

## Newsletter No. 2 – November 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### 1. Aladdin App:

The Board of Management would like to request that all parents check their Aladdin App daily to keep up-to-date with school communications. As of December 2019 Gorey Central school will be using the app exclusively for text communication to parents. Messages will now come through the app as opposed to the traditional text message format. Please make sure you have downloaded the app and have the “Allow Notifications” option switched on so that you receive the messages/emails that are sent.

### 2. Trick or Treat for Temple Street:

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October we had a non-uniform/Goal Jersey Day when the students wore their favourite club, county or country jerseys and raised money €330 for GOAL's humanitarian and development programmes around the world. Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October for “Trick or Treat for Temple Street” was our most recent fun fancy-dress day and raised €390.85. Thank you to all who donated. Both days were very successful and appreciated by the charities that were collected for.

### 3. Amber Flag:

Our Amber Flag initiative has started here in Gorey Central School. World Mental Health Day was on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October and Ms. Furney visited all classes to talk about mental health at an age appropriate level. We talked about our feelings, emotions, thoughts and ways in which to deal with them. This was done through discussion and by watching videos on the interactive whiteboard. Watch this space for more work on the Amber Flag over the next few months! Ms. Furney and Ms. McDermott

### 4. Christmas Shoeboxes: Thank you to all who sent in Christmas Shoeboxes for our annual appeal – a total of 112 boxes were collected – our biggest number ever.



### 5. Interschool's Equestrian Success:

Congratulations to Holly Spencer, Emma Poole, Lauren Adams and Zoe Poole who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Interschool's Horse Riding League first competition of the season.

### 6. Rackard League:

Congratulations to all who have joined the new Rackard League teams here at Gorey Central School. The uptake, enthusiasm and commitment from all children has been amazing and the talent and grá for GAA is growing every week. The children represented the school in the Rising Stars Competition recently with great pride, respect and sportsmanship. Although we didn't progress to the latter stages of the competition it most certainly won't be the last of the GAA in the school, with further matches and competitions to come over the course of the school year.

GAA training will continue to take place on Thursday mornings with Seamus and ourselves (weather permitting). We would also like to thank parents for all the help and support with this new venture and we look forward to seeing you at the matches over the coming months. Ms. Jordan & Ms. Cousins



7. **3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Classes Futsal Competition:**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class recently participated in a local futsal tournament which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A big thank you also to the parent helpers who came on the day.



8. **School Lunches:**

Our Hot School Lunches have proven a very successful venture for all at Gorey Central School. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the variety and quality of the food that is on offer.

As of today children will now bring their lunch containers home in a sealed Tupperware box whether the lunches be eaten, half eaten or only tasted. The reason for this change to the pilot is to ensure that parents are aware the amount of food their child is eating during the school day. It has proven very difficult so far to ensure that parents are informed of any children who haven't eaten during the day due to the sheer volume of children in the school. This way parents can now see first-hand the exact amount of food the children have eaten and also it eliminates any confusion between school, child and parent. Please ensure that the Tupperware container is returned to school empty each day but not the recyclable container that the lunch was served in.

9. **J.E.P.:**

Both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class are very excited about the Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP) again this year.

The programme involves the pupils learning about entrepreneurship and creating a product or a service for a particular audience. We feel that this is a wonderful initiative and it will help the pupils develop a range of skills such as: Problem solving and decision making; creativity and innovation; leadership and initiative; putting ideas into action; being a good team player. Ms. Furney and Ms. McDermott

10. **Science Week**

The children in the school took part in Science Week during the week of 11-15<sup>th</sup> November. This involved a number of fun extra Science activities in all classes as well as some workshops in Gorey Library.

4<sup>th</sup> class took part in a Science Workshop entitled '*How to save the Planet in 45mins*'. This was an excellent workshop which looked at the current issue of pollution in the world: air, land and water. It was an engaging and eye opening workshop which ensured everyone went home thinking about their plastic use and recycling ways at home.

5<sup>th</sup> class also did a workshop in Gorey library on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> November based on Rubik's cubes. The children learned how to divide the cube into layers and use algorithms i.e. methods and a set of steps to solve problems relating to the cube. The most exciting part was that everyone got one to bring home!

