**2017/2018 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 all our pupils back. A special welcome to Isaac, Seán, Oisin, Emily, Edi and James. We wish you all the very best.

* We commenced training for the annual cross country running in Kilnaboy.
* Fundamental Movement lessons commenced with Peter Casey and Kealan.
* On Sept 20th, as part of our History Curriculum we visited Caherconnell. What a wet and miserable day it was but we got to visit the fort and watch a movie based on the fort.
* On Sept 28th, we got a bus to Kilnaboy for the cross country running races. Well done to all children for competing! Each child received a team jersey from Dr Glynn in Ballyvaughan Medical Centre. Well done to Annie Hynes for receiving a team prize. Annie, Emily Costello and Luca Mele qualified for Lees Road in Nov.
* Christmas Cards with Mags Lucas. We commenced working on making Christmas cards that we sold at Christmas time as a fundraiser. Thanks to Mags for giving her time so freely.
* Eddie Leninhan was invited to the school as part of Writer in School Scheme. Eddie entertained all children with his vast number of stories and tales.

**October**

* On October 4th, Ms Scales and the children in the jnr room travelled to Ennistymon to see a farm safety workshop.
* October 6th, we invited John Mc Carthy and Wendy Smith into the school to discuss the annual shoebox appeal.
* October 12th, Brigid Barry and Patsy Carrucan called to the school to discuss the Burren Winterage Programme with the children. Each child was asked to draw a picture based on the winterage. Well done to Lily Casey and Emily Howard on winning prizes for their artistic pictures.
* Football commenced for both boys and girls. The children play with their neighbouring schools, New Quay and Carron. Many thanks to Mary Reidy New Quay for all her hard work and dedication to this.
* Pumpkins were painted, carved and decorated with the help of Angie, Mary and Ali. Many thanks!
* Halloween Party was organised and run by the parents for the school children. What a Spooktacular occasion!

**November**

* The Annual Readathon commenced.
* The Annual Shoe Box Appeal was held. A total of 27 boxes were collected on Nov 10th. Many thanks to all parents and children for supporting this!
* We commenced practising for our Christmas Pageant.
* Our girls reached the County football final. They played on the 7th Nov against Kilinaboy in Cusack Park, Ennis. They were beaten in the last few minutes of the match.
* Our boys reached the County football final. They played on the 8th Nov against Mount Shannon in Cusack Park, Ennis. Unfortunately, luck was not on our side this time.
* Science Week: as part of this, Ms Scales brought the children in the senior room to UL to see a 3D Space Show. It was both fascinating and informative.

**December**

* Foliage Hunt: all children went to the wood to collect foliage and wood for decorations for the old folks party on Sunday 17th Dec.
* On Sunday 10th Dec, we gathered in the church to perform our play. Well done to all the children!
* First ever Meitheal! A big thank you to Angie & Myles Clarke for organising a Meitheal in O’Donohue’s Pub on Sunday Dec 10th. A raffle took place and €315 was raised for the school.
* On Tuesday 12th Dec, author Anthony Garvey visited the school. Anthony discussed his books with the children and read passages to the children. A very worthwhile visit for all.
* Sunday 17th Dec, some children performed for the Old Folks Party. Songs and tunes were played and sang!
* On Dec 22nd, we jumped on the bus and travelled to Limerick to see Cinderella. What a fantastic show!!
* On Dec 26th, parents and children gathered for the mummers. Children were collecting money for the homeless. Well done to all involved.

**January**

* The children commenced their annual swimming lessons in Lahinch for twelve weeks.

* Hurling training and fundamental Movement lessons recommenced with Peter Casey and Kealan.
* Children from Junior infants to 3rd class began corresponding with their pen pals from Auckland, New Zealand.

**February**

* We celebrated St Brigid’s day by reading stories and poems about St. Brigid’s life and making crosses from rushes.
* Little Shop of Horrors – on 6th February the children went to Lisdoonvarna to see the Transition Years production of ‘Little Shop of Horrors’.
* We were delighted to hear that Ms. Scales had a beautiful baby girl called Naoise on February 16th.
* On 27th February, author Anthony Garvey returned to the school. He discussed his new book with the children and gave tips on how to develop their creative writing skills.

