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# Boolavogue National School

## Newsletter

### November 2020

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### Thank You!

Once again, sincerest thanks to all of the families who have paid the school voluntary contribution of €100.00. We are most grateful for such a generous contribution, which makes a profound difference to the range of resources and initiatives the pupils can avail of.

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### Parent Teacher Meetings

Just like most things in our world right now, our parent teacher meetings will take a different format this year. This year they will be carried out over four days, beginning on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020. Teachers will conduct phone calls with parents at allocated times.

Many thanks to parents for arranging a time for the phone call. A schedule of times and dates will be sent to families in due course. If you become unavailable on your allocated date or time, please notify Sabrina in the office on 053 03 66998 so alternative arrangements can be made.

### School Calendar 2021

Once again this year, we are offering parents/guardians an opportunity to sponsor our school calendar for 2021 before it is offered to the community. This is a popular item that is well supported in the local community with prominent exposure. If you are interested in sponsoring a page the cost is €30.00. This is a great opportunity for advertising within the local area. If you are interested, please send your details and logo to Sabrina in our school office.

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### Additional Accommodation Project

Building works for additional classrooms and space at our school are well underway. The foundations for the building have been laid. Big changes are quickly approaching!

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### Upcoming Events

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Parent teacher meetings

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

CMRF Christmas Jumper Day

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### Split the Pot

Congratulations to Isabel French in Senior Infants who was the lucky winner of our Halloween Split the Pot. The fundraiser accumulated a tremendous total of €730! The winner collected a cheque for €365 and the remaining €365 was added to the school funds. Some of this money has been used to purchase a school subscription to *Vocabulary Spelling City*, an online spelling programme which will be used from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class. The remaining money will be used to purchase items to enhance Aistear in the infant classrooms. Sincerest thanks to all who contributed to this fundraiser. Your continued support allows the teaching and learning to continue to flourish at Boolavogue N.S.

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## St. Cormac's Parents' Association

### Halloween Fancy Dress

Our annual Halloween Fancy Dress day took place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Well done to everyone who made a huge effort to dress up for the occasion. The creativity and imagination was something else! Thank you to all those who supported the fundraiser organised by our PA and purchased a treat bag for the Halloween parties. A total of €210 was raised. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

### Christmas celebrations

The committee members of St. Cormac's Parents' Association are busy planning a Christmas surprise for the children of Boolavogue National School! Lots of thinking and planning is required this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place. Details will be shared closer to the time!

### Annual Christmas Raffle

The annual Christmas raffle will continue this year. Raffle cards will be disputed in the coming weeks.

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## Science Week 2020

All of the pupils in Boolavogue N.S. enjoyed Science Week 2020 this week, 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November. As always Science Week was a big hit in all of the classrooms. The children participated in numerous science activities and experiments. Check out our Twitter page for photos and videos. Thank you to Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Coleman for organising Science Week for us all.

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### AgriKids Webinars

The pupils have engaged in and enjoyed farm safety webinars presented by *AgriKids* over the last month. More information and learning activities can be found on [www.agrikids.ie](http://www.agrikids.ie).

### Communication between home and school

A reminder that the following platforms are in place to ensure communication between home and schools remain strong:

- Email
- SeeSaw
- Twitter
- School website

### Freepost to care homes

The pupils of Boolavogue N.S took part in the An Post community initiative and reached out with compassion by sending letters and art work to the residents of Oakfield Nursing Home and Valentia Nursing Home recently. The care homes were overwhelmed by the kindness shown. Well done to all of the boys and girls!

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## Creative Schools

Creative Schools is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme to enable the creative potential of every child. Creative Schools is led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Creative Schools, formerly Arts Rich Schools/Arís, draws on the commitments set out in the Arts in Education Charter.

This initiative will understand, develop and celebrate the arts and creativity in schools. It will establish a range of collaborative opportunities for schools and will develop and strengthen the relationships between schools and the broader cultural and community infrastructure within which they operate. The long term aim is for every school to be supported to fully embrace the arts and creativity, ensuring a positive experience and strong outcomes for children and young people.