All these activities go towards our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning log and goes towards helping us achieve our STEM award for 2020.



### 11. Sing Out Loud:

As part of the Sing Out Loud programme, children in 5th and 6th class performed in the National Opera House on Monday, 18th November. It was great to see what talent Gorey Central School has to offer. It was a wonderful experience for all involved and we hope everyone had a fantastic night!



### 12. Dogs Trust Visit:

On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November we had a visit from Dogs Trust who spoke to the children about the work that they do and what looking after a dog entails. They left with a reminder that “A dog is for life, not just for Christmas”.

### 13. Gorey 400:

As part of the celebration of “Gorey 400” our school was selected to have a lovely oak tree presented to us by the local Council. We had a tree planting ceremony on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November which was led by 6<sup>th</sup> class and attended by The Tidy Towns Committee and Local Councillor Joe Sullivan.



### 14. Garden Developments:

Work has been continuing in our school garden. Our Sensory Garden has had a number of additions to it – along with new planting paid for by money that was kindly donated by last year’s JEP team. Our ECO garden is now home to friendly little robin – just in time for Christmas Card Pictures!

### 15. Sick Pupils:

In an effort to prevent the spread of infection we ask that you do not send your child in to school if they are unwell (e.g. coughs, colds etc.). If your child has symptoms such as vomiting or diarrhoea, Department of Education rules require that pupils should not return to school until 48 hours have passed since their last episode of either vomiting or diarrhoea. Please inform the school if your child has any contagious illnesses – e.g. Chicken pox, measles, scarlet fever, etc. We appreciate your help in this matter.

**16. Car Park:** For safety reasons we ask that you insist on children using the footpaths and Junior playground for accessing and leaving the school building. Children should not walk across the car park.

**17. P.T.A.:**

The PTA would like to extend a huge thank you to the parent body for all of their support during the academic year 2018/19. Over the course of the year the PTA and our fabulous parent volunteers were involved in the smooth running of many events such as school tours, our annual soccer blitz and training, our Christmas disco and our annual fun day. Over the course of the year PTA helped the school purchase new classroom projectors, supported the supplementation of our school library and also reduce the costs of our annual swimming lessons for parents. A special thank you must go to retiring PTA member Imelda Trankner who served on the PTA for 7 years many of which were as Secretary of the PTA. Imelda was an invaluable member of the PTA and she will be sorely missed.

Our PTA committee for the 2019/20 school year is;

- |                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lisa O'Donnell (Chairperson)  | 9. Gillian Bailey  |
| 2. Sandra Poole (Secretary)      | 10. Siobhan Kelly  |
| 3. Dionne Galvin (Treasurer)     | 11. Karen Kenny    |
| 4. Kate McDermott (Teachers Rep) | 12. Paul Swaine    |
| 5. Beverley Jones                | 13. Douglas Bailey |
| 6. Norman Spencer                | 14. Matthew Bater  |
| 7. Alan Poole                    |                    |
| 8. Sue Halnon                    |                    |

**18. Garda Vetting:**

The PTA would also like to send out an early request for continued support from the parent body. Any parent who wishes to put their name forward as a volunteer please collect a Garda Vetting form from Charlette in the office. As is required by law, anybody helping out as a volunteer needs to be Garda Vetted. There are many opportunities to help- even if you can only spare a little time your help is always much appreciated. In order to continue to run these fabulous events for the children, volunteers are always needed, so please call into the office for a form.

**19. Dates for your Diary:**

- School Carol Service – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December @ 7pm.
- Christmas Disco: This year's Christmas Disco will take place directly after the Carol Service on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Old School. The disco will finish at **8:45pm sharp**. Please collect your child on time. Admission is €3 per child (**please have exact money**) - this includes a drink and crisps. All children of Gorey Central School up to and including 6<sup>th</sup> class may attend but Junior and Senior Infants must be dropped off and collected by an adult (not an older sibling). Parents are not required to remain in the old school hall for the duration of the disco.
- School Christmas Holidays – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December @ 12pm sharp. School reopens Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January @ 8.40am.

Thank you,  
Mr. Bater