

LIMERICK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Ex-Officio:

1. The Bishop (Chairman)
Ms. Lorna Sharpe (Secretary)
2. **Chairpersons of School Boards of Management**
Mr. J. Clarke (Adare)
Rev J. Godfrey (Aughrim)
Ms. B Delahunt (Stand in for Birr)
Rev. I. F. Keegan (Kiltallagh)
Very Rev N. Sloane (Limerick)
Rev. P Fitzpatrick (Stand in for Nenagh)
The Rev. Canon P. Comerford (until March '22)Ms. Daphne Casey(Stand in Rathkeale)
Rev. J. Galbraith (Roscrea)
Mr. J. Donovan(Shannon)
Rev. J. Stephens (Tralee)
3. **The Principal Teachers of the Primary Schools in the United Dioceses**
Mrs. M. Brickenden (retiring on 31/08/22) Ms. Theresa Quinlivan (Adare)
Mrs. L. Fenton (Aughrim)
Ms. A. Colton (retiring on 31/08/22) Ms. Violet Barnwell (Birr)
Mr. I. Hayes (Cloughjordan)
Ms. P. Ni Bhriain (Kiltallagh)
Ms. K. Gleeson (Limerick)
Ms. S. Maher (Nenagh)
Mr. N. West (Rathkeale)
Ms. A. Powell (Roscrea)
Mr. K. Toomey (Shannon)
Mr. M. O'Toole (Tralee)

Elected Members : (To be re-elected 2023)

1. 4 Lay Members of the Diocesan Synod – elected by Diocesan Synod
Ms. J. Bray (Limerick)
Ms. B. Gascoigne (Ardfert & Aghadoe)
Ms. F. Kenny (Killaloe & Clonfert)
Ms. A. Clarke Gordon (Killaloe & Clonfert)
2. 4 Teachers elected by the full-time permanent teachers
Ms. V. Barnwell (Birr)
Ms. C. Stanley (Nenagh)
Ms. S. Fossitt (St. Michael's, Limerick)
Ms. M. O'Doherty (Tralee)

Membership

The Board acknowledges the commitment in terms of time and expertise that the members bring to the deliberations of the Board. The Board also thanks the Principals, Chairpersons and individual Board of Management members for the work and commitment to the schools in the diocese.

Responsibilities of the Board of Management

The Board of Education wishes to highlight again the importance of each Board of Management having adequate comprehensive insurance in place. There are specially tailored school insurance policies which should include Employer's Liability, Public Liability, Professional Indemnity and Legal Expenses. Please note this insurance should include an indemnity of the Trustees and Patron. It is up to each individual Board of Management to consider the adequacy of these covers in the policy provided by insurers and if necessary that the Board of Management are covered by the insurers for any legal liability arising from wrongful actions of teachers or other employees. In addition, the Board strongly recommends that the schools take out 'Pupil Personal Accident Insurance' for all pupils enrolled in the school.

Finally, the Board of Management are asked to ensure that all those who have access to the children during the running of the school, have received and undergone the appropriate safeguarding protocols and undergone garda vetting and received statutory clearance.

Finances

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 are following this report in the Book of Reports. In the absence of a meeting of the Diocesan Board of Education, these accounts will be presented for approval at the next meeting of the Board, proposed for the 15th September 2022. The Board is grateful to Ms. Phyllis Mason and Ms Lorna Sharpe for preparing and checking the accounts.

The Board is very grateful to the Parishes of the Dioceses for their continued financial contribution towards the works of the Board. This funding for the work of the Board is vital if we are to make contributions to the schools. In 2021, the Board noted that contributions totalling €2,562. We received 12 various donations across the Dioceses as noted alongside the 2021 Accounts. We ask for your continued support and generosity for 2022 to support the on-going works of the Board for the coming year and encourage the remaining parishes to make a contribution in 2022. This money helps to make small grant payments to each of the eleven schools to help fund the delivery of the RE Programme.

Allocations of National Schools for 2021

A donation of €200 was made to each National School in the Dioceses to provide resources associated with the RE Curriculum . There was no contribution made to the United Diocesan Youth Council as it was not possible to hold a Confirmation Weekend due to Covid restrictions.

Meeting

We held the annual board meeting on the 27th October 2021 via Zoom , due to restrictions.