Boolavogue National School has been selected to participate in the Creative Schools programme 2020-2021. The school has been awarded €4,200 to enhance the teaching and learning in the area of the arts. The school will collaborate with a Creative Schools Associate. We extend a big thank you to Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Coleman for completing the lengthy application last June.

# Covid-19: Advice when sending your child to School

## STEPS Young Engineers Award

This is a competition for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class that introduces engineering. Students brainstorm an engineering project, make a prototype and meet engineering role models. There are lots of great prizes to be won including the STEPS Young Engineers Award Trophy for the winning team. We wish 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class the very best of luck!

## Farewell to Ms. Mullery

The entire school community was saddened recently to receive the news that Ms. Avril Mullery resigned from her position at Boolavogue N.S. Ms. Mullery began teaching in Boolavogue N.S in 2012 and then later joined the management team, initially as deputy principal and then most recently as principal.

Unfortunately, the current restrictions in place in our country will not allow the school community to give Ms. Mullery the big farewell celebration she deserves. We are very limited to how we can bid farewell to our much loved teacher, principal and colleague. Ms. Mullery will call to the school next week where she will meet all the pupils and staff and presentations will be made.

We wish Ms. Mullery the very best of luck in her new school – they are very lucky to gain such a passionate and dedicated teacher.

## When to keep your child at home and phone your GP

Do not send your child to school or childcare if any of the following is true.

Your child has:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other common symptoms of coronavirus such as a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus

You will need to:

1. Isolate your child. This means keeping them at home and completely avoiding contact with other people, as much as possible. Your child should only leave your home to have a test or to see your GP.
2. Phone your GP. They will advise you if your child needs a coronavirus test.
3. Everyone that your child lives with should also restrict their movements, at least until your child gets a diagnosis from their GP or a coronavirus test result. This means not going to school, childcare or work.
4. Treat your child at home for their symptoms.

## When it's okay to send your child to school

It's usually okay to send your child to school if they:

- only have nasal symptoms, such as a runny nose or a sneeze
- do not have a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen)
- do not have a cough
- have not been in close contact with anyone who has coronavirus
- do not live with anyone who is unwell and may have coronavirus
- have been told by a GP that their illness is caused by something else that is not coronavirus. Your GP will tell you when they can return to school or childcare.
- have got a negative ('not detected') coronavirus test result and have not had symptoms for 48 hours. **Please furnish the school with a copy of the text message confirming a negative result before returning to school.**

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## Annual Christmas Cards

The pupils have been busy designing their personalised Christmas Cards for the festive season ahead. Very soon children will receive their 'sample' Christmas cards with an option for parents, friends and families to purchase their child's unique Christmas cards. It is a wonderful opportunity for your child to share their artistic flair with friends and family near and far. Thank you for your continued support to this fundraiser!

## CMRF Crumlin Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, the children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper to school and fundraise for a very important charity: Children's Medical and Research Foundation (Crumlin). Children are encouraged to donate €2 to this worthy cause and take the opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer across Boolavogue N.S.

## Christmas closure

The school will close for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 12 noon. The school will reopen on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

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## A Word from our Acting Principal

*A chairde,*

*I wish to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the entire school community for continuing to adhere to the prevention strategies in place in our school to ensure we are all remaining safe and Covid free. A quote that springs to mind is - "alone we can do so little, together we can do so much".*

*November is a very special month where we remember our loved ones who no longer live with us. The classes have been remembering the dead in very special ways in their classrooms. Some classes will visit our local graveyard over the month of November to pray for and remember the people of our community who have passed away - Ní imithe uainn atá siad, ach imithe romhainn.*

*The magical, festive season is quickly approaching us! The way in which we celebrate Christmas this year will unfortunately be different to what we are all used to. However, I reassure you that the teachers and the staff are busy collaborating and thinking to make sure the magic of Christmas is not lost at Boolavogue N.S!*

*Le gach dea-ghuí,*

*Aoife Bennett*