



*Summer Greetings from
Réalt na Mara N.S., Rosses Point,
Co. Sligo.*

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NEWSLETTER



**Summer
2016**

Dear Parents and Friends,

"Tempus fugit": how time flies. We have reached the end of another academic year at Réalt na Mara and as Principal, I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to school-life over the past year and made it happy and successful - our teachers and S.N.A., our pupils and their parents, our school Board of Management, our Parents' Association and members of our community who are always so supportive of the school. As the old Irish proverb states "*Ní neart go cur le chéile*" - there is unity in strength. It is only by working together that we can achieve our goal of providing the best possible educational experience for each child that attends our school. Thank you for your support and commitment to our school.

The end of the school year is always tinged with some sadness as we say goodbye to pupils and staff who have been part of the Réalt na Mara family. June 2016 marks a significant milestone in the lives of our Sixth Class pupils as they prepare to leave primary school and start their secondary education. We wish Kate Armstrong, Lorca Brannigan, Seán Clifford, Danny Cronin, Ella Rose Feeney, Darragh Hallissy, David Keyes, James McDermott, Caoimhe McSharry Daly, Conor Mullaney, Ellen O'Grady, Judi O'Hara and Keela Scanlon every happiness and success in the years ahead. For five of the families of our outgoing 6th Class, it will mark the end of an era, as their youngest children finish primary school. We hope they will continue to keep a link with our school.

The end of this school year will also see us bid adieu to some other familiar faces in Réalt na Mara.

Abigail McNabb (Senior Infants) and her parents are relocating. We wish them every happiness in their new home and we wish Abigail the best of luck in her new school and look forward to hearing all about it.

Ms. Aveen McHugh and Ms. Edel Horan, members of our Teaching Staff this year, will be finishing their posts with us at the end of this term. We thank them most sincerely for their dedication and commitment to our school and wish them both every success and happiness in their future teaching careers.

Last but by no means least; we are saying farewell to Cuntóir Hilary. Cuntóir Hilary has been working with us since September 2008 as a Special Needs Assistant and is very much part of our team at Réalt na Mara. She is well known to all the children in the school. Staff and pupils will miss her very much. We wish Hilary every happiness in whatever she chooses to do in the future and thank her for all her kind assistance to all our pupils and teachers over the last eight years.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our pupils and teachers for some wonderful achievements at national and regional level this term- a STEM Plaque of Excellence, awarded by Science Foundation Ireland, our sixth Green Flag Award presented to us by An Taisce and well done to Fourth Class under the direction of their teacher, Ms. Fiona Hannon, who were the County winners in the Moo Crew Competition organised by the National Dairy Council. You can read about all these events and more in our Newsletter.

Wishing you all a very happy, safe and relaxing summer.

Le gach dea -ghuí.

***Dearbhla Gill, M.Ed.
Principal.***

Sports File



Our final term saw pupils participating in lots of different sporting activities. Our GAA training with coaches from I.T. Sligo continued for all classes after the Easter break. We held our annual Jersey Day on the 13th April and the school was awash with the colours of local club teams and various county colours. We are very grateful to all the families who support Jersey Day as donations made go towards funding the GAA in schools scheme in Co. Sligo.

On 18th April, Réalt na Mara was ably represented in the GAAmigos hurling skills contest by Seán Clifford, Danny Cronin and Darragh Hallissy (all 6th Class pupils) and Billy McCarthy (5th Class). The competition was held in Summerhill College, Sligo and the boys finished in joint first place – a terrific achievement. They won a trip to the **Connacht Centre of Excellence** in Began, Co. Mayo for themselves and their classmates – much to the delight of everyone in 5th and 6th Classes. On June 14th we travelled to the Connacht Centre of Excellence with the Sligo winners of the GAAmigos football and hurling skills competitions for a great day of sport. The children took part in a range of activities from rounders to orienteering, football skills, hurling skills and various games. We appreciate all the efforts of Sligo Games Manager, Liam Óg Gormley and all the coaches who made the day so enjoyable.

