



### School Football

We competed in the West Limerick football competition and the boys played very well in all of their matches. However, fortune was not with us this year.

### Official Opening and Blessing

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September the official opening and blessing of our new extension took place. Dan Neville T.D., a past pupil of the school, was delighted to be asked to cut the tape and perform the opening ceremony. Fr. Noonan blessed the extension. Afterwards the Parent's Council provided tea, coffee and refreshments in the canteen for everybody. Tony Baloney entertained the children in the school hall with his magic tricks while the adults were enjoying the refreshments.

Thanks to Liam Ruttle of Party Time who kindly supplied a marquee for the evening. Local Councillor, Rose Brennan and her husband Michael (a former Councillor and past pupil), past and present member of the School Board of Management and former teachers in the school were among those in attendance on the night. We would like to thank everyone who made the evening such a success.

### St Vincent de Paul Shoebox collection

Thanks to all of you who supported the event again this year. We collected 75 boxes which were distributed by the St. Vincent de Paul to needy people in the Mid-West region.



### Science demonstration in Fifth and Sixth Class

Parent, Dr. Calvin Coffey, performed a dissection of a sheep's heart for the boys of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class as part of their science class. Many of the boys enjoyed the hands-on experience while others preferred to take a back seat in the event. Dr. Coffey brought with him many of the instruments he uses in the operating theatre. He was very impressed by the questions asked by the boys and the interest they showed in his work. Thanks to Dr. Coffey for his very interesting and informative lesson.

### School Book Fair

We held a very successful book fair in early November and we managed to add a good amount of new books to our school library from the commission earned on sales. Thanks to everyone who supported the fair.

### Santa Claus Visit

Even though this is his busiest time of the year with all the presents to be organised and having to get his reindeers in shape for their long trip around the world on Christmas Eve, Santa came to the school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December to meet the boys. He arrived with a Garda escort and went to each class room to talk to the boys and to give them presents. Thanks Santa for coming to see us. We will make sure to put the fires out and leave something nice out for you and Rudolph on Christmas Eve!

### Street Hand ball Competition

We entered two teams for this competition and we managed to get to the final. Well done to the boys on their performance and thanks to Mr. Lavin who put in great work training the boys in this new sport.



### German Classes

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes are having 2 sessions a week of German lessons from visiting teacher, Mrs. Elisabeth Kellner. During the term she brought her father to talk to the boys about his life and what it was like to live in Germany during the war years.

Elisabeth prepared a rap in German with the boys which they performed at the opening night. This highlighted the importance of modern language in our school. Sadly this programme is being axed in the latest round of cuts in primary schools. No visiting teacher will be employed in the school after June 2012.

### Board of Management Elections

We would like to welcome Dr. Pat Morrissey and Irene O'Mahony on to the Board of Management as the parent's representatives. The other incoming Board of Management members are Pat O'Connell, Anne Keohane, Geraldine Hannon, Mick McGrath and Stephen Lavin. We would like to thank Tracey Fitzgerald, Antoinette Collins, David Normoyle, Fr. Noonan, Paddy Mulvihill, Liam Woulfe and Gemma Ahern for their hard work on the Board over the last 4 years.

### Jack rocks in Irish dancing by Jack Lynch

On Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November I went to Ennis and did Irish dancing in the Munster Championships. I danced the 8-hand reel. While I was waiting for the results I watched the other dancers with my team mates. At 8pm the results came out and we did very well. As a celebration we went to McDonalds. This is my third year dancing the 8-hand reel and I won a silver medal for my dancing.



### Live Crib

This year as well as providing shepherds, a choir from the school sang at the crib. They sang a selection of Christmas carols and their performance was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

### Pride of Place Competition

Thanks to the teachers and the boys for the work they put into our exhibition in the Village Hall as part of the Adare entry in the competition. The school was delighted to be a part of it. Meriel Clarke and Anthony Murphy came to the school with the trophy and the boys were photographed with them. Congratulations and well done to the committee who organised the entry.

