



May & June 2024

# EOLAS



The children of Scoil Mhuire had a wonderfully immersive and enriching week exploring the Creative Arts in May. Engaging with mythology through Music, Art, and Drama not only broadened their understanding of different cultures but also stimulated their creativity and imagination. The vibrant art displays, enchanting music, and playful presence of "fairies" transformed the school into a magical environment, making learning a truly enjoyable experience for everyone involved. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils were treated to a performance by the Westlands Theatre Group. The girls from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class participated in workshops where they were fortunate to enjoy the dramatic talents of former teacher Iníon Ní Ailíosa once more. The week culminated in a wonderful display of performances in the yard. We were dazzled with fairy songs, dramatic story telling and Aztec drumming, dancing and singing. Well done to all the pupils and staff on such a special week. Thank you to Sinéad Bean Mhistéil and all staff involved in coordinating this wonderful week.

A Thuismitheoirí / A Chaomhnóirí,

As I reflect on my first year as principal of Scoil Mhuire, I am profoundly grateful for the vibrant tapestry of energy, dedication, and spirit that each of you contributes to Scoil Mhuire. It's truly inspiring to see how each pupil, family, and staff member enriches our community, transforming our school into a place where learning and growth flourish.

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

This final Eolas for the school year is filled with highlights from the bustling activities of May and June. It is a testament to your incredible support and engagement, which have been indispensable to me during my inaugural year as your principal.

As we approach the summer break, I wish all our families a safe and enjoyable time. Your unwavering support and collaboration have been pivotal to navigating this year's challenges and successes. Thank you for all that you do to uphold the spirit and values of Scoil Mhuire.  
Mise, le meas,

*Liz Uí Bheinéid*



## Cycling Day in May



Ulick, from Bike Wizards, arrived to Scoil Mhuire laden down with bikes and helmets for our First Class girls. The sessions were fun and participatory, using games and lively activities to develop cycling skills and confidence. Some of our girls had never ridden a bike before and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow over the duration of the sessions.

We were grateful to receive a grant of €200 from Cork Sports Partnership to hold the cycling event.

## Scoil Mhuire P.F.A.



The PFA oversaw many successful events this school year and hosted the refreshment side of welcoming new parents, and celebrating special moments such as the sacraments. The PFA who is made up of the parents of pupils in the school is as effective as the time committed by members. This year, the school has benefited immensely from all your hard work and efforts. Thank you.



Green Schools



Scoil Mhuire proudly marked a significant milestone in its commitment to environmental stewardship with the ceremonial raising of the Green Flag in June. The school community gathered to celebrate this achievement, which underscores our dedication to sustainable practices and environmental education. The ceremony was opened beautifully with accordion music by Áine from R6. This set a joyful tone for the day, which was filled with pride and celebration. Keynote speeches were delivered by Councillor Garrett Kelleher and Abbie from the R6 Green Schools Committee, both of whom highlighted the school's efforts and dedication to environmental initiatives. This was followed by a delightful performance from the school choir, which brought the ceremony to a harmonious close.

Post-ceremony, the school yard buzzed with excitement as an ice cream truck arrived, providing a sweet treat to the pupils. Throughout the day, the Climate Café was in operation in the Halla, offering a platform for discussions and learning about sustainability. The event also included a 'Zero Power Hour', during which the school minimised its power usage to make a statement about energy conservation. Scoil Mhuire remains dedicated to building upon this achievement by integrating environmental education into its curriculum and daily activities, fostering an ethos of respect and care for the planet among our pupils. Special thanks to Iníon Uí Shé and Bean Uí Ullacháin for their unwavering commitment that led to us securing our 8<sup>th</sup> award



## Active & Wellbeing Week

Active & Wellbeing Week stands out as a vibrant highlight of our school year. Throughout this energetic week, our pupils participated in a diverse array of sports activities, ensuring that there is something enjoyable for every girl. From skipathons that tested their stamina to funny face races that brought out laughter, orienteering that sharpened their navigation skills, to buddy walks that fostered camaraderie, the week was packed with engaging and dynamic events.

Additionally, the girls took part in classes led by our enthusiastic coaches. 'Dance Fit' with Tara provided an energetic and fun workout, while Zumba with Frank got everyone moving with rhythmic dance routines. These sessions were not only fun but also promoted the importance of fitness and wellbeing.

The absolute highlight of the week was, of course, Sports Day, which we were fortunate to hold under splendid weather conditions. The girls thoroughly enjoyed a day filled with competitive races and friendly sportsmanship, showcasing their athletic abilities and team spirit. A heartfelt míle buíochas to Ann Uí Raghallaigh and Elaine Uí Thuama, along with all the staff who played a pivotal role in coordinating this wonderful week. Their dedication and effort in organizing these activities truly made this week memorable and successful for everyone involved. This week not only emphasized physical fitness but also highlighted the importance of well-being and teamwork within our school community. We look forward to continuing this tradition and making it even better in the coming years.

Congratulations to the pupils in 4<sup>th</sup> class who worked incredibly hard to secure a Curious Minds Silver Award. The feedback was incredible from the adjudicators: *"One word WOW. This is a well-deserved silver award. What a wide and varied range of activities, from grass heads, egg experiments, space, QR codes, code.org, the anemometer, to name a few. I particularly adored the elf zipline and the grass heads. I strongly recommend that you go for the Gold Award next year. Excellent work all round."* Thank you to Bean Uí Ullacháin and Bean Uí Churtáin for your dedication to ensure we achieved this award.





