



# Newport | NS

Learning Together in Harmony

Newport National School, Newport, Co. Mayo

Newsletter no. 32: June 2016



Brian and Matthew win the Engineer's Den Top Prize!  
pictured with Dragon Seán Gallagher and Team Horizon Chairman Aidan Corcoran

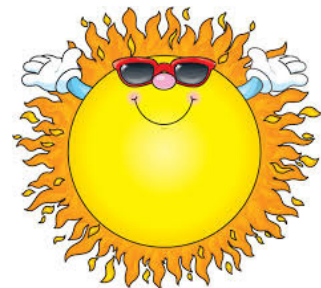


**First Holy Communion and Communion Party**  
with Ms Cheatle, Mr. Gallagher and Fr. Tod



# Newport NS

Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths



*We are coming towards the end of yet another successful school year. Children are looking forward to their school tour, sports day and end of year mass. Summer temperatures are have recently soared and children have all enjoyed trips to the beach and generally playing outside. Our vegetable and herb garden is flourishing as you will see from photos on our website*

### **Celebrations and recent achievements**

Our school has been awarded our seventh Green Flag as part of our participation in the Green Schools project. All classes participated in the initiative which was overseen by a very dedicated green schools committee comprising Mark Kelly, Ronan O'Donnell, Kai Stokes, Natalie Quinn, Ethan Cummins O'Malley, Shannon Jennings, Faye English, Mark Loftus, Tadhg Hollywood and Lucy Coyle, under the guidance of their teachers. As you know, we also won the Best Kept School in Mayo this year arising from our work with the edible landscapes and our Swift boxes as well as general enhancements which have been done at the school.

Both our girls' and boys' teams competed in the FAI 5-aside soccer competition held in Castlebar. Our boys' team reached the quarter final while the girls' team are County Champions. We also competed in the Cuman na mBunscol gaelic league for boys and girls. Our boys competed in a county final last week narrowly losing out to Balla NS.

2016 has been most eventful and we thoroughly enjoyed our flag raising ceremony and poetry book launch on March 15th last. Our art exhibition was a great success with children from fourth, fifth and sixth exhibiting their work in our PE hall alongside renowned Mayo artists.

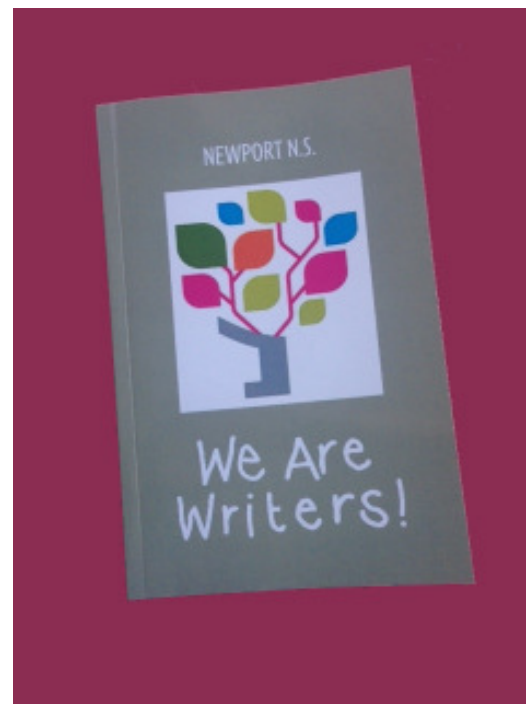
### **Summer Camp**

Teachers Sinead English and Aisling Doherty will run a summer camp during the third week of July by Full details are posted on the website.

Declan Holmes will run a science camp during the second week of July—details will be available on our website soon.

### **First Holy Communion**

On 23rd May, children from 2nd class made their First Holy Communion. The children were accompanied by their teachers Ms. Cheatle, Mr. Gallagher and Mr. O'Malley. Fr. Tod celebrated the Mass and commended the children on all the work and preparation they put in to making their day so special. The Newport Folk Choir provided a beautiful accompaniment of music and hymns. A big thank you to all who helped in making the day so memorable for the children.