**March**

* Cycle Right commenced. Children from 2nd class upwards participated in cycling theory and practical classes culminating in a cycle course at the beach. The children really enjoyed the classes and learnt a lot.
* Mairt Inide – Rinne na páistí pancóga as gaeilge. Lean siad oideas agus bhí orthu labhairt as gaeilge on t-am ar fad. Bhí sé deacair ach bhain siad taitneamh as! For Pancake Tuesday the children made pancakes through Irish. They followed a recipe and had to speak Irish the whole time! It was hard but the children enjoyed it!
* School Butterfly Tree – Many thanks to Angie who helped the children make our beautiful origami butterfly tree. The Junior Room painted the branches and the Senior Room made the butterflies. A wonderful display of whole school collaborative art!
* St Patrick’s Day Parade: children participated in the Fanore parade on March 11th. Every member of the school played an instrument. In our school band we had tin whistles, low whistles, fiddles, concertinas, banjos, accordions, triangles, drums and chimes!
* Books for Uganda – Evan visited our school on the 23rd of March to tell the children all about life in Uganda and the work he is doing there. In September we will be collecting English books for children in this developing country. Over the Summer, please put aside any books for young children you would like to donate.
* Readathon Awards - The Readathon came to an end on the 23rd of March. 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. Well done to all children and especially those who received an Outstanding Award Achievement Certificate.
* On the 31st March the annual bagpacking fundraiser took place in Supervalu. Many thanks to the parents who helped to make it a success. We raised €1347!

**April**

* Football commenced with John Enright for all children.
* Gymnastics – Children began their six-week course of Gymnastics with Magda.
* Carmel Madigan visited our school on the 23rd April to talk to the children all about marine life at Fanore Beach.
* Sister Breda came to our school to talk to the children about God. We sang some of our religious songs for her and played some music. She was very impressed!
* Communion took place on Sunday 29th April in Fanore Church. Congratulations to Annie, Cathal, Emily, Evelyn, Harry, Liam, Nathaniel, Patrick and Ryan on receiving their first holy communion.
* Beach Safari – Carmel returned on April 30th to take the children on a beach safari. The children really enjoyed finding and collecting sea creatures.

**May**

* Ali planted spinach, carrots and peas with the children for our school garden.
* Hurling Blitz – our hurling team went to Ennistymon on the 17th May to participate in a hurling blitz. They enjoyed playing against many different teams and had great success!
* Planting strawberries – Many thanks to Jackie for building our beautiful raised bed for our strawberries. We planted them with Ali and are looking forward to picking them already!
* Science – Michael Browne visited the Senior room to conduct some experiments on heat. The children had great fun and the experiments allowed the children to challenge their perceptions and knowledge of heat.
* Garden art – The children collected stones from the river and painted them to decorate our school garden. Thank you, Ali!
* The girls football team narrowly missed out in a place in the final of the schools football. They played very well against a strong Holy Family team and we are very proud of them.
* News came through to say that we had received our 15th Award of Science & Maths Excellence!! A big thanks to Sharon for all her hard work.

**June**

* New School room – After various unsuccessful applications, the Department of Education finally agreed to provide some funding for a new room! This is a welcome decision due to our growing numbers.
* Junior Room school tour – on June 2nd Children from Junior Infants to 2nd class went to Bunratty for their school tour. The children got to meet all the different animals that live there, see some of the old houses and the schoolhouse, visit the fairy village and play in the playground. The children had a great time there and stopped in McDonalds on the way home!
* Senior Room school tour – Children from 2nd class to 6th class went to Galway for the Senior room school tour on June 8th. They first had a day of activities at the Kingfisher, NUIG. The children’s favourite activities that they participated in were the roller races, air mountain, zorbee ball roll and wrecking ball. After, they went to Supermacs and onto shopping in Eyre Square. A great day out!
* On June 15th , Sports Day was held in the school. A great day was had by all children and parents, Many thanks to all the parents who helped out to make this day a great success.
* GAA Blitz – on 18th June all children participated in a GAA fun day blitz hosted by Ballyvaughan school. The children really enjoyed meeting and playing with their friends from neighbouring schools Carron, New Quay and Ballyvaughan.
* Football Final - The school football team played in the county final against Ballynacally with neighbour schools New Quay, Carron and Ballyvaughan. Unfortunately luck was not on their side, but we are very proud of how well they played.
* New Junior Infants – on June 20th- 22nd we welcomed the new class of junior infants to our school. We look forward to seeing them all again in September.
* June 22nd - Graduation Mass was held for Holly and Matthew who will be leaving us this year. We would like to wish them a big “Goodbye & Good Luck” in their future studies!

We would also like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to Luca Mele. We wish him the best of luck in his new school.

**General:**

**Policy Development**

The New Board of Management have reviewed the following policies:

The new data protection policy was ratified by the board and is available on the school website.

The new Child Safeguarding statement and Risk Assessment statement were

**Staff**

**Gardening**

Many thanks to Ali Hynes for her work on our school garden. There is lots growing at the moment! We cannot wait until harvest time!

**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 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.

**Teaching Staff**

Before we welcome Miss Scales back in September I want to say a sincere thanks to Miss Howley for her hard work and dedication to the school for the 6 months she was here. She was praised highly by the inspector for her teaching skills and on behalf of the B.O.M, I wish her every success in the future.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and happy summer and I look forward to seeing you all again.

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**Brid Queally**

Principal

**Board of Management**

Anne Pilkington Olaf O’Neill

Brid Queally Carol Scales

Paula O’Leary Michael Clerkin

Joan Howard Fr. Richard Flanagan