

## **Newsletter 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2019**

### **Dates for your diary**

- **6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation 25<sup>th</sup> of June at 7pm in Jimmy's Hall**
- **6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation Breakfast – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of June**
- **6<sup>th</sup> Class Guard of Honour Annual “Clap Out”- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of June at 12 noon**
- **School closes Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of June at 11.45am for Junior and Senior Infants and at 12 noon for all other classes.**

### **Calendar 2019-2020**

I would like to apologise for the delay in releasing the school calendar for next year. We were awaiting confirmation of closure and re-opening dates from the DES in relation to the building works which will take place this summer. At present the BOM and I have been assured in writing that the school buildings will be ready for handover by 26<sup>th</sup> of August at the very latest. Children are scheduled to return to school on 29<sup>th</sup> of August. The school calendar for next year is now available on the school website. An additional one-day closure is yet to be announced – all primary schools in the state will receive training from the PDST in the delivery of the new Primary Language Curriculum. I will advise you of this date immediately once I have received notification of our schools training day from the PDST.

### **Building work**

Since October 2018 regular fire safety remediation works have taken place after school, at weekends and during holiday periods. Brendan, our caretaker, myself and the Chairperson of the BOM have been on hand to ensure that the building has been open for these works and to receive handovers as sections of the remediation work has taken place. Most of our fire exit doors have been replaced and remediation works have taken place to areas of the building identified by the DES Buildings Unit as needing upgrading. During the summer holidays builders will take over the school to complete fire remediation works. I will be on call and liaise with the Buildings Unit during this period. See the school website page on building works for DES press releases and updates.

### **Staffing**

As you will be aware from correspondence earlier in the year our school experienced great difficulty with teacher recruitment this year. Many other schools found themselves in a similar position too due to the acute shortage of primary school teachers. Teachers have been assigned to classes for next year. You will notice that several classes do not have a teacher assigned yet. Interviews for these posts are scheduled to take place later this week and during the first week of July. We have had a large amount of applications this time and I am hopeful of securing our full quota of teachers for the coming academic year. The appointment process takes a couple of weeks, references must be checked, selections must be approved by the BOM and Patron and contracts approved by the DES. Once this process is complete a full list of teachers and their assigned classes will be posted on the school website. Job-sharing does take place at GVET, as it does in many other primary schools in the state, and a “meet the teacher session” has been arranged for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of June at 2.10pm. Usually, these meetings take place in September however the job sharing teachers requested an earlier meeting to answer any questions you may have prior to the summer holidays. If your child is in a job-sharing class, you will have already been notified of this in writing. “Meet the teacher”

sessions for other classes will take place in early September. These are normally scheduled at the end of the school day.

### Class Allocations 2019 / 2020

<b>Junior Infants</b>	Peter List assigned	<b>TBA</b> <b>List in place</b>	<b>TBA</b> <b>List in place</b>
<b>Senior Infants</b>	Bronagh Roberts Current Class	Fiona Peter's Current Class	TBA Louise's Current Class
<b>First Class</b>	Niamh Jean's Current Class	Maggie – mat leave Ed's Current Class	Jean John Paul's Current Class
<b>Second Class</b>	Bernadette Bronagh's Current Class	Yvonne Laura B's Current Class	<b>TBA</b> <b>Niamh's Current Class</b>
<b>Third Class</b>	Deirdre/Helen Ruth's Current Class	<b>TBA</b> <b>Yvonne's Current Class</b>	<b>TBA</b> <b>Bernadette's Current Class</b>
<b>Fourth Class</b>	<b>TBA</b> <b>Deirdre/Helen's Current Class</b>	<b>TBA</b> <b>Michelle's Current Class</b>	
<b>Fifth Class</b>	Edward Zoe's Current Class	<b>TBA</b> <b>Donal's Current Class</b>	
<b>Sixth Class</b>	Denise A Fiachra's Current Class	Siobhan Denise's Current Class	

### Retirement

We would like to wish Marian Mc Weeney a very happy and healthy retirement from all the staff, pupils and parents at Griffeen Valley ETNS. Marian has been an SNA at Griffeen Valley since it opened its doors in 2002. She has shown wonderful dedication and kindness to the pupils in her care throughout her years here. Marian will be missed by all and especially by her colleagues who will certainly miss her witty tales at tea-break in the staffroom. Bon Voyage Marian! We are holding a goodbye assembly with pupils on Thursday morning at 8.45am and any parents who would like to join us in saying goodbye to Marian are very welcome tea, coffee and cupcakes provided!



### Aladdin App

Thank you to everyone who downloaded the Aladdin Schools App. This allows you easy and secure access to your child's data and helps to keep you up to date with school news and events through the noticeboard feature. You can also confirm absences for your child through the app. Further features will be enabled during the Autumn Term and we will keep you informed of these.