Our Poetry book which was launched by poet Mary Madec on 15th March

4th class Mr. Men book—each child wrote, edited and created illustrations for their first work of fiction



**MR. MEN**



Engineer's Den—the Dancercise Team who were joint runners-up

Ms Cheatle's class planting a herb garden at the GAP



### **Newport National School Collects its 7th green flag!**

3 pupils - Rachel Knox, Paul Tessier, and Bartek Palamarczuk accompanied Ms McAuley to the An Taisce Green Flag award ceremony at the end of May. This was Newport NS's 7th green flag. The flag was awarded for the schools work on raising awareness of climate change and global citizenship. All the classes in the school had studied the impact of Climate change and 4th class produced a wonderful project on the effects of Climate Change and ways of tackling the issues. An Taisce's representative was so impressed with the project that photos displaying the project were projected onto a big screen during the award ceremony. Newport NS is leading the way in terms of Green Flags – only a handful of schools in the country have 7 flags!! Newport NS shared a bus with Cloondaff NS to the ceremony, thus reducing our carbon footprint!!

### **Club Gaelge**

Thank you to Ms. Cheatle and Ms. Finnerty who ran a very successful Club Gaelge this year.

### **New Building**

Our building project is progressing well and we expect to have it completed by August in time for our return to school. Our PE hall has been converted to accommodate a lobby, two resource rooms, a classroom, sensory room and toilet. The area at the rear is cordoned off to provide a soft play area for younger students. We have constructed a new large multi-use hall on the Rosmore side of the school which contains storage, toilets and a kitchen. We will attend to landscaping when all the heavy building work is finished. Our new hall will be a great asset to both the school children and to the broader community. As usual we will make this facility available to groups outside of school hours.

### **Engineers Den**

6th class pupils Matthew Moran and Brian Loftus claimed the top prize of €500 in the Team Horizon Engineer's Den competition in Westport recently. One of our other teams, comprising Aoife Hollywood, Bryan Murray, Ron Morrisson, Janet Catigan and Megan Rixon, and their project, Dancercise, claimed the joint runners-up spot. All of the pupils in 6th class entered a project in the competition.

Matthew and Brian's project the Multi-use Hydraulic Arm made from cardboard, demonstrated the basic principles of hydraulics, using fish tank tubing and syringes filled with water to enable the arm to move in many directions.

Dancercise used the coding software, Scratch and Makey Makey (mini-computer) to create a dance mat which could be used in the classroom on rainy days as a form of exercise.

Both teams had to give a 5-minute presentation in the Town Hall Westport in front of a panel of judges and a live audience in a Dragon's Den style format. The "dragons" then questioned the teams for a further 5 minutes and were very impressed with the knowledge displayed by both teams.

The teams worked very hard and did an excellent job representing themselves and the school in a tough environment. All projects and photographs can be viewed on our school website.

### Herb Garden

Colleen Kennedy, a herbalist and nutritionist, in conjunction with 2nd and 3rd class, set up The Herb Patch in the Edible Landscape Garden adjacent to the GAP astroturf pitch. The children assembled the wooden frame, filled it with compost and then sowed 9 edible herb plants - Rosemary, Thyme, Mint, Lemonbalm, Marigold, Heartease, Chamomile, Parsley and Lavender. Colleen then explained some of the ways that the herbs can be used e.g. chopped up and put into salads, added to stews and soups, included in sandwiches and baps, made into tea, put into a bath, used to make a cream etc. She also told us about the benefits of eating, drinking or bathing in these herbs e.g. Mint, and Lemonbalm can help tummy upsets, Chamomile is useful for anxiety or restlessness, Lavender is traditionally used to alleviate headaches and can help us sleep better, Heartsease and Thyme are used for breathing problems and Rosemary is used to enhance memory. Colleen encouraged us to harvest these herbs once they become a bit established so we will return in a few weeks and maybe try a cup of cool Chamomile tea at break time!!

