**2015/2016 School Newsletter**

Welcome to our annual school newsletter.

As we begin our summer holidays here is a recap of the school year.

**August/September**

* We welcomed back all our pupils for the school year ahead.
* We commenced training for the annual cross country running in Kilnaboy.
* Hurling lessons commenced with Peter Casey and continued until Christmas.
* German commenced with Marielle Hisper. German is taught to children from 1st class upwards.

**October**

* On Thursday 1st Oct, we got a bus to Kilnaboy for the cross country running races. Luck was on our side as the sun shone this year! Well done to all children for competing! Each child received a team jersey from Dr Glynn in Ballyvaughan Medical Centre.
* Maths Week took place from Oct 10th – Oct 18th. During this week, the children in the senior room designed and made their very own games for the children in the junior room. Both classrooms designed and carried out Maths Trails around the school grounds.
* On Oct 20th, Ms Scales and the children in the Senior room went to Glor to see author Shane Hegarty. Shane wrote the books Darkmouth and Darkmouth Worlds Explodes. Shane was a very interesting and entertaining speaker. After the show, the children got the opportunity to purchase his books and get them signed by the author himself.

**November**

* The Annual Readathon commenced.
* Nov 5th, children from 5th and 6th class participated in the AIB Bake Off. This was the 1st part of this competition. Each child in 5th & 6th class baked a dish/cakes for the 2 judges from Ennistymon AIB to taste. After much deliberation, the judges put forward Robyn Mele and Grace Howard to the finals in December.
* The Annual Shoe Box Appeal was held. A total of 31 boxes were collected on Nov 10th. Many thanks to all parents and members of the community for supporting this!
* We commenced practising for our Christmas Pageant. Lots of songs, dances to be performed.
* Children designed doodles for the competition Doodle4google based on the theme Ireland is.......... . Fantastic artwork and ideas were displayed.

**December**

* On Sunday 13th, we gathered in the church to perform our play. Angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, innkeepers, wise men all featured! It was a great performance!
* Monday 14th Dec, Brian and Alan from Ennistymon Fire Brigade came out to the school to speak with the children about fire safety.
* AIB Bake Off Final in the Armanda. Congratulations to Robyn & Grace on reaching the final. The children made their dish/cake again on this day. Unfortunately they didn’t win the overall prize however it was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. Both Grace & Robyn received a medal and got to meet with chef Clodagh McKenna.
* On Dec 18th, we jumped on the bus and travelled to Limerick to see Sleeping Beauty. This pantomime was just fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by both teachers and children.

**January**

* The children commenced their annual swimming lessons in Lahinch. The bus costs are paid by the various fundraising activities held during the year to defray the cost on parents.
* Google4Doodle: we received word that Ethan O’Leary was a finalist in this competition. Ethan was picked out of hundreds to go forward to the finals. He was 1 of 75 finalists.
* Work commenced on The Blue Star Programme. The aim of this programme is to foster better knowledge and understanding of the European Union and how it affects our lives. Children from Senior Infants upwards work on classroom projects and activities. This is our 5th year participating in this programme.

**February**

* RSA Talk: Catherine from the Road Safety Authority called to our school to speak with all children about road safety i.e travelling by foot, by car etc. This was a fun and interactive workshop for all the children.
* Science Day in School: Each child as part of our ongoing work for our Award of Science and Maths Excellence demonstrated an experiment for parents . Thereafter, the children in the senior room presented their PowerPoints on famous inventors.
* On February 17th ,frogspawn was spotted in abundance in our pond much to the excitement of some children.

**March**

* March 1st, Garda Catherine Scanlon and her colleague were invited to the school to speak with the children in the senior room about Internet Safety. This was an informative talk and we hope the children learned about the benefits and hidden dangers of the Internet.
* Ethan O’Leary travelled to Dublin to the Google Headquarters for the finals. Ethan had a fantastic day and received a t-shirt with his doodle on it, a hoodie and a framed picture of his doodle. Ethan did not win his category however it was a super achievement to get that far! Well done again Ethan.
* Readathon Awards: the Readathon came to an end. Each child was presented with a certificate for their efforts. We encourage all children to continue reading even when the readathon comes to an end for this year. An amazing amount of books were read and reports written by the children. Well done to all children especially those who were awarded Outstanding Achievement Awards!



* St Patrick’s Day Parade: children donned their green hats and danced a line dance in front of a large number of spectators. Well done to all children!
* March 15th, the children raised the tricolour outside the school as part of the 1916 Centaury Celebrations. Children in the older classes read out the proclamation.

