N Y O R Z V A Q I A N M Y T P T Y T
 A L V W E M C O W T G N L A R E W R L R
 K A Q I O V A E V L S R C O R R E A L A
 W B P U T T V N E M Z T P H A R I S A N
 A F T J I O Y A I G D F R Q G A V N B D
 T N E E R D N A Y L L A B A A C A A S R
 E G V J N N S M M Q L J K V N E E L F O
 R L C O N G E R S T R A N D A D S Y F A
 B A L L Y C O T T O N C B E H F H O I D
 L L I H K C A R R A B P U G S V S U L K
 D T D I V S M A L L I S L A N D K G C Y
 C H U R C H T O W N E S U O H T H G I L
 D A O R L E P A H C S M A L L S O U N D

ARD NA HINCH
 BALLINAMONA
 BALLYANDREEN
 BALLYBRAHER
 BALLYCOTTON
 BALLYCRONEEN
 BALLYTRASNA
 BARRACKHILL
 BOG ROAD
 BREAK WATER
 CHAPEL ROAD
 CHURCHTOWN
 CLIFFS
 CONGER STRAND
 COW
 CRADLE AND TABLE

LIFEBOAT STRAND
 LIGHT HOUSE
 MAYTOWN
 OBRIENS TERRACE
 PAIRC NA GLEANN
 PIER
 SEAVIEW PARK
 SHANAGARRY
 SILVER STRAND
 SMALL ISLAND
 SMALL SOUND
 SPANISH POINT
 STRAND ROAD
 SUNVILLE
 GARRYVOE
 ISLAND VIEW

Ballycotton Tidy Towns—Scoop the Poop

The Ballycotton Tidy Towns Committee launched a novel awareness programme during the last number of months to impress upon dog owners the importance of “Scooping the Poop”! The Committee have been to the fore in terms of making our village a really clean and beautiful . You will have seen a poster campaign throughout the village as a subtle reminder which is great! Another part of this programme was to raise awareness amongst the kids in the school by holding an Art competition with a Scoop the poop theme. As ever the girls and boys did not disappoint with some really great drawings and paintings. Will Sliney was on hand with the difficult job of picking a winner from each class room. Each winner received a one for all gift voucher so smiles all round there!

Great job to all those involved and a really good example of community cooperation working so well.

Oh and remember.... Scoop the Poop!!



Coco May Walsh



Axel Berner



Cara Flynn



Eva Gleeson

Graduation Day - With a Twist

On Monday evening last the clouds parted following a morning of biblical rain to give the Sixth Class the send off they deserved. The class collectively dressed in their "Quarantine hoodies" and their immediate family members gathered in the school yard to graduate! The ceremony was attended by our Principal Eilis Casey, Brian Daly the 6th class teacher and our local priest Fr Dorgan. We also had a gathering from the local community to cheer the class on to really make an occasion of it. During the ceremony we had some glowing tributes from Eilis & Brian which really highlighted the positive impact the class have had on the school, which was met with cheers, laughs and tears!

Luca from the class gave lovely account of his time in the school which really captured the spirit and uniqueness of this special bunch! The class also received a video compilation of well wishes from all the staff and various other personalities in the area which was a nice touch. The video will be available to view on the school website shortly.

Each member of the class received a Graduation Certificate and a specially commissioned framed memento to commemorate the Class of 2020. Thanks to Caroline Cotter for those.

Fr Dorgan gave an inspirational speech which rounded off the evening really well and brought down the curtain on the school year of 2020.

We all wish the graduating class the very best in the years ahead. We hope they enjoy their Summer be it jumping in the Pier or meeting with family and friends. Best of luck too when September comes and they all move on to secondary school. Going their separate ways to an extent but they will be united forever as the *Scoil Réalt na Mara Class of 2020*.



6th Class Pictorial Memory Lane