On the 19th April, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Class pupils participated in a **Cycle Safely Workshop**. This initiative was funded by Youth Sport West and our school's Board of Management. Pupils were taught how to check that their bicycles and helmets are in good working order and were shown the correct techniques for braking. They were also taught how to use the correct hand signals when they are cycling on the roads to let other road users know if they intend turning left or right. Finally they were given opportunities to cycle around the school yard, negotiating around cones and other obstacles to help improve their balance and judgement. We hope that they will put into practice all that they learned at the workshop, when they are cycling on the road and remember to keep safe.

This year's Cumann na mBunscol football competitions saw us face teams from St. Patrick's N.S., Calry, St. Brendan's N.S., Cartron and Sooeey N.S. Our girls and boys teams played one away match each and two home matches. The boys were defeated by one point by St. Patrick's N.S., Calry and then went on to have two convincing wins over St. Brendan's N.S. Cartron and Sooeey N.S. This meant that they were runners up in the A section of the 4-5 Teacher schools' competition and were through to the semi-finals. While the results didn't go the girls' way (they encountered some very strong girls' teams over the course of the competition) there were definite improvements in skill levels and teamwork as the competition progressed.

The boys' semi-finals were played on Tuesday, 7th June at Sligo G.A.A.'s Centre of Excellence in Scarden. Réalt na Mara faced Holy Family N.S., Tubbercurry. The boys from Holy Family N.S. sprang into action from the get-go and succeeded in putting a number of quick scores on the board. It looked as if they were really going to take charge of the game but the boys of Réalt na Mara were tenacious and began to claw back the scores. It was a fast-paced and very exciting game and the spectators were definitely entertained by some fine football. When the final whistle blew, Réalt na Mara were bitterly disappointed to have been pipped to the post by only one point. It is the second successive year that Réalt na Mara has reached the semi-finals so we believe this augurs well for next year.

Pupils from 3rd and 4th Classes took part in two Football Blitzes this term at the Sligo G.A.A. Centre of Excellence at Scarden and enjoyed participating in games with pupils from other primary schools.

Congratulations to Keela Scanlon, 6th Class, who reached the County Finals in the Cumann na mBunscol football place-kicking competition.

Visit from Clan Cluana Theatre Company.



Clan Cluana Theatre Company visited Réalt na Mara on the 21st April and we were treated to an enchanting production of the ancient Irish tale "Deirdre of the Sorrows". Although the title suggests a play with a sad theme, there were moments of great humour and intrigue and the actors had everyone spellbound in the G.P. Room. We all enjoyed the experience of live theatre in our school.

Awards



This term we were honoured to receive a number of awards - a Plaque of STEM (Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering) Excellence Award from Science Foundation Ireland and a Green School Flag for our work on the theme of Global Citizenship from An Taisce.

We were delighted to receive these awards as a lot of time, effort and co-operation went into completing the requisite project work. These awards are testament to the hard work of all the children and their teachers in our school. Well done everyone.

Green Flag



On Wednesday 25th May, three members of our Junior Green School Committee: David Keyes (6th Class), Keela Scanlon (6th Class) and Eamon O'Mahony (3rd Class) accompanied by Ms. Murphy, our school's Green School Co-ordinator travelled to Claremorris to receive our 6th Green Flag. We were delighted to receive this accolade but our joy was short-lived as our lovely Green Flag was stolen in the early hours of Friday, 3rd June. The flag was subsequently spotted by two very observant pupils: Finnán O'Mahony (2nd Class) and his brother, Eamon (3rd Class) and they retrieved it from where it had been dumped and returned it to the school. Well done boys.

Sadly, someone had attempted to burn the flag with cigarettes and damaged it, so we are currently unable to raise it. This is very disappointing for everyone at Réalt na Mara and indeed it is the third time we have had a Green Flag stolen from our school. We are appealing to all members of the community, who pass by the school on a regular basis to be vigilant and if you see anything untoward, please report it to the Principal.

