



Newsletter 2023

I hope you all have a wonderful restful summer break after what has been a busy school year and one which saw all activities and more returning to the school. This term alone, there was swimming, school tours, blitzes, chess competitions, city sports, Sciath na Scol, Zumba, School Garden competition to name but a few! We also saw the 'Green team' taking part in the Village litter pickup and the Student Council giving their views on our digital plan and organising many Wellness initiatives for all classes. This year we will say goodbye to 31 6th class students and welcome 26 junior infants, 13 boys and 13 girls. We wish our 6th class pupils all the best in their new journey and hope that they will carry the values that they were taught here and in their homes with them



Free book scheme: The Dept. of Education have allocated 50m. euro to this scheme which will cover all books, workbooks and copies for every primary school child. Funding will be reviewed on a year to year basis. For the coming year, your child will only have to have a school bag, pencil case and other class related stationary. Your class teacher will notify you of the stationary that you will need to provide.

always.

Digital Safety: Thanks to the Parents Council for organising Ger Brick of iNetSafetyTalk to talk to all pupils from Rang a 3 up. He also gave a very informative talk to parents online. This initiative supports our overall digital plan which includes a whole school teaching approach that enhances digital citizenship in our pupils.

Indoor Lunches: All classes enjoyed Thursday's Indoor Lunches. Some activities included reading, Lego, construction toys, colouring and imaginative play. It was great on wet days especially and we are looking forward to continuing it next year. A special thank you to our Student Council for setting up and putting away the activities.

Active Schools Week: We had a wonderful Active Schools Week this year. The weather was very helpful and we completed a Wake Up Shake Up for 10 minutes every morning. We were delighted to welcome Danny Zumba who put each class through their paces on the dance floor. We focused on orienteering for our PE Strand and each class thoroughly enjoyed the activities. Classes teamed up with their buddy class during the week for PE lessons. Homework was kept to a minimum and children were encouraged to get active in the evenings as well. All in all, a great week was had by all!

Ethos: Many thanks to Mr. Sisk and Mr. Meade for their input into preparing their pupils for Confirmation: it was a beautiful ceremony officiated by Bishop Gavin. A huge thank you to Miss Clifford, for preparing the boys and girls in 2nd class so they could receive their First Holy Communion and to Miss O'Driscoll and the school choir who contribute so much to all the liturgies. The First Friday mass in June was led by Rang a 6 and was a lovely ceremony marking the boys and girls graduation.

Congratulations to Barry Horgan and his partner Eimear Murphy on the birth of their second son Séimí a brother for Senan

FAI Soccer: Our boys' fantastic journey came to an end in the Munster Finals in Cahir in May. Having won the Cork Finals, the boys qualified to play the other county champions of Munster. Two close fought games in the group stages, where we lost by a single goal in both, meant we were out of contention for the next round in Lansdowne Road. The boys performed admirably and more than held their own against very strong opposition, so a very big well done to them all. It was a brilliant experience and one that will live long in the memory for all involved.

Girls Sciath Na Scol Football: Our girls Sciath Na Scol football team had a great day out in Bandon in May. We beat Bandon in our first game and lost to a strong Clonakilty team in our second game. The girls trained hard all year and made great progress. Well done girls!

Chess Tournament: We are in the middle of our first school Chess Tournament. Children from Rang a Dó to Rang a Sé participated in the tournament. We hope to continue our chess initiative next year and get everyone playing!

This year, Newcestown NS entered the Sciath na Scol hurling/ camogie competition for the very first time; and it proved to be a great success. Newcestown were first grouped with other schools from West Cork, including Timoleague, Clonakilty, Enniskeneane, Barryroe and Kilbrittain. Both the boys and girls qualified for the semi finals; the boys winning against Carraig na bhFear, while the girls unfortunately lost to a very strong Innishannon side. The boys went on to face Rathcormac in the final which took place in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Our boys faced a tough challenge against a very strong Rathcormac side, but showed enough skill, determination and heart to prevail. This was a great occasion, and the school was extremely proud of both the players and the supporters. Well done to all the boys and girls involved for all of their hard work. Our 5th and 6th class boys completed the treble when they defeated St. Patrick's Boys N.S in the final of the Sciath na Scol football. This was a repeat of last year's final. We took full advantage of a strong 1st half wind and played wonderful football to edge out Skibb in a great game. Thanks to all the boys for their dedication this year.

Playground: Valerie Murphy, a director on the regional board of Leader, came to visit the site. She explained the timeline of the Leader programme which is due to open for applications in September. She assured the group that Leader would look very favourably on the playground application and thanked the community for their fundraising to date. There will be an open meeting in September to explain the Leader process and assess what other amenities are needed for our community.

Green Schools: In April of this year, Newcestown N.S. formed its first ever Green Team! This team consists of children from 3rd to 6th class, and we will be working with the whole school community to achieve our Green Flag. The first Green Flag is based on the theme of Litter and Waste. We will be trying our best to help the environment through recycling, learning about sustainability and taking part in weekly litter picks. We will also be working with the local Tidy Villages committee, to help keep Newcestown village as clean and litter free as possible.

School Building: Our new building project went to the tendering process on Friday June 16th. The board hope to begin the project during the summer holidays.

School Garden: Boys and girls, from all classes, have had a lot of fun working on our school garden this year. They have been busy growing many types of fruit and vegetables which include sweetcorn, beans, peas and pumpkins. They have learned about cleaning the beds and planting and how to take care of different vegetables. Pupils from 5th and 6th class had a great day spent painting the garden and other classes made butterflies to brighten up the garden. On the 22nd of May, we had a visit from MuintirnaTíre, as we have entered the Cork Schools Garden Competition. They were very impressed with our painted Minion tyres and our 'lettuce slide'. We have now been invited to the awards ceremony, on the 21st of June, in Cork and we are looking forward to the day.