### Write a book

The children in classes 1st to 6th class became published authors this spring with our school's very first book! The children created a fantastic poetry anthology filled with poems that they had carefully drafted, edited and then submitted for inclusion in the 'We Are Writers' book. The books were on sale in the school for €8 and there was a great response from the school community. As an added bonus, the school retained 60% of the proceeds in the form of books for the class libraries. Congratulations to everyone involved.



Boys Gaelic team pictured contesting the county final 2016 in McHale Park



Plates decorated by 4th Class during their visit to Turlough House



### Mr. Men

Such literary talent in our school!. Roger Hargreaves was an English author and an illustrator of children's books, best remembered for the Mr. Men and Little Miss series. Inspired by his books, each child in 4th class designed his or her own Mr. Men character. They each created a story based on the character's personality. The stories were then illustrated and are now in the process of being professionally printed. This was a lengthy process but a very valuable experience. The children look forward to reading their books to the younger classes.

### Museum of Country Life

4th class had a trip to the Museum of Country Life at the end of May. They had a very informative tour of Turlough House and examined some of the artefacts stored in the museum. They were also treated to a ceramic decorating workshop where their natural creative talents produced beautifully patterned plates. A very enjoyable day for everyone.

### Fundraising

We are very grateful to all the families who took a card in the Silver Circle this year. We realise how difficult it is to ask friends and neighbours for money when times are hard. The money gathered forms a very valuable part of our budget and will be spent carefully.

### Children's School Reports

Shortly, you will receive the pupils' end of year reports in the post. Next year's calendar has been added to the website. Book lists are being compiled and when complete will be available on the website.

### Classes for 2016

#### Staffing Schedule

As happened last year our staffing schedule for next year is dependent on filling vacancies from the redeployment panel. Please find the classes for 2016/17 below. If any further changes need to be made you will be notified as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Mr O'Malley who has been appointed as principal of Lecanvey N.S. Kevin has contributed very generously to school life in Newport as a teacher, as a sports trainer and as a music teacher. Kevin has taught guitar after school for the past three years. We are delighted that he has been promoted while also being sorry to see him leave Newport NS.

Along with Mr Gallagher, Ms Doherty, Ms O'Malley and Brian McLoughlin, Mr O'Malley helped train our soccer and gaelic teams for competition.

Junior infants	Ms Noonan
Senior Infants	Ms Crowley
First Class	To be appointed
Second/Third Class	Mr Gallagher
Third/Fourth Class	Ms Forrestal
Fifth Class	Ms O'Donnell
Sixth Class	Ms O'Malley & Ms Finnerty (Job Share)
ASD	Ms English & Ms McAuley
Resource	Ms Molloy & Ms Connolly

### New Entrants

We have 31 new infants joining the school in September. They are all invited to come to the school on Tuesday June 14th to meet their teachers Ms Noonan and Ms Connolly. They will also get to work in their classroom and to familiarise themselves with "big school"

### Sixth Class

This year the new entrants from 2008 have completed their time with us in Newport NS. Sixteen confident young boys and girls are enrolled in secondary school. We wish them every blessing in their lives and thank them for the wonderful example they have shown to younger pupils. They are a credit to their families and community.

### Thank you...

Thank you to all our parents, who took time out of their busy schedules to coach children, fundraise, accompany children on outings, help with social occasions and always respond when we have asked for help. The staff is very grateful to you for your contribution to school life and for the very positive way you represent Newport N.S. Thank you to Fiona who uses her considerable skill to ensure the administration side of the school is run effectively. Thank you to our SNA's who take care of and cherish all our children especially those in most need of care. Thank you to our teachers whose professionalism ensures we provide a good learning environment for our children and that the potential of each child is reached when drawing up learning outcomes. Finally thank you to the cleaning and caretaking staff who ensure the school is clean and well cared for. They worked particularly hard during the Easter break when all the demolition work was being carried out downstairs. On behalf of all the staff I wish everyone a great summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Thursday 1st September.



Scór na bPáistí Mayo Champions!

Our SEVENTH green flag

