**2016/2017 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 back all our pupils for the school year ahead. We also welcomed our new students, Lily Casey, Suzie Hynes, Miranda O’Donohue, Tadhg Mc Carthy, Bobby O’Connor, Simeon Byrne, Maitiu Mc Coy and Christopher Mc Coy.

* We commenced training for the annual cross country running in Kilnaboy.
* Hurling lessons commenced with Peter Casey and continued until Christmas.
* German commenced with Marielle Hisper. German is taught to children from 1st class upwards.
* 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 Luca Mele for receiving a team prize.
* 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.

**October**

* Food Dudes commenced.  The Food Dudes programme allows children to sample and enjoy a variety of foods over a number of weeks.
* On October 10th, Ms Scales and the children in the senior room travelled to Ennistymon to see a Science show. Lots of experiments were carried out and lots of pupil participation.
* Football Blitz: On October 12ththe children in the senior room travelled to Lahinch with Ms Scales for a football blitz. Children were mixed up with children from other schools and competed against each other.
* Children’s Book Festival, Niall De Búrca. The children in the junior room travelled to Ennis to Glor to see author Niall De Búrca. This was an interactive storytelling show.

**November**

* The Annual Readathon commenced.
* The Annual Shoe Box Appeal was held. A total of 30 boxes were collected on Nov 10th. Many thanks to all parents and members of the community for supporting this!
* We commenced practising for our Christmas Pageant. Lots of songs, dances to be performed.
* Children in the senior room designed doodles for the competition Doodle4google based on the theme If I could create something?
* November 29th, we had our first visit from Michael Browne. Michael worked with the children in the senior room on science. The topic explored was Air Pressure. A range of experiments were carried out.

**December**

* On Thursday 8th Dec, we said goodbye to the O’Leary family who moved to Lisdoonvarna.
* On Sunday 18th Dec, we gathered in the church to perform our play. Angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, innkeepers, wise men all featured! It was a great performance! Following our play, the children in the senior room performed for the old folks party in O’Donohue’s pub.
* Wednesday 21st Dec, we travelled to Newmarket on Fergus to Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire to celebrate our 5year award for participation in the Blue Star Programme.
* On Dec 22nd, we jumped on the bus and travelled to Limerick to see Beauty and the Beast. What a fantastic show!!

**January**

* The children commenced their annual swimming lessons in Lahinch.
* Sean Nos singing with John Flanagan. The children in the senior room got the opportunity to work with John on sean nós singing. John sang the songs, explained the stories behind the songs etc. Following his 4 week lessons, the children were able to sing 3 sean nós songs.
* INetSafety talk with Ger Brick. Ger called to the school on Monday 30th January to work with the children in the senior room on internet safety. Following the children’s workshop, there was an evening seminar for all parents. This was truly an educational and eye-opening talk for both teachers and parents alike. Ger’s information can be still be found on our website and the codes are:

username**parentinfo** and password **inetsafety55**

**February**

* We celebrated St Brigid’s day by making crosses from rushes. Many thanks to Mary Mc Bride for coming in and helping.
* Hurling Blitz 9th Feb in Inagh. All children from the senior room travelled to Inagh to participate in the blitz. The children were put into teams with other children from other schools. This was a truly enjoyable and worthwhile day.
* 10@10 Operation Transformation: All children participated in 10@10. 10 minutes of exercise on the 10th February as part of the country wide promotion of exercise.
* Something Fishy Programme: This is our first year participating in this programme. On the 13th Feb, Lorraine O’Donnell came to the school and spoke to all children. The aim of Something Fishy is to inform and educate students on water quality, fish, the environment and angling.
* Mrs Queally brought her pupils to see PJ Lynch and Eoin Colfer in Glor on Feb 15th. It was a live drawing experience by PJ Lynch with Eoin Colfer entertaining and reading to the audience. This was in conjunction with our annual readathon.

**March**

* Quad Visit. On March 3rd, the whole school travelled to Clair’s farm to see the famous quad calves.
* St Patrick’s Day Parade: children participated in the parade. This year our float was The Pied Piper of Hamelin.

