

Principal's Page - St. Joseph's NS, Cong.

2023-2024: Terms 1 & 2

Term 1:

Hello to you all and thank you once again for your welcome to Cong NS at the beginning of the year.

This year began with a number of staff changes: Orla Waters stepped out on secondment with *Oide* and then I came in as acting principal. Ms. Ciara King also stepped up as acting deputy principal and Ms. Fiona Wall continued as assistant principal.

In October we held our first whole school assembly with the theme of celebrating our native Irish language. All classes were assembled in the hall (5th/6th classroom) and a number of classes performed songs and music to the delight of all present.

Before mid-term we had a visit from Cong Food Village who asked local schools to participate in Halloween art activities. Our staff and pupils dressed up in amazing costumes and paraded around the school in this wonderful display of colour and creativity and later attended the local hall to display our art in the first community event of the year.

The second half of the term saw our main school choir representing pupils from 3rd- 6th class performing a number of times: at our own school, Ashford Lodge and also on Christmas Eve night at Ashford Castle in a scaled back but special performance. My thanks once again to all who helped prepare and facilitate these wonderful events.

Another significant development at this time saw the end of one school board of management and the establishment of a new one to run for the next four years. We appreciate and thank those who have served and look forward to the next four years with the new members.

Term 2:

In January we were lifted by the news that our junior team had come in 2nd place and our senior team in 3rd in the inter-schools Credit Union Quiz.

Our Parents Association have been busy all year with various fundraising events including Trek-at-the Track at the Neale GAA Club and the ongoing 50/50 draw. In this term they organised a wonderful table quiz night out and then facilitated a clean-up of the school grounds which saw a big turnout on the day of both parents and pupils. They also supported a Lego STEM workshop which was both inclusive and enjoyed by all.

Our school staff were no less busy at this time helping to prepare the pupils and organise what was a memorable Grandparents Day event. As it was also Seachtain na Gaeilge it was a delight to hear pupils perform in our native language. This event was also festooned with cakes, teas and coffees provided by the Parents Association.

Easter to you all as we look forward to more exciting workshops and outdoor events such as collective drumming, swimming, sports day and a variety of school tours in Term 3.



Acting Principal



Christmas in Cong NS



Trek-at-the-Track



School Spring-clean