**April**

* April 7th, children from 2nd upwards along with Ms Scales, Mrs Queally and Jackie Maurer travelled to Dublin to visit the GPO and the National History Museum. This was part of our work for the Craft Ed programme which we were successful in obtaining for this year.
* Hurling Blitz: On April 14th , children from 2nd class upwards participated in a hurling blitz in Ennistymon. The children were all mixed up and got the opportunity to play with other children from other schools. Great fun was had by all!
* April 24th First Holy Communion: Congratulations to Eoghan Burke, Daniel Irwin and Luca Mele on making their First Holy Communion.
* The Discover Primary Science & Maths logbook was completed and sent off on April 24th!This will be our 12th year competing in this project.
* Craft Ed: work commenced on this project with Jackie Maurer . Our theme is 1916 and our finished project will be made out of clay.
* Hurling commenced for the last term of school.
* Football also commenced for the last term of school.

**May**

* Hurling Blitz: children from 2nd class upwards got a second opportunity to play in a second hurling blitz in Ennistymon.
* News came through to say that we had received our 12th Award of Science & Maths Excellence!!

**June**

* Beach Safari: on Tuesday 7th June all children went down to the beach to explore the rockpools. The children were divided into groups and their task was to find as much sea creatures/ sea life. An amazing amount of things were found i.e seaweed, muscles, crabs etc.
* June 9th Europe Day. As part of our ongoing work on the Blue Star programme, we held a Europe Day in the school. The children presented their projects and everyone got to sample a range of dishes from each of the EU countries. Many thanks to all our parents for making/baking/supplying the dishes.
* School Tour: we travelled to Lahinch on Friday 10th June. Here the children participated in a swimming lesson followed by the Eliminator! A great day was had by all.
* News came through that we had received our 5th Blue Star Award for our work on the EU.
* School Visit: we were fortunate to have a school from Killaloe and Cloughleigh come visit us as part of their school tours. On both days, the children were mixed up and participated in a hurling blitz and football blitz. Many thanks to Peter Casey for this opportunity.
* June 17th, Graduation Mass was held for Christopher, Cindy and Grace who will be leaving us this year. We would like to wish them both a big “Goodbye & Good Luck” in their future studies!



* An Post Cycle: for the first time ever we participated in the An Post Cycle in Ballyvaughan. All children were encouraged to participate nad cycle te 10km. Well done to all and a special thanks to Olaf O’Neill for taking time out to coach us.
* Monday – Wednesday 20th-22nd June, we welcomed in our new students.
* Tuesday June 21st: we participated in a beach safety talk run by the Clare County Council.

**General:**

**Policy Development**

The New Board of Management have reviewed the following policies: Child Protection, Code of Behaviour and Anti Bullying.

These revised plans are available for viewing on our website or a hard copy can be obtained from the school.

**Parent’s Council**

No further development has been made on this.

**Work Experience Students**

Maree Schumena completed her work experience with us in the first term. Owen Kelly and Caitriona Bucholtz also carried out placement with us. Many thanks to all for yer work; it was a pleasure having ye in our school.

**Staff**

We would also like to thank Marielle for giving her time so freely to the school.

**Ancillary Staff**

A big thank you to our ancillary staff: Pat McNamara, Annemarie O’Driscoll and Eilish O’Donoghue who work very hard for the school.

**Website**

Don’t forget to check out our website [www.fanorens.com](http://www.fanorens.com). All of the above outings/events etc. can be viewed on the website under the news section.

**Fundraisers:**

Each year a number of fundraisers are held. The monies raised are used for bus costs & general maintenance over the school year. A copy of the school fundraisers is available on request from the school.

Finally, we would like to thank all parents and members of the community for their help and assistance over the course of the school year. Without this assistance many of our outings, activities would not be possible.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and happy summer and look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 31st August.



**Board of Management**

Anne Pilkington Olaf O’Neill

 Brid Queally Carol Scales

 Paula O’Leary Michael Clerkin

 Joan Howard Fr. Richard Flanagan

**School Year 2016/17**

**School re-opens on:**

Wednesday August 31st.

**October 2014 mid-term break**

School will close on Friday 28th Oct.

School re-opens on Monday 7th Nov.

**Christmas 2016**

Schools will close on Friday 23rd December 2016, which will be the final day of the school term.

School will re-open on Monday 9th January 2017.

**February 2017 mid-term break**

School will close on Thursday 24th & Friday 25th February.

**St Patrick’s Day**

School will be closed on Friday 17th  March.

**Easter 2017**

School will close on Friday 7th April.

School will re-open on Monday 24th April.

**Summer Holidays**

To be announced