School Visits.

This term we have had a number of visitors from different organisations visit us at the school. First we were visited by Ms. Selene Daly, Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Dermatology Department at Sligo University Hospital. Ms. Daly spoke to all our classes about the importance of looking after our skin in the sun and what we can do to protect our skin from getting damaged. Every child was given a sun hat and advised of the importance of wearing a sun hat and applying sun cream on a regular basis, particularly from March to September, when people tend to be outdoors a lot more.

Last week, two members of the Sligo Fire Brigade Service visited the school and spoke with the pupils of 4th, 5th and 6th Class about fire safety. They encouraged every pupil to devise a fire escape plan with their families and to be able to give clear directions to their home should they ever need to call the emergency services.

On Monday, we were visited by librarian, Ms. Patricia Keane, from Sligo County Library who was promoting our local library's summer reading initiative: "**Summer Stars**". Pupils are being encouraged to read six books from our local library during July and August. All children who complete the challenge will receive awards and be invited to a fun prize-giving ceremony at the library. We would encourage all our pupils to engage with this challenge and if you are unable to participate, you should still try to read regularly over the summer holidays. Further information together with tips on supporting children's reading and recommended reading lists can be found at www.librariesireland.ie

Congratulations

Congratulations to our **Fourth Class** pupils and their teacher, Ms. Hannon, who were County winners in the National Dairy Council's MooCrew - "Design a poster and slogan" competition. They were awarded a certificate and an €80 voucher for sports equipment. Maith sibh!



Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

In preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, our Sixth Class pupils attended a retreat in St. Angela's College, Clogherevagh, Sligo on the 29th April. Thirteen Sixth Class pupils were confirmed by Bishop Kevin Doran on Friday, 13th May, in St. Columba's Church, Rosses Point. We were blessed with a bright, sunny afternoon for the celebration of Confirmation and it proved to be a lovely occasion for our pupils and their families.

On Saturday, 21st May, our eighteen Second Class pupils received the Sacrament of First Eucharist in our local church. It was a beautiful ceremony for the children and their extended families and friends. We thank Monsignor Dolan for all his help and support over the course of the last year in preparing the pupils of Sixth and Second Classes to receive the sacraments.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Parents' Association and to all the parent helpers who so kindly arranged the refreshments for our First Communicants and their families in our school G.P. Room after the Mass. Míle buíochas.

School Awards

At the end of each year, a number of awards are made to 6th Class pupils to mark academic and sporting achievements.

This year's award for *Academic Achievement* goes to Seán Clifford. Well done Seán. Danny Cronin was the runner-up. Maith thú, Danny.

The award for *Public Speaking* goes to Lorca Brannigan. Runner-up was Kate Armstrong. Maith sibh.

The winner of the *Dr. M.J. Smyth medal* for the best all-round sports-person and the person who has contributed most to sporting life at Réalt na Mara as an individual and as a team player is Seán Clifford. Congratulations Seán. The runners-up were Lorca Brannigan and Keela Scanlon. Well done Lorca and Keela.

The *Réalt na Mara Fair Play Award* for the person who has shown great team spirit and a sporting attitude both on and off the field of play goes to Ellen O'Grady. Congratulations Ellen. Runner-ups were Caoimhe McSharry Daly and Keela Scanlon. Maith sibh.

The pupils of 4th, 5th & 6th Classes select the recipients of these last two awards.



School-Book Rental Scheme

Over the last three years we have operated a School-Book Rental Scheme in Réalt na Mara. All books in Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes will be available on the book Rental Scheme and there will be a number of books on the Junior Infant, Senior Infant, First and Second Class booklists, which can be rented. *It is imperative that parents of pupils who wish to avail of Book Rental contact the school in writing so we can ensure that there is an adequate supply of books for September.* Parents can send a note to their child's class teacher requesting that they be included or requests may be emailed to the school at rossespointns.ias@eircom.net Only requests that are received by **Thursday 30th June** will be included in the Book Rental Scheme.

