



March 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are no doubt aware, the new 2022 CNS Parents Association (PA) committee was elected in February 2022. As spring is now well underway and COVID restrictions are finally easing, we are very excited in the PA to be gradually getting back to the full range of activities that we have typically provided for the children in CNS over the years.

Over the past year we have provided as many fun activities for the children as possible within COVID restrictions. However, we have missed interacting face-to-face with parents. The parents of CNS have always provided a close community of friendship and support for the children and for each other, but this interaction has obviously been interrupted by COVID over the past 2 years. We are very aware that there are many parents in the school who do not know who we are or what we do.

Therefore, we feel that this is a good time to introduce you to the current PA committee for 2022, to explain what the role of the PA is, and also to outline what we typically do during the school year. We hope that this will also illustrate how important it is for all of our children to have a continued parental support and involvement that the school can count on. As we were unable to hold our annual AGM for parents to attend in person yet again this year, we would also like to take this opportunity to give an account of our activities and achievements for 2021, as well as giving a flavour of the activities that we hope to run in 2022.

### WHO WE ARE

The purpose of the PA is to provide a structure through which the parents and guardians of children attending Castleknock National School can work together for the best possible education for their children. The PA represents all of the parents and guardians of Castleknock National School. We are here for the children. Their education, wellbeing and happiness is our main concern and together with your continued support at all PA events, we can make our school the best it can be for our kids.

## PA Committee 2022

### Chair

Louise McDonagh  
(5<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> class)

### Secretary

Claire Hutchinson  
(2<sup>nd</sup> & S.Infants)

### Treasurer

Gillian Ryan  
(2<sup>nd</sup>)

### Committee Members

Deirdre  
Gilhawley  
1<sup>st</sup> Class &  
J.Infants

Ciara  
Roche-  
Kelly  
1<sup>st</sup> Class

Fiona  
Markmann  
1<sup>st</sup> Class &  
J.Infants

Jeanne  
Griffin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class

Emma  
Fitzsimons  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class &  
S.Infants

Tawnie  
Farinez  
J.Infants

### Class Representatives

J.Infants – Fiona Markmann  
S.Infants – Claire Hutchinson  
1<sup>st</sup> Class – Deirdre Gilhawley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class – Jeanne Griffin  
3<sup>rd</sup> Class – Tawnie Farinez  
4<sup>th</sup> Class – Gillian Ryan  
5<sup>th</sup> Class – Emma Fitzsimons  
6<sup>th</sup> Class – Ciara Roche-Kelly

## WHAT WE DO

### Fundraising

One of the main functions of the PA is fundraising. Thanks to your ongoing generous support, all monies raised at PA events go towards improving school facilities, providing fun and stimulating activities, and subsidising extracurricular activities for our children.

2021 was an extremely successful year for the PA. We had to adjust our events and fundraisers to fit in with the 'new normal' of COVID restrictions. Despite this, we were blown away by parents' generosity, and also by the children's genuine appreciation for the treats that they were given. A 2021 PA Finance Update is provided at the end of this document.

### **Improving School Facilities**

In 2021, PA funds were used to purchase bicycle racks and five CO2 monitors for the school. We were also able to obtain 16 iPads with software contract, which are being used extensively by all of the children throughout the school.

### **Examples of successful events held over the 2021 year:**

We were blown away by the generosity of the school community in response to our 'Cycle for CNS' event, which was held in April 2021 – through this event we raised €8,158 for the iPad fund.

Due to your further generosity for our Easter, Hallowe'en and Christmas raffles, as well as your purchasing of Christmas cards, we were able to provide the following treats for the children during 2021:

- Sweets for the children at Easter, Hallowe'en and Christmas
- Ice-cream van June 2021
- Graduation for 6<sup>th</sup> class June 2021
- Coffee morning for the parents of our newest Junior Infants in September 2021
- Hoodies for the current 6<sup>th</sup> class (class of '22)
- New Christmas trees and Santa suit for the school in December 2021
- Online Christmas pantomime
- Woolly Farm experience at Christmas

We are really excited to announce that we will also be providing €2400 towards a new 'Hub' in the school. The former computer room will be refitted to function as a multi-purpose 'Hub' – a calm space that will be structured as a library with PCs, but that can also be used for a range of group activities and one-to-one activities with the children, as required.

Our aim for the coming year is to ensure we can continue subsidising extra-curricular activities and to make sure that every child benefits from the funds spent on improving school facilities which makes our school the best it can be for our children.

**Our main fundraising activity this year will be towards 'The Hub', so watch this space....!**

### **Extracurricular Activities**

As you are all aware, it has not been possible for the PA to run extracurricular activities since March 2020. We are delighted to be returning to swimming lessons after Easter, and are hopeful for a full return to extracurricular activities from September 2022. All of our children benefit from taking part in subsidised extracurricular activities as they help them to develop confidence and a healthy sense of their own abilities. The more children that sign up, the lower the price, so it's a win for our children and also for our pockets!

The activities below are examples of extracurricular activities that have been provided by the PA in the past, and which were supported by the PA's fundraising events:

During School Hours	
Drama	Skipping Workshops
Choir / Music	Storytelling
Science Activities	
After School Hours	
Swimming	Cross Country
Computers	Chess
Athletics	Hockey

The PA have also supported the school at the following events in the past :

Junior Infants Welcome Night	Halloween Treats
Tea & Tissues (1 <sup>st</sup> day of School for JI)	Easter Treats
6 <sup>th</sup> Class Graduation Celebration	Christmas Treats
Christmas Service	Educational gift for each class at Christmas
Sports day refreshments	

We hope this has helped give more of an insight into of the role of the PA and what we do. We are looking forward to getting back to the typical range of PA activities and socialisers. If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch with us – you can contact your class rep, or you can email: [Parentsassociationcns@gmail.com](mailto:Parentsassociationcns@gmail.com).

Finally, a big thank you for all your help and support so far because no fun activities, bake sales, family events or social evenings would happen if we didn't have your generous support.

Best regards  
CNS Parents Association