Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin/Cappoquin Primary School Newsletter

Meán Fómhair/Deireadh Fómhair 2021

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**Fáilte ar Ais**



All the children returned to school on Thursday 26th August. We have an enrolment of 196 pupils for the 2021/22 school year. There are twenty-five new students in Junior Infants, one new student in Second Class and one new student in Fourth Class.

Ceád Míle Fáilte to:

**Junior Infants:-** *Billie Mae Barry, Millie Barry, Dylan Casey, Síomha Ní Chuirrín Hennessy, Clara Coffey, Shane Coughlan, Annie Dalton McGrath, Lynn Fives, Fatima Goncalves, Sarah Jadoon, Darragh Looby, Andrew Mackey, Ruby Maher, Conor Nugent, Maisy O’Donnell, Shayla O Shea Ormond, Dayon Onbashi, Harry Power, Tomás Power, Michael Prendergast, Keith Reddy, Katie Roche, Lewis Russell, Rupert Skilton and Ebel Thomas.*

**2nd Class: -** *Darragh Barry*

**4th Class:-** *Ardian Barry*

We also welcome back to Ms Laura Roche to Senior Infants following her maternity leave. Ms Hannah Houlihan was teaching with us for most of last year and is currently back in BGS covering for Ms Aisling Fennell. Welcome to Jamie Corcoran who is working as an SNA in Le Chéile 2, Jamie had subbed numerous days in the school over the last couple of years. Welcome also to Jacinta Casey, who is covering for Deirdre Cahill.

**Ethos**

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Two Confirmation ceremonies for our former 6th Class pupils were celebrated in St. Mary’s Church Cappoquin on Friday 27th August.  Thank you to Fr Gear for celebrating the ceremonies and thanks to Mrs Veale for preparing the class during the last school year for Confirmation.  Mr Casey was also very much involved throughout the year organising Masses and a retreat for the class. Well done to all the children and best wishes to them as they begin the next stage of their education journey at post primary level.

First Holy Communion finally took place for our now 3rd Class pupils in St. Mary’s Church Cappoquin on Saturday 4th September.  Due to Covid restrictions the class were split in half and we had two Masses on the day.  The first one took place at 10 a.m. and the second one took place at 11.15 am.  The children were superb and well done to all of them.  Thank you to Fr Gear and Fr Butler for co-celebrating the Masses.  Thanks to Mrs Curran and Mary Guiry for preparing the class during the last year for First Holy Communion.  Mr Casey also accompanied the class on a number of occasions for their practice sessions in the church.

As we were unable to have an Opening Year Mass with the whole school, Fr Gear came to the school on Wednesday 29th September to celebrate Mass with 5th Class. Thanks to Mr Casey and Fr Gear for organising the Mass.

Curriculum

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**PLC – Primary Language Curriculum**

The new PLC (Primary Language Curriculum) for English agus Gaeilge continues to be implemented in our school and in schools throughout the country. The Department of Education had paused its engagement with schools on the PLC over much of the last 18 months due to Covid. However, towards the end of the summer term the Department began to re-engage with schools remotely in relation to the PLC. Now for the 2021/2022 school year the Department through the PDST are providing support and in-service to teachers in order to continue to implement the curriculum. Part of this support requires half day closures for schools during this and the next school year. Rather than using two half days before Christmas we will combine the webinar training and in-service PDST support to close the school to the pupils for a full day on **Monday November 15th**. So there will be no school for the pupils on this date. Apologies in advance for any inconveniences that this causes to parents. I know this is not ideal following on from the past 18 months of Covid 19.

**Literacy Lift Off**

Literacy Lift Off is taking place in First Class on a daily basis for a six-week period. Literacy Lift Off is an intervention that gives children lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually lift the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing. During Literacy Lift Off we increase the number of adults in the classroom to work with the children in smaller groups especially in relation to reading. When Literacy Lift Off is finished in First Class we will start it with Second Class in November. Thanks to Mrs Price for organising Literacy Lift Off and thank you to Ms Christine Collender for helping out.

