

Newsletter No. 9– June 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians, the following points are for your attention:

1. Thank you:

Thank you to all parents who helped out at our recent Soccer Blitz practices and on the day itself. A wonderful day was had by all and two trophies were brought home to Gorey Central School –Under 8 girls and Under 8 boys.

Thank you, also, to all who have helped or will be helping at swimming, Active Games Day, school tours and all the various events that take place throughout the year. Without your generous offers of help we could not run these activities.

2. Active School Flag:

I would like to thank Mrs Horan and the Board of Management for allowing the school to participate in the Active Flag programme. Without their support the process would have never begun.

I would also like to sincerely thank the staff who embraced each and every initiative that was put in place, with a great sense of vigour. Many of the staff up-skilled themselves in the area of PE in their own time and provided me with great support and ideas during the completion of the application.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parent body for the support they provided to the school and to the children in promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. During the inspection process our Active Flag inspector made many references to our parental support being of "a unique and envious level".

Lastly well done to the children of the school. They are the main reason we achieved our Active School's Flag. Over the course of the last two years all children in the school have fully engaged in every new and improved physical activity we have introduced. They have shared, and even created, a number of new initiatives which promoted a healthier lifestyle in our school.

From Mr Bater - Active School Co-ordinator

3. Cricket:

4th Class attended a cricket blitz on the 22nd of June in Courtown Hibs. We had a fantastic day and we were so thankful that the weather was on our side! We weren't fortunate enough to bring the cup home for a second year. More importantly we really enjoyed ourselves and had so much fun. We look forward to the challenge again next year!

Thank you.

Ms. S. Rynhart.

4. Headlice:

Headlice has been re-appearing in the last few weeks. Please check your child's hair regularly.

5. New Principal:

Congratulations to Mr. Matthew Bater who has been appointed to the position of Principal in Gorey Central School.

Mr. Bater will take over, officially, as Principal from Friday the 8th September 2017.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Bater to his new role.

6. Coffee Morning:

There will be a coffee morning for all parents on the first day back to school in September. This will take place in the Old School from 9am.

7. Moving to pastures new!

We say goodbye to Mrs. Joan Stewart who is moving back to Cork this summer. Mrs. Stewart has worked as an SNA in Gorey Central School since 2011 and has been a wonderful asset to our school. Mrs. Stewart's dedication to her work is second to none and highly respected by all who work with her. Joan, we wish you the best in the future. Our loss is Cork's gain.

8. No Uniform Day:

Our recent No Uniform Day raised € 340.60. Thank you to all who supported it.

9. Athletics Competition:

Gorey Central School attended the Interschools County Athletics competition for the first time ever on Wednesday 14th June.

Twenty nine representatives from our school entered events such as sprints, relays, long jump and long distance running. We had a fabulous day in Enniscorthy's newly built Sports Hub and the children were a credit to the school, both on and off the track.

A huge congratulations must go to Emer Sweetnam who brought home a silver medal in the Under 11 girls 100m sprint.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who came to help and support on the day.

Mr Bater

P.T.O. >>>

10. Choral Festival:

The Choral Festival took place on Friday the 9th June. It is an annual get together of all the Church of Ireland schools in the Ferns Diocese and has been in existence for over 40 years.

Over 800 adults and children attended on the day for an enjoyable and uplifting service. Gorey Central pupils led the service and specially chosen songs were also sung by both the junior and senior choirs.

11. Blue Flag:

The students in 4th, 5th and 6th class have this year been participating in the Blue Star Programme, an initiative aimed at creating a greater awareness about the EU and how it operates for primary school children.

The pupils have been involved in many activities throughout the year, including group projects, learning about the history and geography of various EU countries, gaining inspiration from different types of culture and tradition around Europe, how the EU parliament works, and being visited by Mr Paul Kehoe, TD and Mr Seán Kelly, MEP.

The children's hard work has paid off as we recently received confirmation that the school met the requirements and we have been awarded our Certificate of Achievement and our EU flag, which was officially raised in Gorey Central last Thursday.

It is a great achievement for our school and well done to all involved!

Ms McDermott

12. Closing/Re-opening dates:

School **closes** for summer holidays on **Wednesday 28th June 2017 @ 12 midday.**

School **re-opens** on **Friday 1st September 2017 @ 8.40am** for the new school year. A more detailed school calendar will be sent to all families in September.

13. Goodbye from Mrs. Horan:

It is with mixed emotions that I write these final words to you all. I am sad to be leaving but excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Before moving to Gorey Central School I had worked in several schools in Dublin, Carlow, Wicklow and Wexford. I have now spent 22 happy years here, firstly as a Classroom Teacher, then as Deputy Principal and, for the last 12 years, as Principal. My mother was also Principal of Gorey Central School in the sixties, although it was only a two-teacher school then!

It has been a fascinating professional journey and I can hardly believe how quickly the years have flown by!! This has been my second home for a long time!!

During my tenure as Principal we moved into our current renovated premises (2005). This was followed by three building extensions. The school garden was developed and an Art Project was undertaken when the beautiful murals in the hall were painted by the pupils. Also, during this time, the school pupil population grew by 30% and our staffing population grew by over 50%. This time has also seen great change in Education but Gorey Central School has always been to the fore in taking on board these new Departmental initiatives and challenges.

There have been many lessons over the years. One of the most important ones, for me, is that Gorey Central School is a special community filled with special people and supported by a dedicated Staff, B.O.M, P.T.A. and parent body who all take pride in a learning community that is warm and nurturing for its pupils.

Finally, my time in Gorey Central School is now coming to a close. I would like to thank everyone for the support that I, personally, have received over the past 22 years. Serving as Principal has been a great honour and a defining part of my life. I am very proud of what we have accomplished here and I will always treasure the fond memories and friendships I have made during my time.

I look forward to watching the success and growth of Gorey Central School as it moves forward.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. S. Horan