

# Creagh National School



Creagh,  
Ballinasloe,  
Co. Galway.

Tel. 090 9642634  
Fax. 090 9645463

**Acting Principal: Mr Noel Lohan**

---

## Foreword

New Draft Guidelines on the re-opening of schools issued from the Department of Education on Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup>. It was emphasized that updates to these guidelines will issue as we get closer to September. However, it looks likely that some social distancing, whether one meter or two, will be part of the plans for children in 3<sup>rd</sup> class and upwards. (See below for more)

## END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

### *Review of the school year 2019/2020.*

A truly historic year -in that, instead of 183 days the school was open for just over 120 days- followed by the now well bandied phrase of 'Home Schooling' for families with its attendant stresses, strains, missed friends, loneliness, boredom, and yet, in many cases new-found joys, new learning experiences, life skills development and –well, you add to the list.

I do hope many children kept a diary of their experiences- good and bad-for it's history in the making.

The various events of earlier in the school year: Christmas plays, concerts, and fundraisers for Social Services, Ballinasloe Lions Club and 6th class Tanzania Project; the Quiz teams successes in reaching All-Ireland Final stage, the Peace Proms; Sporting activities etc. are dim and distant memories.

### **Review of school closure Teaching and Learning**

This was a steep learning curve for all the school community- children, parents, school staff and management. As there was no lead-in to the March 12<sup>th</sup>. school closure, it was a case of adapting as the weeks went on. I am very proud of the commitment of all the staff for their commitment and dedication in trying to tailor their work programmes to reach as many of the children as possible.

The initial two weeks 'homework' style programme was added to and expanded using a variety of digital platforms to suit the different home situations and learning styles of the children. The themed week programmes of Art, Drama, P.E. Science, Nature, Sport, Chicken rearing, Virtual Tours and Wellbeing brought a great variation to help the children stay interested and engaged.

Of course the core curriculum work in Gaeilge, English and Maths continued with daily/weekly posting for each class.

Because there was such a disparity of home situations –parents' work commitments, access to broadband and digital devices, family size and a host of other factors- the opportunity for learning in the home differs greatly from one to another. Because of this I will be stressing to the staff the need to assess where the children are at on their return to the classroom in the new school year and make the necessary adjustments.

### **School Calendar for 2020/2021.**

*School reopens on Tuesday, September, 1<sup>st</sup>.*

#### **Closures**

*Mid-term: Monday, October, 26<sup>th</sup> to Fri. 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*Christmas Holiday: closing Tuesday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30. Re-opening on Wed. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:20am.*

*Feb. Mid-term: Closed Mon, 15<sup>th</sup> to Fri. 19<sup>th</sup>.*

*Easter Holiday: Closed Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bank Holiday.*

*Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, 7<sup>th</sup>.*

School year ends at 12:30pm on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Full year details will issue in hard copy in September and will be included in children's Homework Journal.

## **Provisional Class Allocation.**

### **CLASSES FOR 2019/2020**

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Junior Infants | Ms K Barrett<br>Ms. O. Carty.       |
| Senior Infants | Ms. D. Dolan<br>Ms. R. Curtin       |
| First Class    | Ms. G. Carey<br>Ms. A. Connaughton  |
| Second Class   | Ms L Gallagher<br>Ms.J. Fox         |
| Third Class    | Mrs. C. Gallagher<br>Ms. R. Power   |
| Fourth Class   | Mrs. M. Barrett<br>Ms. A. Blade     |
| Fifth Class    | Mr. S. Dolan<br>Ms. S. Cahalan      |
| Sixth Class    | Mr. M. Ronaldson<br>Mr. L. Geraghty |

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| Ms. S. Kenny, (part-time) |
| Ms. A. Farrell            |
| Ms. K. Dooley             |
| Mrs. A. Bleahene          |
| Mrs. C. Mc Cann           |
| Ms. C. Greene             |
| Ms. M. O'Rourke           |
| Ms F.Colohan              |
| Ms. E. Moran              |

**Please note that this allocation is provisional. As we await HSE and DES guidelines on the exact protocols for children returning to the classrooms, some changes may be necessary. Further division of classes, assigning extra teaching staff or some SEN Teachers to mainstream class settings may well be necessary.**

### **This would mean new class groupings for some children.**

**The use of the Library, PE Hall, and any other suitable ancillary rooms are options being considered by school management.**

**(This was the reason for omitting the teacher's name on booklists)**

## **SCHOOL BOOKLISTS FOR 2019/2020**

Your child has now received his/her book list for the new school year. Salmon' Dept. Store, Main St., Ballinasloe and Michael Cormcian School Supplies, Athlone will stock the books and other supplies.

**Please note the school has now sourced a standard size box for holding children's books in the classroom.**

The school, cognicant of the extra books on the children's booklists, will bear the cost of the boxes for this year.

This is of particular importance in the current emergency as boxes may have to be stacked each evening to facilitate cleaning. The advice is not to purchase a box.

### **Book Rental Scheme.**

The school is again investing a considerable amount of money buying stocks of books for the RENTAL SCHEME. Books, which can be rented for E5 each, are marked with an **R**. It is expected that rented books will be returned at the end of the school year in good condition so that they can be used for a number of years.

A small **BOOK GRANT** is available from the DES to support families who may require financial assistance to with the cost of school books. Please contact the school (9642634 or creaghnsnlohan@gmail.com) and all requests will be treated in confidence.

### **Board of Management Meetings:**

The Board met briefly on Monday, March, 23<sup>rd</sup>. to approve new enrolments and again on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> to progress approving arrangements for commencement of improved security fencing on school perimeter. The Board acknowledges the hugely valuable contribution parents make to the school's finances in the form of the VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION scheme.

### **Staff Changes:**

Ms. Claire Larkin is leaving her Job Share position with immediate effect.

Ms. Carmel O'Riordan has been granted a Career break for the coming school year.

We wish them well and thank them for their commitment and dedication to the children over the past number of years.

### **Lockdown Babies:**

We are pleased to congratulate Ms. Cahalan on the birth of her daughter, Saoirse Farrell and Ms. Moran on the birth of a son, Donal Moran.

New Website: *creaghsonline@gmail.com*

This is the school's new website going forward. The old site is being discontinued.

It became vitally important as a platform for home/school communication and dissemination of lessons over the past few months. Ms. Aine Bleahene is to be commended for setting up at short notice and managing the site throughout.

The Website will be equally important in the lead up to school reopening to communicate the specifics of any new safety protocols for entering and exiting the school, daily classroom

**routines, lunch and playtime procedures and any other changes to our previous school routines.**

**Creagh Parents Association.**

On behalf of the Board and on my own behalf, I would like to thank Chairperson, Caroline Treacy and the officers for their commitment to the school. The Association is an important conduit for parents to communicate with, relay their support for and have an input into the life of the school.

**EXTRACT FROM BISHOP DUIGNAN LATEST LETTER**

*“ At the moment our churches are busy putting in place safety measures for reopening to the public. It will be necessary for these new measures to be in place for a time before the sacraments of first Confession, first Holy Communion and Confirmation will be possible. It is hoped that, following appropriate consultation, new schedules for the celebration of these Sacraments will be published”.* Bishop Michael Duignan, School Patron, Clonfert Diocese.

**Focal scor (last word)**

CONGRATULATIONS to our 6<sup>th</sup> class graduating pupils on completion of their primary school years and we wish them all well in their various secondary schools.

On behalf of the Board of Management and all the staff, may I wish all families a safe and restful summer, Noel Lohan, Acting Principal.