School Service

Due to Covid Restrictions, there was no school service held in 2021

However, this year we plan to have the annual school service on [Friday 13th October 2022 at 11.30am in St Mary's Cathedral Limerick](#)

Training for Boards of Management

Due to Covid Restrictions, there was no training

Training Day for Principals and Chair of the Board of Management

Due to Covid Restriction, there was no training

Reports for 2021 /2022 school year from all our Primary Schools

Adare, St Nicholas - Principal Margaret Brickenden

St. Nicholas' N.S. began the year with pods, bubbles, hand sanitizing stations and staggered breaks but thankfully as the year went on we were able to get back to our usual school activities.

This year the school took part in the Blue Star Programme, a programme which teaches pupils about European cultures and the EU through creative activities and projects. We also took part in the Food Dudes programme and Science Blast. We concentrated on reading and took on the Accelerated Reading Programme to encourage lots of reading throughout the school.

Christmas activities included a Panto Day in each classroom, creating our own Christmas cards for sale, fundraising for Adapt House in Limerick City, Christmas parties in each classroom and a secret visit from Santa. Unfortunately it wasn't safe enough for him to visit in person.

Term 2 brought us out and about into the school grounds as much as possible. This included Thursday assemblies in the courtyard, thanks to Rev. Liz. We also enjoyed cricket coaching and this proved very popular. We made good use of our outdoor classroom space when weather permitted. We celebrated Internet Safety Day and the senior pupils welcomed renowned poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice on zoom as part of the Poetry Town initiative.

World Book Day was celebrated in school by everyone and we had a wonderful Dress Up Day when pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters. It was a wonderfully colourful day in school. We also hosted a Book Fair at this time and along with lots of reading we raised funds for new books for our classroom libraries. Thanks to all our families for their support. Seachtain na Gaeilge brought a lively mixture of céilís, treasure hunts and quizzes, all through Irish.

The summer term in school is always so exciting with promises of Sports Day, school tours and fun outdoors. This year we were in a position to invite parents to join us for these activities. The anticipation of school trips, heading off on a bus together, the first time in a couple of years created great excitement. We also held our first Prize Day in person since 2020 and we were delighted to welcome Lady Geraldine Dunraven, our school patron, to present the prizes. Following this lovely ceremony, 6th class pupils held a Bake Sale in aid of Ukraine. The senior pupils baked delicious treats and these were sold to eager parents and pupils in the afternoon. €760 was raised for this worthy cause.

Clean Up Day was a bright and sunny one and we all worked together to tidy up the school and church grounds. We were delighted to have an outdoor visit from Bishop Burrows and look forward to welcoming him back again.

Through the Blue Star Programme we welcomed Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the ambassador from Crete to school on May 9th to celebrate Europe Day.

Active Week included a giant obstacle course, orienteering activities and dodgeball competitions. The staff had hoped to be crowned 'Dodgeball Champions' but sadly that did not happen. The less said, the better! The senior pupils were delighted to return to Villiers for their annual Primary Schools' Sports Day, a wonderful day, well organised with a variety of activities and a great welcome from TY students. David O'Dea, our GAA coach, put all classes through their paces and helped to improve our football skills for a number of weeks. He also brought along a special visitor in May, Liam McCarthy! It seems this cup doesn't want to leave Limerick!!

The school year finished with school trips to Crag Cave for the junior pupils and Cork for the senior pupils, both wonderful days. Sports Day was a bright and sunny day and along with plenty of races and activities, we had a visit from an ice-cream van.

The BOM informed parents and pupils that Mrs Margaret Brickenden, who has been principal teacher in St. Nicholas' for the past 32 years, was to retire this summer and the pupils and staff organised a wonderful send-off in the school grounds just before the end of term. There was a tearful end of year service when we said goodbye to our 6th class pupils and to Mrs Brickenden.

Thank you to all our St. Nicholas' families, staff, BOM and the wider Adare community for their continued support.

Aughrim, The Glebe – Acting Principal Ruth Burke

The Glebe NS, Aughrim, reopened on Tuesday August 31st, 2021 and thankfully this was a year without any major interruptions from covid which all pupils, staff and parents were delighted about. We maintained a safe environment for all our pupils and will continue to keep in place a number of our new routines to keep one another safe and protected in the future.