In June our Junior Infants visited our neighbours at Ballincollig Library. They had an opportunity to join the library and discover all the services on offer. The girls returned to school full of excitement about the Summer Reading Scheme called "Summer Stars." This is a free national reading programme for children that takes place in all public libraries and online each summer. It runs from 4th June - 31st August 2024. Thank you to Iníon Uí Thuama and Iníon Uí Ainle for organising the trip.



At the end of the school year, we will be sending 20-day school absence letters through Aladdin.

This may result in a duplication of earlier letters. Parents whose children have been referred to the Education Welfare Office have already been contacted.

Please be reminded that a child is marked absent if they are not physically present in the classroom at the time of roll call. Late arrival and early collection are also recorded. The reason for absence is also recorded.

Finally, parents/guardians should ensure that pupils access their right to education. Missed days naturally happen from illness etc. 20 school days each year in primary school equates to almost a full year of teaching and learning. Therefore, we ask you to strongly consider family holidays to happen outside of term time.



### Cork City Sports



Each year, we are so impressed by the dedication our girls demonstrate in preparing for the Cork City Sports Competition, and this year has been particularly remarkable. Our athletes not only excelled individually, winning numerous trophies, but their collective efforts also led us to victory in our category. This year's success can be largely attributed to the unwavering commitment of our girls, who participated in training sessions multiple times a week. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the teachers and SNAs who played a crucial role in readying our girls for this competition.



Due to the introduction of the Free Primary Schoolbooks Scheme last year, your daughter will not receive a booklist from the school for the next school year. We will be sourcing all of the books and copies which will be required. These books will be distributed to children in September.

Thank you to Assistant Principal, Sinéad Bean Mhistéil, for coordinating the purchasing and distribution of the school books this year. You will find further information below if required. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/933a9-free-primary-schoolbooks-scheme/>

Requisite money will be payable on Aladdin. Requisite money is used for a particular purpose:

- Arts and Crafts Materials
- Photocopying
- Aladdin fees
- Educational Licenses

Payments can be made via Aladdin or in the office.

The list of stationery that each pupil needs will be circulated to all parents. Stationery and consumables may need to be replaced throughout the school year.

We thank you for your support with all things book and stationery related.



## ***Board of Management Report to Parents***

- The Board commended the high-quality work on the updated Curricular Plans for Geography and History and the Sustainability Policy, which have been officially ratified.
- The Board acknowledged and praised the efforts of the ISLM (In School Leadership and Management) Team, as evidenced in the comprehensive End of Year Reports presented.
- The Board is pleased with the outcomes of the Final WSE Report from the Inspectorate and looks forward to its forthcoming publication.
- The Board expressed gratitude for the extensive range of Extra-Curricular activities conducted throughout the year and thanked all the teachers and SNAs for their work throughout the year.
- Congratulations were extended to the Cork City Sports Team for their outstanding success, and thanks were given to all staff involved in training the team.
- The Board expressed appreciation for the staff and pupils who contributed to our various councils this year, including the Green School's Committee, Active and Wellbeing Committee, and The Student Council.
- Thanks were extended in advance to the staff who have volunteered to facilitate the Summer Programme.
- The Board celebrated the successful First Holy Communion, acknowledging the staff, pupils, and the parents who volunteered on the day. Special thanks were directed to Sharon, Mairéad and Tadhg for their significant contributions.
- The Board thanked the PFA for their excellent work throughout the year and the success of their fundraising initiatives, highlighting the fortunate position the school is in to have such a dedicated PFA team.
- Finally, the Board expressed its gratitude to the parents of Scoil Mhuire for their unwavering support during all fundraising activities, especially noting their participation during the Summer Fair amidst challenging weather conditions.

### **First Holy Communion**

**One of the highlights of our school year is undoubtedly the celebration of the First Holy Communion – a beautiful and memorable occasion that embodies both faith and community spirit. The girls of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class dedicated themselves to learning their songs and prayers, which they performed exquisitely. As the sun shone brightly on their special day, their sweet singing filled everyone's hearts with joy.**

**Special thanks to the class teachers, SNAs and all the staff involved in preparing the girls for this significant sacrament. Their support and guidance were instrumental in making the day a resounding success.**



### **6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation**



The 6th class graduation was a poignant and joyful occasion, marked by beautiful singing and a light-hearted production that playfully forecasted the myriad of potential future careers for our graduates. Each girl was presented with a keepsake to cherish their memories of their time in 6th class, a token of their journey and achievements.

Following the ceremony, a guard of honour was formed by pupils and staff, a heartfelt tribute to their years at Scoil Mhuire. The celebrations continued back at the school where we welcomed the graduates and their families to the Halla for refreshments. This provided a wonderful opportunity for final farewells, shared memories, and photo sessions, all contributing to a memorable day for our esteemed graduates. We are incredibly proud of each girl as she steps forward into the next chapter of her educational journey, carrying forward the values and knowledge instilled during her time with in Scoil Mhuire.