

Taney Parish Primary School

Newsletter: Summer 2016



We are almost at the end of another busy year here in Taney Parish Primary School. The sun has been shining this term (mostly!) and we are all looking forward to our summer break. School closes at 12.00 p.m. for everyone on Thursday 30th June.

Summer Term is always packed full of activities and events. There are plenty of PTA activities in this term, along with the culmination of all sports. Our Active Flag Committee have been busy too!

The time has nearly come for our 6th Class pupils to move on to secondary school in September. It's a time of mixed emotions for all of us as the time span between Junior Infants and 6th Class just seems to fly by so quickly and this day comes to us all!



Both 6th classes jumping for joy!

Of course, this term has been busy for the 6th Class pupils too! There have been lots of exams, but also extra activities such as completing a cycling safety course and organising the annual Taney Vision talent show, not to mention hatching chicks!

Our Graduation Service for them and their parents was on Friday 24th June in Christ Church, Taney at 12.30 p.m. followed by a reception at the School hosted by 5th Class parents.

We would like to wish our 6th Class pupils every success

in their new academic environment. They have all been a credit to Taney Parish Primary School.

For everyone else, we will see you all back here at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday 1st September.

Staff News

A big welcome back to Mrs. Christie and Ms. Gaffney, both all healed again after being out with a broken foot and broken arm, respectively! Thank you to Ms. Karen Smith and Ms. Rebecca McLoone who covered their absences. Mrs. Quill is still away on maternity leave with her baby son, Devin. Following Mrs. Kelly's departure to Belfast, Ms. Helen Little has been appointed as Special Needs Assistant – we are absolutely delighted to welcome her back to the school.

Fundraising

In terms of fundraising, we are delighted to announce that we had a very successful year again this year. We have contributed towards more iPads. This was one of our PTA fundraising goals this year and thanks to you, we have achieved that!

As well as the iPads, we have also purchased new sports equipment and contributed towards school tours. We gave presents to three teachers leaving the School and a present to Mrs. Power for her wedding this year all on behalf of the parents in the School. We gave the teachers €150 each in classroom expenses to furnish their rooms with art materials, crafts, games or anything they felt could benefit their pupils. It is also worth noting that we pay for medals for Sports Day and the swimming displays, which cost over €1,000 and we also like to donate funds to a Charity every year and this year was no exception.

Having held a Dress up in Taney Colours Day we donated €968.47 to aid the Syrian Refugees and from our collections at the Christmas Carol Services €1,716 was donated to Cancer Clinical Research Trust. So, there's not a lot left in the PTA account at the end of the year but that's the way it should be!

Sponsored Walk

Our Sponsored Walk took place on Thursday 28th April and it was a great evening! The sun didn't quite shine as hoped, in fact we were lambasted by hailstones, however this didn't dampen the children's spirits who could be heard coming from a mile away! We are delighted to announce that we raised over €6,000 from all your efforts so well done everyone! Particular thanks should be given to our PTA members, **Aiden Hanley, Phil Marsden and Viv Cox,**

who organised the whole event and made sure that it went off without a hitch (unfortunately they couldn't do much about the weather)!



Sports Day

This was held on Friday 3rd June and as always, there was a tremendous effort put into planning this day and special thanks must be extended to **Nicola Darley, Lesley Ellis, Ruth Shanu, Aiden Hanley and Viv Cox.**



We are also indebted to **Colin Maleady, Nigel Macken and Paul Finlay** who help transport the equipment required, plan the area, and set up (as well as clear up) on the day.

The effort put in by this team, the wider team (including the Sports Committee) and the extended group of 60+ volunteers (parents & teachers) on the day is enormous. I know everyone would agree that it is worth it. The children love it and it's definitely a highlight of the school calendar. This year, we had our fingers crossed for 'dry weather' and were blessed with lots of sunshine!



Sixth Class pupils three legged race

Swimming Displays

The Junior swimming display for 2nd and 3rd Class took place on Wednesday 11th May. The Senior swimming display for 4th and 5th Class took place on Wednesday 15th June. The swimmers were delighted with the medals and certificates they received. We would like to thank DLR, Loughlinstown, for their superb swimming tuition this year.

Credit Union Savings Scheme

The savings scheme has had another very successful year. We have been so impressed with the number of regular savers (approximately 120), particularly in the younger classes. We would also like to thank the parents who volunteered their time and also the pupils in 6th class who volunteered to collect and record the lodgements. Many thanks to Lynn Hanley who will continue to manage this scheme next year. If any other parent, or pupil going into 6th class, would like to volunteer half an hour on a Wednesday morning to help out please contact Lynn Hanley at lynnchanley@gmail.com and she will be in touch in September.