As always, our involvement with the Rectory Garden Project continued throughout the year with many visits. We also visited the Climate Action Park with our Rector, Reverend John Godfrey on numerous occasions. Early in the school year, we received our Green Flag Award for the Water theme project. The Senior Room pupils attended a virtual awards ceremony with special guests and surprises on Thursday 14th of October. At present, we continue to work on the Green Flag with the theme now being Travel.

For Science Week we had great fun in the Junior classroom exploring and completing various experiments. Some of the experiments included; making a rainbow in a jar, creating invisible ink etc. For Maths Week the pupils in the Senior Room were busy building and coding a Lego Boost car and robot. As always, the school took part in the Ballinasloe Christmas Jumper Day and proudly raised one hundred and thirteen euro for Galway Hospice and Ballinasloe Social Services. The Senior Room were very busy this year and were involved in a number of various projects, to name a few; Write a Book Project and The Blue Flag Project.

The children had a visit from Minister Anne Rabbitte and a Maltese ambassador in relation to the work they have covered in The Blue Star Project which was an exciting day for all involved.

All pupils in the school participated in gymnastics and fitness classes with a coach from School Fitness Ireland. In the Junior room the students also took part in hurling lessons, while the Senior room went for swimming lessons for a number of weeks. In early May, the whole school were thrilled to venture to Wildlands Moycullen for their first school tour in a number of years.

We finished our year with a Sports Day and a very special End of Year Service in Holy Trinity Church where we celebrated the graduation of our two sixth class pupils and acknowledged and celebrated the year we had.

Birr , Oxmantown N.S. - Principal Audrey Colton

Oxmantown N.S. is a four classroom teacher school with one full time S.E.T. We have Resource hours with a local cluster. There are 88 pupils on roll at present.

Our pupils did hockey, tag rugby and athletics with professional trainers. Swimming lessons took place at Birr Swimming Pool in the first term for 8 weeks.

Due to the Covid Restrictions being in place we did not have a Christmas concert this year, instead each class recorded a Christmas Song which we shared on our Facebook page.

We had many zoom calls with authors which were organised through the local library.

We raised funds for our own Parents' Association this year as a Lenten Project, we held no uniform days weekly and ran our annual Easter Egg Raffle. We were selected to present a cheque on behalf of the diocese for €11,136 to Christian Aid Ethiopia, and a speaker showed slides of the ongoing work being done in Ethiopia by Christian Aid.

We had visits from the local fire service to discuss fire safety with the pupils.

Our fifth and Sixth Class Students enjoyed the Sports Day which was arranged at Villiers School.

We worked towards our Fifth Green Flag which was biodiversity, this was awarded online in May. We are continuing to develop the school garden and to grow vegetables and salads in the poly tunnel.

Rev. Arthur Minion was appointed as our Rector and we enjoyed his weekly visits to school every Friday morning. We are looking forward to having our Pet Day with Rev. Arthur blessing all our creatures great and small.

Cloughjordan NS - Principal Ivor Hayes

School opened on 25th August 2021 for the 2021-2022 School Year. We were delighted to welcome 8 new pupils to Junior Infants to commence their primary education. It was an unusual school year, with many protective Covid 19 measures still in place for the first half of the year. With a mixture of excitement and apprehension we welcomed the option to ease measures in school from the 28th February onwards. There was tremendous jubilation when all classes were able to play together again in the school playground, for the first time in two years! Covid 19 continued to circulate, as it still does, and it wasn't until the short summer term that we were able to resume most of our usual pre-pandemic school activities.

We were delighted that while we continued to stay apart in our bubbles that pupils and staff could dress in Halloween and many different costumes and support the Trick or Treat for Temple Street appeal.

It was wonderful to be able to support the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal once again and donate so many filled shoeboxes. Christmas 2021 was a quiet Christmas in school but we were delighted that Santa found time to deliver presents for all the boys and girls.

With great excitement we were able to resume our much-loved tradition of visiting our local bookshop, Sheelagh na Gig, to celebrate World Book Day in March, and enjoy a short storytelling

session in the bookshop and the opportunity to exchange our World Book Day tokens for free books and the opportunity to purchase books.

While we were unable to hold the annual Postal Bible School prizegiving the children were delighted to receive generous prizes for the work they did on their Bible Sheets from January – December 2021 and grateful to Gareth, Margaret and all of the staff of the Postal Bible School for all they did for us throughout the year.