### Griffeen's Got Talent

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of June all the pupils and staff assembled in Jimmy's Hall for what promised to be a fun and entertaining morning. Children from third to sixth class took part in the talent show with

fantastic gymnastic displays, dance routines, singing, piano and ukulele playing! Children from the younger classes were enthralled by the amazing talent on show. All children who took part received a special certificate. The judges, comprised of Catherine (a former GVET teacher), Emma L and Kayleigh two former GVET pupils had a difficult decision to make in awarding the top three spots! Third place went to Yuvraj and Pranav for their Bollywood Dance, second place went to Emma H and First place was awarded to Janka and Molly for their fantastic gymnastics display. Thanks to Joan, who is our semi-retired Deputy Principal for preparing, shortlisting and acting as MC for the event.



**She's got that "Sunshine in her pocket..!"**

Congratulations to Ella from First Class who recently won the All Ireland Ballroom Dancing Championship in her age group. Ella has been attending ballroom dancing classes for the past year and loves lighting up the dancefloor. What a fantastic achievement! Well done Ella. 😊

Your photo could appear here next time! Tell us about awards or achievements you have achieved in your after-school activities.

**Table tennis award**

The Table Tennis Association of Ireland awarded named Griffeen Valley ETNS the School of the Year 2019. The awards ceremony was held at Sports Ireland HQ on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2019. This is a wonderful recognition of the fantastic work and dedication shown by Phil, our table tennis coach, and all the pupils on the table tennis team.

**Hurling**

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of June 215 pupils, staff and parents along with our hurling team set off for Croke Park. Our team was taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol hurling finals and a nervous excitement was palpable amongst the supporters. Last year our schools hurling, and camogie teams had won at Croke Park, so this added pressure to our young team. Many of our players were new to the team but they were undaunted by the trip to Croke Park. They played brilliantly and gave their supporters plenty to cheer about! All the players gave 110% to the game and paved the way for Orla D from 5<sup>th</sup> class to score some fabulous goals. The final score was Griffeen Valley 5 -1 Divine Mercy, Lucan 1-4 Well done to the girls and boys of our hurling team we are extremely proud of you!

**Celebration day**

In recognition of the fantastic achievements of our pupils both academic and sporting, the PTA arranged a fun day for today 24<sup>th</sup> of June. We hope everyone enjoyed the celebrations. Thanks to the PTA committee for the behind the scenes organisation which made today possible. Children had a fantastic time on the huge bouncy castles and enjoyed their trip to the ice cream van! Rumour has it that a number of staff were also spotted on the bouncy castles before school this morning – apparently, they were carrying out additional safety checks!!



## Summer Holidays – Day One: “ Mam /Dad , I’m BORED!”

Hopefully, this is not a familiar cry in your house- but if it is here are a few ideas to keep them busy! Plus a few ideas for cheap and cheerful family days out ☺ The summer holidays afford children a fantastic opportunity for out of classroom learning and to learn some new skills;

### Summer Bucket List

Learn a magic trick!	Keep a travel journal	Make a summer scrapbook
Take the 24 hour Unplug Challenge!!	Go on a scavenger hunt. Older children could plan one for their parents or younger siblings	Read – take part in the summer reading challenge at your local library
Pack a picnic for your parents and siblings.	Have a water gun or water balloon fight! ☺	Build an insect hotel in your garden and keep a record of your visitors!
Learn how to play hopscotch	Learn how to skip	Learn how to identify at least one native tree
Watch the sunrise	Watch the sunset	Be a tourist for the day – take a history walk around Lucan
Play board games – Snakes and Ladders, Jenga, Ludo, Scrabble, Monopoly etc	Build a back-garden fort using old sheets and blankets	Have a pyjama and movie day
Clear out your bedroom – donate old toys and clothes to your local charity shop.	Play outside in the rain – wellies and raincoat optional!	Eat a new fruit or vegetable!
Go Swimming	Be a tourist for the day – visit some of the free attractions in the city centre	Use the Duolingo App to learn a new language
Go to the beach – collect shells, make sandcastles. Write a recount or keep a photo journal of your day	Take a bus trip – Kids go free on Dublin Bus and some rail during the month of July with Leap Card	Take a trip to the Phoenix Park – see if you can spot some deer, visit Farmleigh, head to the Visitor Centre beside Ashtown Castle
Learn how to play some simple card games – Snap, Go Fish, 21	Make some melted crayon art	Carry out a random act of kindness
Plant some seeds and watch them grow – cress, sunflower, tomatoes,	Design a kite and try to fly it!	Make ice pops or smoothies
Use pavement chalk to design your own works of art or create a mandala or Rangoli pattern	Go stargazing – google some star maps or use an astronomy book from the library to help you to identify constellations in the night sky	Take silly selfies and make a collage for your grandparents.
Camp in the living room!	Tie-dye some old t-shirts	Clean your room!
Make a cosy reading corner in your room or in the garden	Set up a homework station in your room. Make storage items for your desk using recycled materials.	Read a recipe

Follow a recipe to make a simple meal for your family	Paint with marbles or print with potatoes	Help mam and dad with chores at home
<b>Above all HAVE FUN and enjoy being a child!!</b>		

**And Finally...**

I would like to say “Thank You” to parents and guardians for the support shown to both myself and the teaching staff during this year. I am especially grateful to those parents who volunteered their time and lent their own skills to initiatives across the school. I am genuinely happy to see the bright and happy faces of our pupils each day and look forward to further improving our school next year to make learning a fun and welcome challenge for all our little scholars!