



# Happy Halloween

October 2018

EDITION 2

Dear parents, it is hard to believe where the last nine weeks have gone as the first half term always moves so fast. The children have as always settled back in so well and are a credit to you all with their behavior and attitude to school. I would like to thank our staff for their continued dedicated work as our boys and girls, I feel, are given the best possible school experience. From November on we will be developing Music as a subject as the Department of Education has asked each school to focus on a new area for the 'School Self-Evaluation' process. I will send out more information after the break about our plan of action. The news that broke this week regarding Western Building Systems was a shock to all but hopefully our structural assessment which takes place next week will be positive for us. Rest assured the School Board of Management will keep everyone informed as soon they hear more but the results may take time. Lastly I would just like to wish all our school community a happy and safe Halloween.

*Cath Ruane*

## Parent Teacher Meetings

Wednesday & Thursday

November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

**This year you can book a time that suits you via Aladdin on your child's page but you will need to have the app downloaded. This will be available from Monday Nov' 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be a first come first served through the App. Booking through the App allows parents with more than one child in the school book times that suit them, contact the office if you have any problem.**



Our Parents Council held their AGM and also a committee meeting since the start of the term. This council and committee are a very important part of our school and help give our students fun days, activities and educational resources. We would like to welcome the new committee that was elected by the council. The council have decided to again purchase hoodies for our 6<sup>th</sup> class girls and host the annual Santa day before Christmas ☺.

# HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER



## Spooktacular School Day

Yesterday we had a lovely end to the half term with our annual Halloween Day! Our 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils and teachers organise this event every year and it really is such a great day. Yesterday we raised €2800 which is amazing and it will go directly to our loan repayment for the playground. A special mention to our 5<sup>th</sup> class families who were baking and buying all the goods for the event, we couldn't do it without you. It is a credit to the staff, children and parents for all the effort with costumes and getting into the spirit of the day, this is why we have such a special school.



# School Sports

We were extremely busy with football training and matches since September. We had two teams playing in the Cumann na mBunscol leagues and both represented the school brilliantly. Our A team were narrowly beaten in the semi by Holy Family from Portlaoise who won the final.

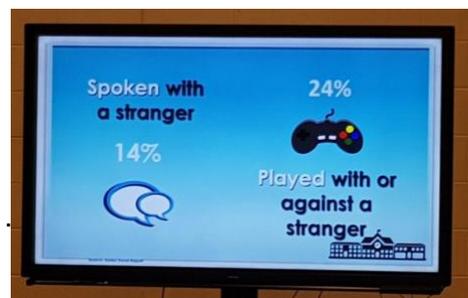
I would like to thank the teachers who volunteer their time and expertise in preparing these teams – Ms. O’Connell, Ms. Malone, Ms. Kirwan, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Gleeson and Ms. Dollard.

Mr. Booth and Ms. Lynch have a running squad currently training and they took part in the Laois Cross Country Competition in September. Mr. Booth is also promoting the 2k Vicarstown weekly Sunday Juvenile Park Fun Run every Sunday which is FREE and would be great for all families!

<https://www.parkrun.ie/vicarstownjunior>



Our new prefab is finally finished and Ms. Marum’s and Ms. Fadden’s classes will move in on Monday Nov’ 5<sup>th</sup>. I really would like to thank our two teachers, parents and our boys and girls in those infant classes for their patience and support with the delays. The rooms are state of the art with air conditioning, interactive screens and are really spacious.



## Zeeko Day

On Monday we had Zeeko back in the school promoting internet safety. Jackie was excellent with the girls and spoke with each class group from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Our parent talk evening was very informative and many thanks for those who were able to make it. The image above is statistics from our school with 14% of girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> upwards who were surveyed saying they had spoken with a stranger online! Jackie was advising parents to look into ikydz.com software.

## Fundraiser



Our own superhero Rian was in to collect a cheque for €1500 euro thanks to our great school community. Rian is so brave and is an example to us all with his spirit and strength. As always our support is there for his family and we really look forward to welcoming him back soon.