On Friday 8th April, we had a Bring and Buy Sale, Cake Sale and Easter Egg Raffle in aid of the National Council for the Blind of Ireland and the Church of Ireland Bishops Ukraine Crisis Appeal. This was our first opportunity in a long time to welcome visitors indoors. It was wonderful to receive support from so many parents and others. Together we raised €1770 and were delighted to share it equally between both charities.

The children have had a very active summer term, as they have participated in many sporting activities – Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, basketball,, athletics and swimming to name just a few. It was a privilege, once again, to unite with our neighbours and friends in St. Michael's N.S. for training and to enter hurling, camogie and football teams in the Cumann na mBunscoil U11 and U13 competitions. Our U13 Camogie Team reached the County Final in Semple Stadium on 21st June where they played with great skill and determination but lost to Ballynahinch N.S. We are very proud of all our players.

Our 5th and 6th Class pupils really enjoyed an active day at the Primary Schools Sports Day at Villiers School, Limerick on Wednesday 27th April. Thank you so much to the staff and Transition Year students at Villiers for very generously making this wonderful day available.

It was fantastic to welcome so many parents, past pupils and extended family members to our School Sports Day on Friday, 10th June and a joy to welcome our new Junior Infants and their parents as well. Also on the day we celebrated achieving, and raised, our 8th Green Flag for Global Citizenship - Marine Environment.

Pupils are enjoying participating in Creative Schools. Creative Schools is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme to enable the creative potential of every child. Creative Schools is led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Education and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. We were privileged to work with Joanna Parkes, our Creative Schools Associate for this project and are very grateful for her support and guidance throughout.

As part of our Creative Schools Initiative, we were delighted to work with Mike Byrne, visual artist and animator. Mike completed a model-making workshop with Junior and Senior Infants and 1st and 2nd Class on Monday, 10th January. Mike also completed a 2-day Stop Motion Animation Workshop with 5th and 6th Class on Thursday, 9th and Friday, 10th December and with 3rd and 4th Class on Thursday, 13th and Friday, 14th January. The workshop involved the pupils familiarising themselves with the technique of stop motion and then recording their own animations.

Junior Infants – 2nd Class enjoyed their School Tour on Friday, 20th May to Turoe Pet Farm, Loughrea. A week later 3rd – 6th Class had an equally fantastic day on their School Tour to Kilkenny Castle and Kilkenny Activity Centre.

We are very grateful to our Parent Teacher Association Committee for its invaluable support, and to so many parents, and others, for their help in endless ways, throughout the year. We wish our 12 Sixth Class pupils every success and future happiness as they move on to Borrisokane Community College and Villiers School Limerick.

Kiltallagh N.S. – Principal Paula Ní Bhriain

**“Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference”**

This serenity Prayer became an integral part of our daily life here in Kiltallagh in recent years and it undoubtedly helped us navigate through the uncertain and challenging times since March 2020. Our thoughts, words and actions as a school community remained positive and hopeful, creativity flourished and resilience shone brightly!

From hot-chocolate afternoons to cookery days, to becoming zoom experts and virtual lesson professionals! From outdoor magic shows to local beach trips to surprise visits from the ice-cream van and monthly movie and non-uniform days, we enjoyed them all!

We now have a renewed appreciation and gratitude for the simple pleasures once taken for granted. The joy of free movement within our classroom, the pleasure of singing in church and celebrating services with our families. The enjoyment of gathering together to enjoy each other’s company or a friendly hug. We are so grateful for all of them.

As we re-immersede wholeheartedly into school life and look forward to active week, pony-trekking, kayaking, afternoon tea to name but a few, all here in Kiltallagh give thanks.

For, if we have realised anything these last two years, it is just how much we really do love our small little gem of a school here in the Kingdom and how much we would be absolutely lost without it!

Nenagh - St Marys National School – Principal Shirley Maher

Another year has passed us by in the blink of an eye! We were delighted to welcome 10 new pupils to the school last September which resulted in 64 pupils being on the register for this academic year. Our staff comprises of Mrs Caroline Whiteford who taught Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class, Ms Donna Cavanagh who taught 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes and Mrs Shirley Maher who has responsibility for 5th and 6th classes. Ms Derena McDermott was our fulltime Special Educational Needs teacher and Ms Niamh Slattery and Ms Mairéad McLoughney were our other Special Education Teachers, who were completing a Job share position together. We are also delighted to have Mrs Mary Cope, as a Fulltime Special Needs Assistant, and Mrs Noelle Carroll took on our Part time Special Needs Assistant post. We have a wonderful staff on board who are deeply committed to the happiness of all children who enter the doors of St. Mary’s.

