

Principal's Report July 2nd 2018

This has been a fantastic year for the school. Please refer to our 5th edition of the Esker Gazette, one gone home to every family in the school for in-depth analysis (with photos) of all our great activities, awards and initiatives during the last busy, busy school year. Thanks Rebekah who works do hard every year to record the highlights of our year and to make sure we have wonderful memories

Gazette also available on the website.

A couple of highlights here

- **The Visit of President Michael D Higgins to our school. We opened the year in November with the President's visit to celebrate our ten year anniversary and the opening of our Sunbell Garden and Book of Climate Bells.**
- **The school received four major awards this year**
 1. Awarded a plaque for excellence in Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) – judges remark: Outstanding
 2. Awarded our first Active Flag
 3. Awarded our third Green School Flag with 1st prize regional winners and All Ireland national winners for water conservation with a cash prize of €2000 and two beautiful glass trophies
 4. PTA 's gardening club won Category G (Community School Garden / Allotment) award for their magical Fairy garden. Cash prize of €1,000 and a beautiful plaque

Numbers

There are 428 pupils in the school, 243 boys and 185 girls. We are taking in 52 children next year, 26 boys and 26 girls Junior Infants. Staffing

SNA Allocation. We have been awarded 8.66 (7.49 for last year) for next year. 7 full time and 2 part time. Last year we had 5 full time and 3 part time. Improvement. Interviews today and Thursday. Split because one person who I am anxious to get isn't available until then.

Third term Fire drill (June 18th 2018) carried out. Surprise fire drill. Only Colette and Barry knew in advance. We've made some changes following the last fire drill. Successful. Report tin Fire drill book in Suzanne's office.

Health and Safety Audit carried out on 22nd. Marie (From the BOM), Colette Gemma and Barry conducted the audit

RSE carried out in 4th 5th and 6th and throughout the school this last term

New Parent meeting May 12th

New junior infants came in June 15th to meet their class teacher and other children in their class/

Class allocation: See document on home page of website

Droichead training: Colette, Gemma, Sarah, Ruth trained up. 7 NQTS (Newly Qualified) teachers successfully through the process

School Self Evaluation is back since 19th February the INTO directive to lift their ban on co-operation with the initiative. Schools have been asked to work on 1 or 2 subject areas between

now and 2020, to evaluate their current practice, gather evidence and make a school improvement plan in these two areas, one at a time.

We are going to match the SSE with the introduction of the new language curriculum at primary level. Irish and English will be our two areas over the next two years. From February to June 2018, we set up a literacy task force to come up with evidence based suggestions for tackling the new literacy curriculum in English. More to follow

Saturday 26th May 1st Communion was held for Catholic children.

Sunday 27th May BOM hosted an open day for guests from IMMA and other people who didn't yet get to see the sculpture created by Vivienne Roche Artist and sculptor of the Book of Climate Bells and Sunbell garden

The Sports Day June 7th: 3rd to 6th Took place in Leixlip athletics club field: Le Cheile for the first time. Very suitable venue, great day had by all,

Junior sports day took place here in the school as usual. Also very successful day.

Santry Athletics: Two days May 28th and May 21st.

Heritage in Schools Biodiversity talk April 18th

20th June

Green school active flag and the stem award - all high achieving awards See Esker Gazette for full report

Croí na scoile Award to Jad Tinawi

Graduation 26th June. Fun Night run by PTA on the night of the graduation