

Creagh National School



Creagh,
Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway.

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Acting Principal: Mr Noel Lohan

Foreword

New Draft Guidelines on the re-opening of schools issued from the Department of Education on Wednesday July 1st. 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 3rd 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 12th. 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.

September '20	Re-opening Tuesday September 1nd
October '20	Closing on Friday 23 th – Mid Term. (Closed Mon 26 th October to Friday 30 th October inclusive)
November '20	Re-opening Monday 2 nd
December '20	Closing on Tuesday 22 nd Christmas Holidays
January '21 :	Re-opening Wednesday 6th January
February '21	Closing on Friday 12 th , Midterm: (Closed from Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th inclusive)
March '21	Closed Wednesday March 17 th (Public Holiday: St Patrick's Day)
March '21	Closing on Friday March 26 th , Easter Holidays: (Closed Monday March 29 th - Friday, April 9 th inclusive)
April '21	Re-opening Monday April 12th
May '21	Closed Monday 3 rd – Public Holiday
June '21	Closed Friday 4 th June Closed Monday 7 th – Public Holiday Friday 25 th – School Tours Closing on Wednesday 30 th – Summer Holidays
Wednesday June 30th will be the last day of the third school term/school year.	

- **This calendar could be subject to change if it is necessary for us to make up time for lost days. If changes are required as part of contingency arrangements to make up for lost days due to unforeseen school closures the length of the Easter break may be reduced, with the school remaining open up to and including Wednesday March 31st 2020 as per DES Circular 009/2017)**

Provisional Class Allocation.

CLASSES FOR 2020/2021

Main stream Classes

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

S.E.T. Team.

Ms. S. Kenny, (part-time)
Ms. A. Farrell
Ms. K. Dooley
Mrs. A. Bleahene
Mrs. C. McCann
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 S.E.N. 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 2020/2021

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, 23rd. to approve new enrolments and again on Monday, June 15th 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: *www.creaghnsnsonline.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 6th 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.