**Author**

Irish Author Dave Rudden held an online zoom call with 4th, 5th and 6th Classes on Tuesday 5th October to talk about his books and about being an author. Many of the students said that they found Dave to be engaging and funny. Thanks to Waterford Libraries for organising the talk with Dave.

**Summer Stars**

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Well done to the pupils from Bunscoil Gleann who participated in the Summer Stars reading programme in Cappoquin and Dungarvan Libraries. Sheilia Curtin sent the certificates to the school recently and we will present the children with their medals and certificates before the mid-term break. Developing a love of reading is one of the best gifts that you can give a child.

**Maths**

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Maths Week Ireland will take place from 16th to 24th October. <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2021/>

Encourage your children look at and talk to you about Maths in the environment. Some ideas & activities for younger children- recognise numbers, count and play games based on numbers. Recognise coins/notes and count coins. Recognise shapes in the environment. Talk about days, weeks, months, years and seasons. Baking is a great way to get children using mathematics vocabulary- half, more, less and weighing ingredients. Use the tables in real life sequences eg. 7 eggs plus 7 eggs equals 14 eggs altogether. Senior Pupils - tell the time, look at the different 2-D & 3-D shapes around them. Talk about the distance of a car journey and how long it should take to get there. Measure when shopping or cooking, discuss weight & capacity- g, Kg, ml & litres as well as the price of items. Play mathematics games.

**Music**

#  **Musicians from Blackwater Valley Opera Festival visit 6th Class**

Three musicians from the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival came to play for 6th Class in the hall in September. There was a violin player, a viola player and a cello player.  It was really cool to see instruments that all looked the same but with one bigger than the other and the different sounds that they made individually.

The musicians demonstrated how to change the mood of a piece of music by changing just one note, this was very impressive. All three musicians were really funny and talented and the 6th class pupils truly enjoyed the session.

**SESE (Social Enviromental & Scientific Education)**

Elaine Garde visited the school on Monday 11th October for a Heritage in Schools lesson with 3rd and 5th class pupils. Elaine returned on Thursday 14th October to do the same lesson with 4th and 6th classes. Elaine focused on the Celtic year, ogham stones and the bio-diversity in our environment.

# **Seachtain na hEolaíochta**

![C:\Documents and Settings\Evad\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\8L8YKQMV\science_Science_News_12_13.5851858_std[1].gif]()**Science Week** Ireland is from 7th to 14th November. There will be plenty of science activities during the week and we will be encouraging the children to carry out their own investigations and experiments as well. As part of Science Week Mrs Curran has also booked Lismore Heritage Mobile Science to do workshops with all the classes in the school on Wednesday November 10th. Cost is €4 per child, Mary Casey will send the notice out on Aladdin to collect the €4 along with €10 for tennis.

**PE and Sport**

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**Futsal**

Futsal in the Yard in Cappoquin Primary School

A new initiative for primary schools called Futsal in the yard is being set up by the FAI.  Some of the coaching videos for the programme were recorded here on our school yard with our 3rd and 4th classes.  A number of FAI coaches came to the school in September and coached the programme to our 3rd and 4th class children.

**GAA**

****Gaelic Football Tuesday 12th and Tuesday 19th October with Barry Dunne for half the classes on the yard and CP & Snoopy take the four senior classes classes on the field.  Congratulations to Robyn and BonnieMclaughlin on winning the under 12 Ladies Football Championship with Shamrocks in September.Well done to our current pupils from 5th and 6th class who were on the Affane under 13 panel that reached the under 13 County Final recently. Affane lost the final but it was a great achievement to get there. Billy Buckley, Paul Coughlan, Kevin Hennessy, Micheál O Gorman, Donnchadh Stapleton, Conor Whelan and Jay Sheehan were all members of the panel. A number of our past pupils were also involved.

**Tennis**  Shelley Mernin from Dungarvan Tennis Club will be coming into the school for 6 weeks of tennis coaching for all classes on Thursdays after the mid-term.  Cost will be €10 per child for the 6 weeks. Shelley will start on Thursday 4th November. Mary Casey will send out the details for collecting the money on Aladdin.