Réalt na Mara on tour.

The annual school tour is always one of the high points of the school year for each class and is awaited with much eager anticipation.

This term our *Junior and Senior Infant Classes* spent time at the playground in Mitchell Curley Park and then went to see the Talisman Theatre Company's production of "Puss in Boots". They enjoyed their day away from class.

First and Second Classes visited Eagles Flying, Ballymote where they got to see different birds of prey and various animals. From there they travelled on to Funny Bones where they reported they had lots of fun.

Third and Fourth Classes visited the Arigna Mining Experience and got to explore the tough life of a coal miner when the mines were in operation. They then visited the Mulvey Centre in Carrick on Shannon where they had lots of fun bowling.

The pupils of *Fifth and Sixth Classes* visited Donegal Adventure Centre. On arrival they changed into wetsuits and headed for a small cove where they were divided into three groups, to complete the Viking Quest. Each group had to construct a raft using plastic barrels, planks of wood and ropes. There was a lot of teamwork involved and then came the test – would the raft sink or float? Each team of "Vikings" had to float their raft and "rescue" one team member from the rocks on one side of the cove. Some of the rafts were not as sea-

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Worth as we thought but nevertheless, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After lunch, our intrepid 5th and 6th Class pupils made their way to the climbing wall at the Donegal Adventure Centre and challenged each other to races to the top. Some daring pupils even opted to follow the instructors to the top of the wooden tower and once their safety harness was securely attached to the ropes, they jumped from the ledge. This was certainly not an activity for the faint-hearted!!! The verdict was that it was a great day out.

LearnStorm Maths Challenge 2016

Well done to Matthew Ryan (5th Class), Sarah Jayne Reynolds (4th Class) & Sophie Reynolds (4th Class) who represented Réalt na Mara at *LearnStorm Ireland's Maths Challenge* in GMTI and Lorca Brannigan (6th Class) who

represented us in Cavan I.T. Réalt na Mara was invited to participate in these events following our successful placement in the top 100 Irish schools, after a 9 week All-Ireland on-line Maths Challenge. Our thanks to Ms. McHugh for co-ordinating this initiative for all our pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th Classes.

Thank you.

Thank you to the parents of 6th Class and Parents' Association for providing the refreshments after the 6th Class Graduation Mass on Wednesday, 22nd June. We really appreciate your kindness.

Happy holidays! Wishing you all a relaxing break. Have a safe and happy summer everyone!
School re-opens Thurs. 1st Sept.



Réalt na Mara Parents' Association News

School Fete/Family Fun Day:



We would like to thank everyone involved in the running of the School Fete/ Family Fun Day on the 29th May. A great day was had by all and the weather was amazing. We will be expanding our schedule of entertainment even further for next year!!

We would especially like to thank Mr. James McDermott for his culinary skills and entertaining all at the BBQ Stand!! (There are some lovely pictures on our Facebook page!)

The total amount raised was: €1014.42. The Parents' Association would like to thank most sincerely, everyone who supported this event.

New Parents

At a recent meeting for parents of children who will be enrolling in the Junior Infant Class in September 2016, the Parents' Association were invited to speak about the role of the Parents' Association in our school and the events we have organised over the last year.

We met with the new parents of the Junior Infant Class for September 2016 and they are all very excited about their children starting primary school. We have invited them to our **New Parents Coffee Morning on Friday 2nd September at 11a.m. in the Golf Club.** This invitation is also extended to any parent that had a child enrol in S.N. Réalt na Mara during the academic year 2015/2016.

We wish everyone a **Happy Summer Holidays** and a well-deserved rest for all our hard working Teachers and Principal!
Réalt na Mara Parents' Association.