Taney Garden Fête

Held on Saturday 11th June, this was another very successful event for the Parish, raising €24,765! Once again, the PTA managed the Tea & Coffee Stall and we would like to extend a big thank you to our Junior Infant parents (amongst others!) for volunteering to help, and to everyone who donated yummy baked goods. Congratulations to the Fête Committee on a well organised and really enjoyable day!

Active Flag Committee Update

We are continuing to work towards our Active School Flag and have been very busy doing lots of activities. 30th May to 3rd June was our first Active Schools week. This was extremely successful and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Children were encouraged to wear their favourite sports gear on Tuesday to promote physical activity and the whole school started Thursday morning with the Cha-Cha-Slide.

Throughout the week, all children had the opportunity to engage in a Badminton session and Zumba workshop. We were blessed with good weather which enabled us to carry out lots of activities outside including a fantastic whole school Zumba dance and Walk on Wednesday (WOW)! Individual classes also engaged in brainbreaks, dodgeball tournaments, Maths trails, plank challenges, Irish games and much, much more. Every class also promoted Active Schools in their classrooms by creating an Active display. Beautiful weather for Sports Day was a great end to the week. We have completed our 'Run to New York' – a distance of 5,112km. Congratulations to all and keep active!

Many thanks to the Active Flag Committee Members, Ms. McElhinney, Mrs. Martin and Ms. Coe.

Don't forget that in order to retain our hard-won green flags, we have to continue to recycle and conserve energy at home and at school.

Sports Committee Update

Hockey (report since last newsletter)

Due to an early Easter, the end of season hockey tournaments were held during the first week of this term instead of at the end of last term. Great fun was had by all and the 6th class captains did a great job looking after their younger team members.

The boys' A team retained the Jenny Robinson cup, beating Whitechurch in the final. The Taney teams also reached the group 1 and 2 league finals day. The group 1 team were narrowly beaten by Kill of the Grange. The group 2 team beat St. Andrews 7-0, what a fantastic result and a great sign for next year! Well done!

Very many thanks to Claire Reid for all of her hard work organising boys' hockey for the last two years.

The girls' group 1 team also reached their league final but were beaten by Holly Park. They also competed in the Leinster Schools tournament with 15 other schools and again were very unlucky to be beaten in the final.

Well done to Sinead O'Grady and Ben Stewart who were named the Taney hockey players of the year!

A big thank you as always to Jenny, Avril, Heather and Kerri for coaching and managing teams. Thanks also to the parents who transported goalie gear, washed kit etc. The more people involved, the lighter the load!

Soccer

The 7-a-side Morton cup was great fun as always with 171 children participating. The change of venue to Wayside Celtic proved very successful. The pitches and the facilities there were second to none and it made life a lot easier for the Sports Committee, Ms. Leahy and Ms. Coe to organise this huge event - no need to transport and assemble goals in Marlay this year and no need for pitch marking either! Well done to Caoimhín and Thea who captained the two winning teams.

The boys' A team recently won the league and cup final in a nail biting match against Scoil Bhríde. They also won the Camel Cup. Some of these boys also played in the FAI 5-a-side tournament and reached the Dublin final - a huge achievement given the competition they faced.

The B and C teams were placed in tough leagues but competed well. The 4th class team enjoyed their 1st year of competitive school soccer doing well in their league.

Many thanks to Catherine Cooke for organising senior soccer. Thanks also to Hilary Langheld, Eleanor Bain and Pam Wallace for helping to manage the teams.

The girls' soccer team have had a very successful season with a number of very convincing wins. They were unfortunately beaten in their league semi-final in a very close match with the other team scoring in the last few minutes.

Huge thanks to Anisa Parkes for many years of organising Taney soccer. Thanks also to Claire McEvoy for helping to manage the girls' team.

Congratulations to Thea Clare and Caoimhín Rohu who were awarded soccer players of the year.

Junior soccer re-started this term once again with 100 children taking part. They will finish up with a mixed tournament as always. Many thanks to Kathryn Jones for co-ordinating junior soccer this year. Thanks also to all of the parents who have helped transport all of those footballs - a bulky task!!

This year we have been fortunate enough to have the ever enthusiastic Ken Clack coaching our girls, boys and juniors. He has been a huge asset and we would have been lost without him.

Summer Sports

Chris Steele has once again been organising our summer sports, although for the first four weeks we had rain and hail so no-one was feeling very summery! 68 children have been taking part, enjoying rounders, athletics and cricket.



Our 6th classers had their first introduction to competitive cricket with a match against Rathfarnham. The 6th class girls came so close to retaining the Cailíní cup, losing out by just two runs. Many thanks to Paul O'Grady for helping out with the cricket matches.