**Bike Week**



National Bike Week ran from September 12th to 18th this year. To celebrate this in the school the Junior and Senior Infants had the loan of 13 balance bikes for two weeks. The children in both classes had great fun and got plenty of exercise using the bikes regularly over the two weeks.

**Swimming**

We have not booked any swimming lessons for any class this year due to Covid 19. Many of the children in Cappoquin attend swimming lessons outside school, which is of great benefit to them. We would encourage other children to take up swimming lessons and visit a local swimming pool regularly in the coming months. It is such an important life skill and the younger someone starts swimming lessons the better.

**Parents**

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#### **Parents Association**

The committee members of the Parents Association/Council held a meeting with Mr Delaney in the school on Tuesday 5th October. Fundraising ideas and upcoming events were amongst the issues discussed. It was also agreed that going forward 3 to 4 years is long enough to serve on the committee. We will be adding new members to the committee from Junior and Senior Infants in the coming weeks.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

No dates have been set yet for our Parent- Teacher Meetings. We will send you out the details and arrangements soon.

**Roots of Empathy Programme on behalf of Barnardos**

One of our newer parents in the school, Joanne Martin has previously ran a programme in other schools prior to Covid 19 called Roots of Empathy. Joanne is interested in doing Roots of Empathy with a class in Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin but she is looking for a volunteer family with a new baby. Here are some of the details which Joanne sent on to us.

 Are you a proud parent with a new baby? Will your baby be 2 – 4 months old?

You and your baby could be a Roots of Empathy Family!

Roots of Empathy is a programme for primary school children. The

programme’s aim is to increase empathy - the ability to understand how

another person feels. Children learn to care for and respect each other, leading

to less bullying and aggression. As part of the programme, a baby with one or both parents would typically visit a local classroom 9 times over the course of a school year with a ROE

Instructor.

However, due to COVID 19, our traditional programme has been adapted to

offer virtual delivery as a second option for the 2021-22 school year.

Let the school should you wish to make contact with Joanne about Roots of Empathy.

**Health & Safety**



* School Transport – please remind your child to sit in their designated seat and to wear seat-belt at all times. Emphasise that excellent behaviour is expected on the buses at all time.
* Check your child’s hair regularly for head-lice.
* Healthy lunches are encouraged every day.
* Nuts or nut related products are banned due to nut allergies in the school.

**School Attendance**

A reminder to record reasons for absence via Aladdin Connect.

Due to Covid-19, certificates for full attendance will not be issued this school year.

**Fire Drill & First Aid**

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Mr Casey ran a fire drill in the school on Tuesday 28th September. Mr Casey also replaced the battery in our defibrillator with a new one. All the school staff will also have a First Aid and Defibrillator training course with John Kelly after school on Monday 8th November.

**Covid 19**



The following adaptations continue to be implemented in the school in relation to Covid 19. School/classroom layout configured to ensure best practice regarding social distancing.

* Two hand sanitising stations in each classroom and at various points throughout the school.
* Primary isolation room is the school library.
* Drop-off box at main school door for forgotten items.
* Use of Aladdin Connect for e-payment, recording of Absences, home /school communication.
* Wearing of school tracksuit on Tuesday and Thursday.
* Use of side-doors for entry/exit from some classrooms.
* Windows and doors are opened to ensure ventilation
* CO2 monitors installed in some rooms.

**Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19**

## When to keep your child at home - Keep your child at home if they:

* [have a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/high-temperature/)
* have any [common symptoms of COVID-19](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/overview/) - a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has recently become worse
* are told by the HSE that they are a [close contact of COVID-19](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/close-contact/)
* live with someone who is unwell and may have COVID-19
* have other less common symptoms of COVID-19, such as sore throat, headaches or vomiting
* [have diarrhoea](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/diarrhoea-vomiting/)
* [returned from another country in the last 14 days with an adult that needs to self-isolate](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/77952-government-advice-on-international-travel/#travelling-with-children)

If your child is fully vaccinated and does not have symptoms, you do not need to keep them at home.