### Go Team Adare!

Thanks to Stephen Lavin, Billy Quinn and Trevor Moroney for their fantastic donation to the school from the sponsorship they raised from the Ironman competition. They raised over €5400 in total for local community groups. They took part in the Galway Ironman competition in September which consisted of running 21km, cycling 90km and swimming 1.9km in Galway Bay and they put in endless weeks of training for the event. It's great to see the Adare colours flying high in Galway!

### Analog Devices

Once again Analog Devices have made a very generous donation to our science and technology programme in the school. Many thanks to Mike Keane for his help in securing their support.



### Tidy Towns Competition

The school won the “Best Kept School Grounds” section of the competition and Stephanie Callinan was presented with the trophy by Noel Hogan and Bridget Lohan. Our compliments and a huge thanks go to our caretaker Tom Houlihan for his hard work and dedication in keeping the school and the ground in such great condition.

### Transition Year Students

It was great to see Declan Keane, John David Kehoe, Sam Costello and Shane O’Connor, who are all past pupils, back in the school for part of their Transition Year work experience. We enjoyed having them here and we are sure they all have great futures ahead in them in whatever career they choose.

### Clothes Collection

There will be a clothes/mobile phone collection from the school on 17<sup>th</sup> January so if you are clearing out wardrobes over Christmas please put unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, linens etc in black bags and drop to the school by this date. The school gets €5 for each 10kg bag and €3.50 for each old mobile phone. Many thanks for your support for the previous collections.

### School Holidays

The school will close at 12.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will re-open on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012

## Juniors and Seniors Letters to Santa Claus

All of the boys have been really good this year and are looking forward to Santa coming. They promise to be in bed early and to have the fires put out and a snack left for Santa and Rudolph!

Please Santa can I have a basketball net and a basketball, boxing gloves and a surprise.

Conor

Can I have a guitar please and a PS3.

Harry

Please can I have a remote control Lamborghini.

Matthew

Can I have 2 surprises and some Lego.

Rory

I would like a skateboard and an art set.

Peter

Please can I have remote control cars and a DVD.

Gavan

Can I get big dinosaurs and an art set and some race cars.

Patrick

Please Santa can I have a dinosaur.

Mark

Can we have Starwars ship, Antonio's megasword and Power Ranger Samurai figures and a surprise.

Josh and Kian

Please can I have ice-hockey and a surprise.

Alfie

Can I have a tractor set and lego.

T.J.

Can I have a surprise.

Jack

Please can I have a Power Ranger.

Rory

Santa can I have the Toy Story dumpster.

Cathal

Can I have a surprise and you know the rest.

Lochlann

Please Santa can I have lots of surprises and something for Conor.

Milo

Dear Santa, thank you for my presents last year. Please can I have a Nerf Gun. We will save cookies and carrots for you and Rudolph!

Charlie

Dear Santa, please can I have a Nintendo XL and a Mickey Mouse Blastoff Rocket. We will save cookies and carrots for you and Rudolph!

Gearóid

Dear Santa, please can I have a football and Wii. We will save cookies and carrots for you and Rudolph!

Ronan

Dear Santa, please can I have Disney Universe X-box game, WWE12 X-box game and a surprise.

Dylan

Dear Santa, thank you for my presents last year. We will save cookies and carrots for you and Rudolph. Please can I have a Wii.

Seán

Dear Santa, thank you for my presents last year. Please can I have a Nintendo DS.

Oisín

Dear Santa, please can I have an X-box and Battle R2D2, Spiderman 2 opp. We will save carrots and cookies for you and Rudolph.

Mick

Dear Santa, please can I have Cars 2, aeroplane, and Bat cave.

Chulainn

Dear Santa, thank you for my presents last year. Please can I have a Nintendo DS.

Viktor



### Colours Day

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December a Colours Day was held in the school. The boys were allowed wear their own clothes for the day and brought in €2 each which was donated to local charities in memory of deceased parents.

### School Mass

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> the school mass took place in Holy Trinity Church. The boys placed wishes and prayers on the Christmas tree in the Church and sang carols during the mass.