This year's 6th class girls competing in sport deserve a special mention. They have done themselves and the school proud with their fantastic attitude. They just missed out on gold in hockey, soccer and cricket and yet they have all kept smiling and enjoying their sport. You are all amazing!

It cannot be said enough that without parental involvement there would be no sport in Taney so please consider offering to help at some level. The Sports Committee organize, co-ordinate and run all the various sports, on a near daily basis, but they do rely on the help of other parents to support their efforts. Thank you to one and all on the Committee (Johanna Flynn, Anisa Parkes, Claire Reid, Dave Douglas, Katherine Cooke and Kathryn Jones) and to all those who have managed a team, washed and/or transported kit or indeed coached. We are actively looking for some new volunteers so please get in touch as soon as possible at taneysportscommittee@gmail.com

Tennis

This the sixth consecutive year in which Taney has entered the Primary Schools Tennis League. This year we had an all boys' team of 3 doubles pairings. Hugo Hjelseth & Paddy Cameron, Sean Egan & Tadgh Finlay, Rhys Meagher & Adam Mc Nally. Matches were played during April and May in a mixture of sunshine and showers. The boys played some great tennis and made it through to the playoffs but unfortunately were beaten by St. Oliver Plunkett's in Malahide. They were a credit to the school and their families: their very sporting and friendly attitude towards the game was commented on by a number of schools.

A big thank you to Carrickmines LTC who gave us free use of their courts for our home matches: much appreciated.

We would like to encourage new players, boys and girls (4th to 6th class) to consider getting involved next year. Previously the school has entered a mixed team but unfortunately this year we didn't have enough girls to make up another team. Congratulations and best wishes to the 6th class boys who represented Taney Parish Primary School in the Primary schools tennis league and you can now enjoy a well earned summer holiday with lots of tennis.

PTA AGM & Changes on the PTA

Our 51st Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 15th June. We said our goodbyes to Nicola Darley, Martina Byrne and Nicola Sexton and welcomed Orla Gavin, Karen Sloan and Kate Squires to the Committee. They will begin their Tour of Duty in September!

Viv Cox will continue as Chairperson for another year and we can confirm that Lesley Ellis will take over as Secretary and Manfred Davies as Treasurer. For those leaving, you will be missed and thank you so much for all your hard work over the last three years.

The other hard-working PTA members are Phil Marsden, Aiden Hanley, Ruth Shanu, Maura McKenna, along with Ms. McElhinney, Mrs. Duffy and Mrs. Carpenter (an ex-officio member).

Nicola D., Martina and Nicola S. would personally like to thank everyone for their support and generosity over the past three years.

And last but not least ...

The PTA would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all our Class Reps. They have been amazing at passing on our somewhat long-winded, frequent but essential emails to all the parents in the School. They maintain their contact lists, organise social events and are vital to the PTA for information distribution. Well done to you all.

Thanks also to all the teachers for their unwavering support to our activities throughout the year. They have encouraged their pupils to get involved in our Christmas cards, Sponsored Walk and Sports Day, amongst other things.

We would like to thank Ivan O'Brien who has presented all the newsletters in this professional format, along with being our resident MC for the raffle at the Table Quiz, the Sponsored Walk and Sports Day.

Thanks to Lynn Hanley who took over the running of the Credit Union from Viv Cox and continues to do a great job.

Thanks to Nigel Macken, Colin Maleady, Andrew Bowers, Peter Griffin, Sinead Macken, Eoin Pearson, Julie Maloney in the office, our caretaker Paul and Carmel in the Staff Room and all the teachers and support staff who help with various jobs throughout the year.

Many thanks to Liz Houchin and Gill Crampton, our volunteer planters, who keep the school grounds looking fantastic.

And of course, we would like to thank the School Staff, all our pupils, all our volunteers (including the PTA, Sports Committee, Active Flag Committee) and everyone who gives their time and effort to make our School events so worthwhile. These things just do not work without people prepared to jump on board and help and we are very fortunate in Taney Parish Primary School to have such a large pool of excellent resources.

Recap of PTA Activities 2015 - 2016

Timeline	Events
September	New Parents Coffee Morning Credit Union Saving Scheme for 1-6 th Class
October	School Fair School Christmas Cards
November	Christmas Party
December	Taney Parish Christmas Bazaar (Toy Stall) Christmas Newsletter
February	Table Quiz
March	Information Evening Easter Newsletter
May	New Parents Meeting 1916 Commemoration Ceremony Junior Swimming Display Annual School Concert
June	Sports Day Irish Dancing Display Taney Parish Fête (Tea & Coffee Stall) Senior Swimming Display PTA AGM Summer Newsletter