# **Symptoms of COVID-19**

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), [self-isolate (stay in your room)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/restricted-movements/how-to-self-isolate/) and [get a COVID-19 test](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/testing/get-tested/).

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

* [fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/fever-adults/) - including having chills
* dry cough
* fatigue (tiredness)

Less common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

* [loss or change to your sense of smell or taste](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/lost-or-changed-sense-of-smell/) – this could mean they're completely gone or just different to normal
* nasal congestion (runny or blocked nose)
* conjunctivitis (also known as red eyes)
* sore throat
* headache
* muscle or joint pain (aches and pains)
* different types of skin rash
* nausea or vomiting
* diarrhoea
* chills or dizziness

Symptoms of severe COVID‐19 disease include:

* [shortness of breath](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/shortness-breath/) or breathing difficulties
* loss of appetite
* confusion
* pain or pressure in the chest
* [fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/fever-adults/)

You may not have all of these symptoms or your symptoms may be mild. Symptoms may vary for different age groups or variants of the virus.It can take up to 14 days after you are infected for symptoms to show. You can spread COVID-19 during this time.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can be similar to symptoms of [cold](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/common-cold/), [flu](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/flu/) or [hay fever](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/hay-fever/).If you are in doubt about any symptoms you have, phone your GP.

**General Notes**

**Damage to School Property & Trespassing**

Unfortunately, there was damage done to our school roof in September when teenagers climbed up on the roof and broke some slates. The damage cost the school almost €300. The teenagers were caught on CCTV and the Gardaí have spoken to the teenagers involved and to their parents. Thanks to our neighbours who called the Gardaí that evening. During the summer and through September there have been teenagers and some children trespassing on the school grounds after school. We request that parents ensure that the children do not trespass on the school grounds nor use the school as a short cut. We ask parents who live near the school to continue to phone the Gardaí if they see people on the school grounds illegally. Please be especially vigilant during the mid-term break.

**Get Well Soon**



Get well wishes are extended to our caretaker Mary Flynn who is on the mend following a recent illness.

**Photographs**



Billy Whyte took school photographs on Wednesday 15th September.

Thanks to Mary McGrath for taking photos at the First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies. Mary also took photos of the Junior Infants at the start of the school year.

**Clothes Collection Fundraiser**

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We will host a clothes collection on Monday 8th November. Please see the following details.

Cash for Clobber from Cookstown Textile Recyclers is the easy way to generate valuable funds for your

School, Club or Organisation.

How it works?

Your School or Society has agreed to participate in our clothing recycling programme, known as Cash for Clobber.

We encourage Children, Parents and Guardians to contribute their used or unwanted clothes, using bags.

The School or Organisation receives payment in full (value directly linked to weight collected.)

What happens to the clothing?

Provided they are of suitable quality, reusable items are exported to developing Countries, including sub-Saharan Africa, Pakistan, and in some instances Eastern Europe.

We also accept shoes (pairs only), handbags and belts, but please note that pillows and duvets cannot be re-used for hygiene reasons.

**General Reminders**

Children should ensure to have coats/jackets and hats in with them as the weather gets colder.

**Halloween Dress-Up**

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 Halloween Dress-Up takes place in the school Friday 22nd October but please note this is **optional**. The students are invited to wear in a costume of their choice, however we would please ask that the children don’t wear costumes or have items that are too scary or ghoulish, avoid masks showing blood. Some Halloween costumes and masks can be very scary for our younger children and some of our children who might be more sensitive than others.

**Obairbhaile**

Homework will finish up on Wednesday evening 20th October before the mid-term break. Homework for the children in junior classes is cancelled altogether for the week.

**Mid-term Break & Oíche Shamhna**

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Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin will be closed from Monday 25th to Friday 30th October inclusive. The school will reopen on Monday 1st  November. **Reminder again that the school will be closed to all pupils on Monday 15th November.**