**April**

* Confirmation took place on April 5th. Congratulations to Jessica O’Donohue, Katelyn Malone, Matthew Irwin and Holly O’Driscoll on receiving the sacrament of confirmation.
* Readathon Awards, the Readathon came to an end on the 7th April. 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.
* Soccer commenced with Denis Hynes from the FAI.

**May**

* Football commenced on the 4th May with Cian O’Dea.
* Hurling Blitz 5th May in Ennistymon. Children got to meet and play with children from lots of different schools.
* Communion took place on May 7th in Fanore Church. Congratulations to Robyn Mele, Noelle Byrne and Tess Casey on receiving their first holy communion.
* Hurling commenced again with Peter Casey.
* Ancient Ireland Workshop was attended by the children in the senior room in the Clare Museum on May 9th. An interesting day was had by the children learning about Ireland long ago.
* Michael Browne returned to us for a science lesson. This time the topic forces. Children were put into teams and they carried out the investigations.
* Craft Ed Programme. We were fortunate this year again to participate in the Craft Ed programme with Jackie Maurer. Our theme for this project is fairies. Children constructed a fairy house each from clay and wrote stories based on their fairies.
* 26th May Beach Safari. Brendan from the Galway Atlantaquaium came out to the school to bring the children on a beach safari. The children were divided into groups to seek out sea creatures. Once the creatures were located and caught, they were examined, named and returned to the rock pools.
* On 30th May, Eddie Lenihan came to the school to talk to the children about fairies! This visit was in conjunction with our Craft Ed programme.
* On May 31st, 2 firemen from the Ennis Fire Brigade visited the school to discuss fire safety with the senior children.
* News came through to say that we had received our 14th Award of Science & Maths Excellence!!
* Cycling commenced.

**June**

* Dog Trust Talk. Aoife from Dog Trust visited the school to speak with all children regarding dogs and dog safety. This was a memorable talk and we hope the children took some pieces of advice from it.
* Environmental Awareness and Water Safety talk took place on June 6th with members of the Clare County Council. The children were shown water safety tips, carried out recycling games and were made aware of the beach rules.
* Senior School Tour took place on June 7th. Children from 2nd class upwards went to UL for an action packed day.
* Junior School Tour took place on the 9th June. All children travelled to The Farmyard in Corofin. Here they met, petted and feed the animals. Thereafter, the children milked a cow, made butter and herded some sheep.
* Wednesday 14th-16th June, we welcomed in our new student Isaac O’ Connor.
* 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.
* June 16th 10km Cycle in Ballyvaughan. Children from 1st class upwards participated in this cycle. An enjoyable evening was had! Many thanks to Olaf O’Neill for coordinating training for this event.
* June 20thGraduation Mass was held for Robyn, Katelyn & Jessica 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 the Mc Coy family. We wish both boys the best of luck in their new school.

**General:**

**Policy Development**

The New Board of Management have reviewed the following policies:

* Pastoral Care Pplicy ~ Cricitial Incident Policy
* Religion Policy ~ English & Maths Policies
* Arts Policies i.e Music, Drama and Art.
* Swimming Policy

**Parent’s Council**

No further development has been made on this.

**Staff**

We would also like to thank Marielle for giving her time so freely to the school. We also like to thank Maire Hanrahan, Olivia Cahill and Fiona O’Brien who will no longer be with us in September due to changes from the department.

**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.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and happy summer and look forward to seeing you all again on Thursday 31st August.

**Board of Management**

Anne Pilkington Olaf O’Neill

 Brid Queally Carol Scales

 Paula O’Leary Michael Clerkin

 Joan Howard Fr. Richard Flanagan

**School Year 2017/2018**

**School re-opens on:**

 Thursday August 31st.

**October 2017 mid-term break**

School will close on Friday 27th Oct. School re-opens on Monday 6th Nov.

**Christmas 2017**

Schools will close on Friday 22nd December 2017, which will be the final day of the school term.

School will re-open on Monday 8th January 2018.

**February 2018 mid-term break**

School will close on Thursday 15th & Friday 16th February.

**St Patrick’s Day**

School will be closed on Monday 19th March.

**Easter 2018**

School will close on Friday 23rd March.

School will re-open on Monday 9th April.

**May Mid Term**

School will be closed from Mon 7th-Fri 11th May.

**Summer Holidays**

To be announced