



**S. N. Br. Mícheál Ó Cléirigh**

**Creevy N.S.**

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## Deireadh Fómhair/October 2019

Dear Parents,

How the weeks have flown by since our last newsletter. It's hard to believe the midterm break is nearly upon us already. The school closes this Friday, Oct 25th at 3.10pm and reopens on Monday November 4th at 9.30am. The children may wear costumes on Friday and we will have a Hallowe'en themed assembly. A small amount of face paint is allowed (nothing too scary please) and we would ask that costumes and footwear are suitable for playtime. If the children don't have a costume, they may wear their own clothes.

In this newsletter, I intend to give some insight into the many different activities that are taking place around the school. We endeavour to update the school website and twitter (@CreevyNS) with further information and photos at regular intervals also.

Le gach dea-ghuí, *Aoibheann Kelly (Principal)*

*Some dates for the diary this term are as follows:*

**Wednesday 23rd October:** Parents' Association meeting in the School Library, 8pm

**Monday November 4th:** Early literacy skills workshop for junior infant parents, 7-7.30pm in the school.

**Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st November:** Parent-teacher meetings. The teachers will be touch after midterm to schedule appointments.

**Friday 6th December**—School closed for Primary Language Curriculum staff development.

**Wednesday 18th December**—Christmas Plays. The schedule for plays will be published on the school website shortly after Hallowe'en .

**Friday December 20th at 12 noon**—School closes for Christmas holidays and re-opens on Monday Jan 6th 2020.

**Student Council:** Over the last few weeks we held our student council elections. Each class from 3rd-6th elected two representatives to link with Ms. Kelly at regular student council meetings and will work together to make the school a safe and happy place for both students and staff. The elected representatives this year are: Kate Ward, Micheál McGrath, Laoise Foy, Joe Colgan, Rebecca Downey, Fionn Hartin, Isabel Synnott and Caleb McCarthy. They spoke at a recent school assembly about healthy living. They discussed healthy eating, the importance of exercise, sleep and a healthy attitude. Currently they are helping to sort our yard activities to make play time as active as possible for all pupils.

**Green Schools:** Another busy committee within the school is our Green Schools Committee. This group of pupils and staff meet on a regular basis and plan initiatives to make our school and community more environmentally aware. We hope the focus on more sustainable living transfers into all our daily lives and the decisions we make. Our Green Schools committee members are: Anna Meehan, Finn Maloney, Jenna Britton, Oisín McGrath, Faye Gillespie, Lily Meehan, Harry McGowan, Niamh Duffy, Corey Cummins Sheridan, Lauren Gallagher, Donagh Kelly, Anna Gallagher, Ms McGloin and Ms. Magee. This year we are working towards our seventh Green Flag for Global Citizenship: Energy. The Green Schools committee will be in touch soon with some ideas for reducing waste at Christmas time!

**Recent trips:** The 6th class enjoyed an important farm safety talk at Campview farm. The fifth class went on tour to Cathleen's Fall, the local hydroelectricity station where they learned about the work of Irish Water to improve and conserve our water supply. 4th class enjoyed an entertaining workshop in Ballyshannon Library with author and historian, John D. Ruddy, author of the Manny Man series, while third class learned about marine life at a workshop in Ballyshannon Library. First and Second class watched the Irish animation, The Book of Kells at the Abbey Arts Centre as part of Wainfest, Arts and Book Festival.

**Parents' Association:** The first meeting of this school year takes place on Wednesday, October 23rd at 8pm in the School Library. All parents are automatically members of the Parents' Association in the school and are very welcome to come along. The Parents' Association help build an important link between home and school and I look forward to working closely with the PA over the course of the year. A number of items for the agenda include discussing the money raised by the PA last year and planning Parent Association activities for this school year.

**Board of Management Nominees:** Please return the consent form to the school office by Friday, Oct 25th, if you are willing to go forward as a parent nominee for the Board of Management 2019-2023.

**Summer Works:** Over the course of the summer break the classrooms, toilets and corridor in the senior end of the building were freshly painted. Three classrooms were fitted with new Promethean Interactive Panels and four new iPads were purchased to complete our class set of 16 iPads. The students and staff are benefitting greatly from the investment in technology over the last number of years and enjoy the digital learning methodologies the teachers are incorporating into their lessons.

#### **Sporting Activities:**

- \* Thank you to Ms. Conneely and Mr. Boyle who organised the lunch time cross country sessions for children from 2nd to 6th class over the last two months. 31 pupils attended the regional cross country competition in Donegal Town on September 26th. Our U9 girls and boys' teams finished in first place. The first placed teams and eight individuals qualified for the county finals which took place on Oct 22nd in Buncrana. We hope the children keep up the running over the midterm break.
- \* Girls and boys from fifth and sixth class recently took part in a Cumann na mBunscol Hurling blitz in Ballyshannon with other schools from South Donegal. It was an enjoyable day out and lovely to see the children practising their hurling skills in a fun and friendly atmosphere.
- \* The Ulster Schools Swimming Competitions took place on Oct 12th in Bangor, Co. Down. The school was represented very well by 12 strong swimmers. Congratulations to Laoise Foy and Nessa Warren who secured qualifying times for the All Ireland finals in February. Thank you to the children and their families for participating and to Kieran Summerville for coaching the swimmers. Míle buíochas.
- \* Swimming - The senior classes are enjoying an eight week block of swimming lessons as part of the aquatics element of the PE curriculum. A special word of thanks to the parent volunteers who help with supervision. It is more difficult to secure male volunteers, if there are any additional male parents who may be in a position to give an hour some week(s) to help supervise their child's class we would very much appreciate the assistance. Please ring the office on 9852090 and Marie will send out the Vetting forms.
- \* Ag súgradh le chéile: We plan to host a HSE Health Promotion Unit /Donegal Sports Partnership Play workshop for our new junior infants and their parents/guardians shortly. The workshop lasts for a period of 90 minutes. During the workshop parents/guardians participate with their child/children in a variety of activities including ball games, rhyme and traditional games.

**Health and Safety:** The school day starts at 9.30am and finishes at 3.10pm (2.10pm for pupils in Junior and Senior Infants). The principal and special needs assistants supervise the front yard from 9.20am as the classes line up. There is no supervision in place before this time. The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for children who arrive before 9.20am or remain on school grounds after the official closing time for their class level.

**Cookery Demonstration:** A cookery demonstration will take place in the Breesy Centre on Nov 28th at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale in the school for €15 and proceeds are in aid of North West Hospice and Creevy National School.

**Goal Jersey Day:** € 426.20 was raised for aid agency Goal. Children in 3rd and 4th class recently enjoyed an interactive workshop with Jessica from Goal and learned about life in Ethiopia.

**Coffee Morning:** On Friday September 27th as we held our coffee morning in the school, the sad news was breaking of the passing of Damien Ward. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends. € 193.29 was raised for North West Hospice and a further €150 was raised for Sligo Hospital Oncology Unit that morning.