

# Creagh National School



Creagh,  
Ballinasloe,  
Co. Galway.

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**Acting Principal: Mr Noel Lohan**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

## **Beginning of School Year SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

And Agreed report of BOM Meeting

### **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 work and dedication in trying to tailor their work programmes to reach as many of the children as possible in the weeks prior to the summer break.

**Because there is 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 have stressed to the staff the need to assess ‘where the children are at’ in terms of their academic progress on their return to the classroom and make the necessary adjustments to content and teaching.**

### ***New practices in place to minimize the risk of the spread of Covid 19 Virus***

Designated class entrances/exits.

Hand washing/sanitizing practices at regular times during the day

Children in class bubbles. No mixing of classes during break-times.  
 Metre distance between children during lesson times (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes); pods of up to 6 children in classes Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Three distinct breaks outside for all children to counter requirement to sit for longer periods during lesson time.  
 PE LESSONS are non-contact activities and without equipment.  
 Parents/Guardians informed as soon as possible if a child complains of any of the symptoms associated with the Virus.

### **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>.*

Full year details can be found on [creaghsonline.com](http://creaghsonline.com)

### **Class Allocation.**

#### **CLASSES FOR 2020/2021**

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

Ms. S. Kenny, (part-time) 6 <sup>th</sup> class
Ms. A. Farrell, 1 <sup>st</sup> class
Ms. K. Dooley, Sen. Infants /1 <sup>st</sup> class
Mrs. A. Bleahene, Junior Infants
Mrs. C. Mc Cann, 5 <sup>th</sup> class
Ms. C. Greene, 6 <sup>th</sup> class
Ms. M. O'Rourke, 2 <sup>nd</sup> class
Ms F.Colohan, 3 <sup>rd</sup> class
Ms. E. Moran (Ms. R. Coen), 4 <sup>th</sup> class

## **Board of Management Meeting: Agreed Report**

The Board met on Monday, August, 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Chairperson, Mr. Frank Gallagher, in his opening address, informed members of his satisfaction with the plans put in place for reopening the school. He noted the short time-frame available to do this following the publication by the Education Minister on July 27<sup>th</sup> of the '*Roadmap for the full return to School*' document.

He went on to commend the efforts of the Parents Association, principal, deputy principal, the middle management team, the Caretaker and the Secretary in producing policy and risk management documents and progressing plans to have the best possible safety measures in place by the end of August. He also mentioned some local tradespeople who assisted in preparing the new entrance.

All of this work enabled the school to be ready for opening on September 1<sup>st</sup> with a minimum of disruption to school life.

A letter from Bishop Duignan, acknowledging the work of all the school community in preparation for reopening, was noted by the Chairperson.

The main business items of the meeting were:

1. The Ratification of the Covid19 Risk Assessment and various Policies and Response Documents which were required to be in place prior to School reopening.
2. Presentation of the Treasurer's Report.
3. Ratification of three fixed term Teacher Appointments, a fixed term SNA Appointment and follow on short term Maternity substitutions.
4. Ratification of Child Protection Oversight report.

## **Principal's Report to the Board**

### **Staff Changes:**

The school has been chosen as a base school for 3 fixed term teachers to service 25 schools in the East Galway/South Roscommon area.

The meeting was informed of notice of retirement of Ms. Mary Barrett, with effect from November, 2020. Ms. Claire Larkin is leaving the school to take up a teaching post in Castlesampson and as a follow on Ms. F. Colohan is resuming fulltime duty.

### **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 and most recently Ms. Aisling Connaughton and Mr. Shane Dolan on the birth of a daughter, Gracie Marie Dolan.

### **New Website: [creaghsonline.com](http://creaghsonline.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 continue to be used as the main means of communication for all school related news and particularly to convey 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.

Thanks to those who helped steward the arrival of children during the first week of the term. The joint efforts with staff made for a smooth return for the children in compliance with guidelines.

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.

## Church Sacraments

### Confirmation

**BISHOP DUIGNAN** has informed the Parish that Thursday, October, 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date for the Confirmation of **last years** 6<sup>th</sup> classes from Creagh School.

There will be two sessions- Mr. Ronaldson's class at 11:00 am and Mr. Geraghty's at 2:00 pm in St. Michael's Church. The ceremonies will be very much scaled back events, **complying strictly, -in terms of who and how many may attend-**, with the Covid 19 regulations for Church ceremonies.

The ceremony will have Readings, Homily, Renewal of Vows and Anointing with Oil. Children, (the Confirmandi) will be in assigned seats for the whole of the ceremony.

There is an outline of the ceremony on creaghsonline.com and links to lessons to be completed online in the weeks before the Ceremony

### **First Communion**

Saturday, November, 7<sup>th</sup> is the date. Separate sessions in St. Michael's Church for each of last year's 2<sup>nd</sup> classes –now 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

Ms. Power's at 11:00 AM.

Ms. Gallagher's) at 2:00 PM.

As with Confirmation, the Covid 19 regulations, pertaining at the time, will be strictly adhered to as to the number of people in the church for the ceremony.

Both Confirmation and Communion will be streamed live the Church Services TV

### **School Ground Works**

**The recent storm brought to our attention the danger of falling trees. One tree on the school boundary near the pitch was blown over. On inspection, a number of the large ash trees were found to be unstable. In fact all the ash were suffering from 'die back' which has affected ash trees all over the country. As a result a decision was taken to remove all of them and a new fence will be put in place. This will complete the enhanced fencing around the school grounds, which was already being put in place as a Health and Safety measure. It is hoped that the reseeded of the disturbed ground will be completed soon and some new trees planted.**

**Focal scor (last word)**

**ALL of four weeks into the year and all is going relatively smoothly and largely without incident. As I write the news is of a rising number of C.19 cases in Dublin; Roscommon and Galway and all around the country. As outlined in recent texts, the need to follow the expert guidelines couldn't be more stark. Where children are showing symptoms of illness, please consult your doctor and remind the older children to practice social distancing both inside and outside of school.**

**Thanks to all- children, parents, staff and management- for getting us safely this far. Hopefully we will continue to do so.**

**Kind regards and best wishes to all, Noel Lohan**