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## June 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents /Guardians,

Welcome to the last Newsletter of the school year 2022 – 2023.

The following are the staffing arrangements for the school year 2023 – 2024

### **Staffing for 2023/2024**

Acorn Class: Mrs. Walsh – Room 1

Junior & Senior Infants: - Mrs Laura Scott – Room 2

First Class & Second: - Ms King – Room 3

Third & Fourth Class: - Mr. Forde – Room 4

Fifth & Sixth Class: - Ms Foley – Room 5

SET: Mrs. Fox / Ms Flynn & Mrs Daly

SNA's: Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. O'Connor, Ms. Masterson & Mrs. Farrell

**Hoodies – 6<sup>th</sup> class:** As 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be purchasing Hoodies in September, there is no need to purchase new school jumpers.

**Science:** Once again the children of Coralstown N.S have demonstrated their interest, their learning and their expertise in Science. What was the 'Discover Primary Maths & Science Award' has been renamed and redesigned and is now the "Curious Minds" Award. This year the children attained the 'Gold' Award in this new programme. Huge thanks & appreciation to Mr. Forde who co-ordinates this in the school over the whole school year. It is a tremendous amount of work and we appreciate the effort put in by Mr. Forde.

### **Active School Flag:**

Congratulations must also go to the children for their efforts in achieving the renewal of the Active School Flag. All year long the children have been working on this Award from their '10 at 10' , to their very many activities which they took part in all year. This work was co-ordinated by Ms King and we are very grateful to her for her work in this area as well as documenting it & putting it up on Twitter. We must also congratulate Ms King for the work she did on achieving the very first Amber Flag in Coralstown N.S. The Amber Flag is for promoting positive Mental Health in the school and Ms King and her committee did trojan work in this area in promoting wellness & positive mental health all year.

**Football:** The Final of the School Football League was held last week. Winners this year were Kerry, captained by Luke Grey, 6<sup>th</sup> Class, while winners of the Shield were Dublin, co-captained by Senan Murphy and Lila Dalton, 6<sup>th</sup> Class. Well done to all the children who took part in the games this year and a massive 'Thank you' also to Mrs Walsh and Mr. Forde for making it happen.

**School Tours:** It is school tour season once again and this year the children had a great time on their respective trips. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes went to Boyle, 'Zip-it', finishing with a trip to Supermacs. Junior & Senior infants, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> went to Lullymore Park and the Acorn Class went to 'Mellows Farm'.

**Sports Day:** We held our Annual Sports Day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Despite rain being forecast we were very lucky that it held off and even though the day was overcast it didn't affect the enjoyment and fun that was evident in all the activities the children took part in. The day was also enhanced with a visit from the Ice-Cream Van which is always a treat that the children enjoy.

**Attendance:** Our school attendance for this school year has been very good, despite absences with Covid, with the overall attendance rate at over 91%. Thank you to everyone for making this possible.

**Policies:** The following policies were reviewed and ratified at a the recent Board Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June - Anti-Bullying, Child-Safeguarding and the Statement of Strategy for School Attendance. Thank you to all the people who gave of their time in reading and reviewing these policies.

**Annual Report:** The Board of Management Annual Report is available to view on the school website at [www.coralstown.ie](http://www.coralstown.ie)

**Calendar:** The school calendar for the school year is also available on the school website and it is also posted on Aladdin.

**Free School Books:** This year for the first time ever, children will be receiving Free School Books & copies. We received €96 per child to enable us to purchase these. As you know from previous years, this falls far short of what it actually costs to provide everything for children coming to school. At the recent Board of Management Meeting the board discussed this issue and decided that in order to cover the deficit needed to cover Art & Craft, Photocopying, ICT etc it would be necessary to charge a fee. This amounts to €60 per child. This will be uploaded to Aladdin soon and parents will have the option of paying in full or by instalment, online.

While the Board commends the DES for the introduction of the free school book scheme and sees it as a big help for parents in this continuing cost of living crisis, the board asks the DES to review the amount per child as it doesn't cover the cost of providing everything for the children.

In addition to this I'm not sure if parents are aware that the ICT grant which we would have received in January this year has not been paid and indeed will not be paid. It was on the grant Calendar at the beginning of the school year and then 'disappeared' off it. While the Board and I fully support the introduction of free school books, it shouldn't be at the expense of other grants which are necessary to run the school efficiently. The board is also trying to run a school in a cost of living crisis and is experiencing astronomical increases in everything required to run the school.

**Spring Clean:** If anybody is doing a spring clean or a clear out during the summer we would be grateful for donations of items such as wooden jigsaws for Juniors or toys such as trucks, cars, tea-sets etc. As always we are appreciative of any resources that you may have, that are looking for a new home and are too good to just throw out.

**Maintenance:** We must thank the board for all the ongoing support that they give to the running of the school and in particular to the upkeep and maintenance: Last year the board replaced flooring in Room 2, replacing carpet with marmoleum, which leaves a lovely clean easily maintained environment for the children. This year the Board intends to replace the flooring in Room 3 with the same marmoleum. The board also funded the replacement of an Interactive whiteboards with an Interactive flat panels. With flat panels we no longer need a projector, the pictures are clearer and text is more easily read and the biggest advantage is that there is no glare from the screen, meaning it is very easy to see whether the day is bright & sunny or dull and gloomy. These big expenditure items are in addition to all the other costs associated with maintaining a building, painting, sewerage, hedge-cutting etc.

**P.A.:** We must also thank the Parents Association for their on-going help and support throughout the school year. They are always on hand to help out at the many functions run through-out the school year such as 'Halloween' Event, Grandparents Day, First Communion or the 5K etc. Without the many hands who turn up to help at these events it wouldn't be possible to run them. We would also like to thank the PA for the resources they purchase every year to enhance the learning environment of the children. This year the PA purchased outdoor Nature signs which are pinned up at the back of the building and we are currently in the process of sourcing outdoor play equipment for use at break times and lunch times for the children. We sincerely thank the PA for their interest and support in providing additional resources for the children.

**6<sup>th</sup> Class:** We would like to wish the 6<sup>th</sup> Class who will be leaving us, all the very best in the coming years in Secondary school. Enjoy every minute of Secondary school as it will pass very quickly. Graduation for our 6<sup>th</sup> class took place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June with a lovely ceremony held in the G.P. Room. Good luck to Alvin, Aodhán, Ava, Cian, Darragh, Elva, Hannah, Jessica, Joshua, Kamil, Lucy, Luke, Lila, Nainsí, Patrick, Rebecca, Róisín and Senan.

**Marriage:** We would also like to congratulate Ms King on her upcoming marriage in July. We wish Rachel and her future husband Paul, a long, healthy and happy life together.

**Finally we would like to wish all the children & their families a happy, safe & restful Summer.**

**Dates for your Diary:**

School Holidays: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> @ 12 noon

School re-opens: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Is mise le meas,

*Mary Daly*

Mary Daly, Príomh Oide



**Please remember Coralstown N.S. is a nut free school.  
Please ensure no nuts in any form are brought into the school.**

**Internet Safety Tips -** [www.webwise.ie/parents](http://www.webwise.ie/parents) <https://zeeko.ie/primary-schools>  
<https://zeeko.ie/blog> <https://zeeko.ie/internet-safety-guide>

**Coralstown N.S. Website is** [www.coralstown.ie](http://www.coralstown.ie)

**Follow us on Twitter at** <https://twitter.com/CoralstownN>

**Office Hours are 9.30 am until 1.30 p.m.**