

# Cloughoge NEWSLETTER

January-June 2014

## Green Flag Success

Cloughoge Primary School in Newry has been awarded a prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag by the environmental charity TIDY Northern Ireland.

The Eco-Schools Programme is the world's largest Environmental Education programme and aims to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of a school. In Northern Ireland, Eco-Schools is sponsored by Airtricity and its participatory approach and combination of learning and action makes it an ideal way for schools to begin improving the environments of schools and their local communities.

Eco-Schools work through a simple seven-step approach resulting in the programme becoming central to the school's ethos. Schools can choose from ten eco-topics ranging from litter and waste, to energy, biodiversity and transport to name a few. Eco-Schools work towards achieving awards - bronze, silver and the prestigious green flag.

The students in Cloughoge Primary School have worked on a number of these topics over the last few years to reach their green flag status. The staff and pupils have saved energy by employing an effective traffic light system for switching off lights and data projectors when not needed. They also compost food waste and have used this when planting flowers, trees, fruit and vegetable patches. The biodiversity of the school has been improved with the creation of two insect hotels, bat boxes, bird feeders and hogtats for hedgehogs. A number of colourful murals have been created to enhance the appearance of the school grounds and the children have been diligently campaigning to eliminate dog fouling in the vicinity of the school. The student council meet at least once a month to discuss these topics and organise projects, competitions, assembly presentations, rotas and newsletters to keep all pupils and parents informed.

After being externally assessed Cloughoge Primary School has been awarded the highest award, the internationally recognised Green Flag which symbolises excellence in the field of environmental activity. The school would like to thank all the staff, pupils and parents for their dedication to the Eco-Schools projects and continued success as they strive to make a difference.



## Cloughoge Walking Bus

For Walk to School Week, on 19<sup>th</sup> May the school decided to organize a Walking Bus which started at the Spar car park opposite Cloughoge Chapel and ended at the school. Pupils were accompanied by school teachers and classroom assistants. All the children who took part were supplied with high visibility jacket. The pupils thought the Walking Bus was a good idea because it minimizes traffic congestion around school premise and boosts concentration levels. All those who took part enjoyed the early morning stroll as they got fresh air, and talked to their friends as well as developing their road safety skills. This has become an annual event in the school calendar.



## Car Park

Recently work has commenced on our new car park. For this reason we have been unable to hold our annual sports day, but have managed to hold Sports Day within our year groups. Once the car park is finished there will be two separate car parks, one for staff and another for parents/guardians. More information will be made available when the construction is completed.



## SCHOOL TRIPS

- P1- Rascals 20-6-14
- P2- Omniplex and Kilbroney 17-6-14
- P3- Sports Centre and Cinema
- P4- Slieve Gullion 16-6-14
- P5- (Sheep Bridge) Bowling and Laser Quest 18-6-14
- P6- Lisburn leisure centre 6-6-14
- P7- Portrush (overnight) 11-6-14 12-6-14

### RETIREMENT

It is with very mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of the very popular Mrs. Parkes.

We are deeply sorry that such an important and valued member of our school community is taking her leave of us. At the same time we are thankful for the years of dedication Mrs. Parkes has given to our school and students.

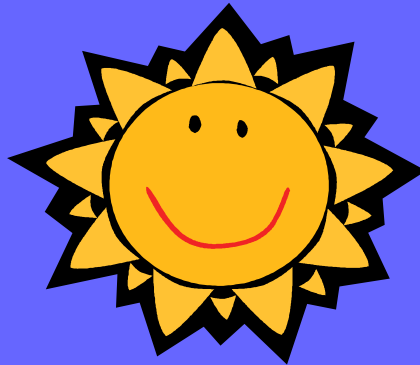
We would like to express our gratitude for her hard work and care. We will miss her.



### Sports Day

The sun was kind to oblige by making an appearance and remaining for the length of our Sports Day.

The wonderful weather making an enjoyable day even better.. All students put in 100% effort into the various activities. Well done to all those who took part.



### LENTEN CAMPAIGN

This year the pupils of our school focused our Lenten campaign on the Philippines. This was decided as a member of our school community was directly affected by the disaster in the Philippines. As a result of our students efforts we were proud to present a cheque for an amazing £1000 to Lorraine and John from The Red Cross.



### STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to the following students who recently won awards in their individual sports. Mollie Duffy, Anna Mc Ateer and Aimee Rose who were all placed in The World Irish Dancing Championships which were held in Kilarney in April.

We also salute David Kehoe who not only scooped numerous awards in Horse Riding Mounted Games throughout N. Ireland but was also selected as Player of the Year in Newry Rugby Club.

### NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM

ICT workers are currently on school premises installing our new ICT system. We hope this will be finished in the near future. This will allow our students to access all the latest educational computer technology. Something for everyone to look forward to.



### SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Our school was well represented in the Special Olympics that were held in the month of June. Jack Donnan represented Ulster in the Aquatic competitions, while Esther King, a member of our Nursery staff was Head Coach for the Ulster Aquatics team. Lastly but certainly not least our own Mrs Gregory took on the role of Ulster Families Co-ordinator. Well done to all involved.



### WEDDING BELLE

We would like through the pages of our Newsletter to wish Miss Mc Kenna, our very popular Spanish teacher best wishes for her wedding. Miss Mc Kenna is due to get married in the early summer. !BUENA SUERT PARA SU FUTURO Y EL MATRIMONIO!