### Bugs and Creepy Crawlies at the University of Limerick

Fifth class pupils visited U.L. during National Science Week. They entered a lab in the Science Building to a host of microscopes, bugs, creepy crawlies and several science students to assist them. Under the guidance of Professor Breen, the boys explored at close range, the world that surrounds us all but of which we take little notice. The brave hearts in the group were entertained by cockroaches while the changing of a cockroach's skin was recorded for the first time in a class situation. It was a fantastic day. Thanks to Amy O'Brien of U.L. who organised it and to parents Deirdre Moore and Rose Fitzgerald who assisted with transport.





We really appreciate your support throughout the year and of course the pupils are the main beneficiaries of your generosity. The staff in the school welcome your input and if you have any constructive ideas they would be delighted to take them on board.

Thanks to our outgoing Board of Management for all of the hard work and their input during the last four years. We would like to welcome our new Board of Management and wish them well.

A big thank you to the Parents Council under the leadership of their Chairperson, Carmel Normoyle. The Parents Council give of their time to organise various events and projects throughout the year for the good of the school and its pupils. We are very appreciative of all their hard work and efforts throughout the year.

*A Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous  
New Year From All of the Staff at Scoil  
Naomh Iosaf*



## Parents Association

2011/2012 School Year got off to a very busy start with the official blessing and opening of our school extension on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. It was a really enjoyable night for pupils, their families, past and future pupils and the wider community of Adare. Fr. Noonan blessed the school and Mr. Dan Neville T.D. and past pupil officially declared the extension open on the night. This was followed by a drinks and food reception organised by the Parents Association and held in the new reception area, meeting room and kitchen. A big thank you to all involved in making it such a memorable night.

The Parents Association AGM was held in the school on Tuesday 11 October 2011. The following are the officers for the coming year - Carmel Normoyle - Chairperson  
Vicky Corbett - Vice Chairperson  
Mary Normoyle - Secretary  
Clodagh Morrissey - Treasurer

Elections for parents representatives to the school's Board of Management were also held in October and the representatives for the next four years are Irene O'Mahony and Pat Morrissey. Congratulations to them both.

Once again in October the Parents Council organised a Fancy Dress Halloween Party in the School Hall. The day began with an Animal Magic show where the boys got to see and hold some very exotic animals - some were even brave enough to have their photo taken with a snake wrapped around them! This was followed by a treasure hunt in the Village Park and then a return to the hall for a fun-packed day with all sorts of spooky games, pumpkin races, face painting and trick or treat goodie bags. They and the many mothers who volunteered had a fantastic day. Many thanks to parents Michael & Mary Collins, Pat Collins Bar and Alan & Sinead Fitzpatrick, Bill Chawke's Bar for their sponsorship contribution to the day. Also a very big thank you to one of our Mums - Dawn Quinn - who made a Halloween themed sugar icing cake for each class - the boys were well impressed and the rest of us Mums in awe at her artistic talents!

The most important man on the planet in the month of December made his annual visit to Scoil Naomh Iosaf on Tuesday last. He promised all the boys to try his best to bring all the toys on their list but only if they promised to go to bed early and be really good for their parents!

## Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

### February

Our annual Fun Pub Quiz will take place on Friday 3 Feb 2012 in Pat Collins Bar. This is the main fundraiser for the boys annual musical show held at Easter. A good night is guaranteed, so please book the babysitters early and put it in your diary!

### March

Another really popular fun night for all the boys and their siblings is our Annual Beetle Drive held in the School Hall. Next year we hope to hold it on Friday 23 March.

As usual we will have a very busy and fun year ahead of us as parents - please come along to the Parents Association meetings whenever you can make it - we run around four meetings a year, or come along and help out in the many events that we help to run throughout the school year.

The Association really does positively enhance your boy(s) and your experience in the school. A big thanks to all our wonderful parents who helped in any way with recent events - the boys and their teachers REALLY appreciate it.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2012.

Carmel Normoyle  
Chairperson