The academic year September 2021 to September 2022 was altered slightly due to restrictions which we all had to adhere to, due to the Corona virus. However, it’s quite amazing how resilient children can be and how quickly they adapt to new routines. As restrictions gradually eased over the school year, there was a huge sigh of relief from the children, staff and parents alike. It was wonderful to see pods mixing in the yard and seeing friendships rekindled and blossom. Singing could be heard around the school again. Initiatives such as Buddy Friendships and 6th class prefects could recommence. Oh how we forget that these are the programmes, outside the curricular areas, which bring a great sense of joy to the children.

In curricular areas, a huge focus of School Self Evaluation was Scríbhneoireacht sa Ghaeilge agus taitneamh agus spraoi a bhaint as Ghailge Neamhfhoirmiúil. We continue to work on the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. The staff completed further training on the Primary Language Curriculum.

Annual reviews have taken place on our legislative policies and they have been reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management during the school year.

The children have been given the opportunity to participate in a number of extracurricular activities, such as soccer, athletics, yoga and swimming. School trips have now returned once more and it was with great delight that we took Junior to 6th classes to Adventure World Sports in the Watershed in Kilkenny. A wonderful day was had by all.

Limerick - Saint Michael's N.S. Report - Principal Kate Gleeson

Saint Michael's National School reopened on August 31st with a new Principal, Ms. Kate Gleeson. We also welcomed Ms. Brid Stackpoole and Ms. Ruth Halpin to the teaching team.

The first term of our school year started with COVID restrictions very much still in place but thankfully parents, staff and pupils were well used to the hand washing, ventilation and social distancing measures. We were able to take a few small steps back to pre-pandemic life: for example, we began having out school assemblies out in the yard, rather than via Zoom. We kicked off these assemblies with a blessing of the school bags in September.

Instead of our usual Christmas plays, we enjoyed a virtual panto, Toy Day and all classes took part in 'The 12 Runs of Christmas' in the lead up to the holidays.

The start of term two brought plenty of challenges with COVID numbers at record highs across the country. Our older children were very mature when it came to mask wearing. We were all delighted at the end of February to learn that some of the restrictions in place could be relaxed and the one we were most excited by was removing the barriers in the yard so that classes could play together again. Another exciting development in Term Two was the installation of our new AstroTurf surface.

As the year has gone on, more of the normal school activities have returned, such as group work, UL City Sports, Sports Days (both Villiers and in school) and school tours. We were so delighted to be able to host our P.T.A.-run Family Fun Evening in June, which was a huge success. We also were delighted to have our first in-person Graduation service in three years and to welcome parents and families of our sixth class pupils to share in this special occasion. I am really proud of how, as a school community, we worked hard all year to keep each other safe and support each other during these challenging months.

Rathkeale - Church Street National School - Principal Niall West

Enrolments continue to remain in the twenties. Eight Ukrainian pupils joined our school after the Easter Holidays. We have three teachers, a teaching principal, an assistant teacher and our school is also the base school for a supply teacher who covers principal release days in five schools. Other staff members include a part time secretary, a part time caretaker and a part time English as an Additional Language teacher. We share a learning support teacher with a neighbouring school.

The school community has a keen interest in the Green Flag programme and we have recently been awarded our seventh green flag.

Guest speakers to the school included Heritage in Schools experts on biodiversity and spinning and weaving. A GAA coach came to the school for a series of workshops in the autumn. We had music

workshops led by Limerick City and Council and together the pupils composed and performed a song.

Our senior pupils took part in the Villiers Inter Primary Schools Sports' Day and we also had two teams at the first soccer blitz for the small schools in West Limerick.

One of our biggest achievements this year was our name change. Following much consultation with various stakeholders we changed our name to Church Street National School. The school has also been repainted with bright murals. A relaunch day and celebration of the new name was held in June and it was very well attended. It was a great family day out and many people from the wider community of Rathkeale came along in support. We received coverage on local radio stations and also a feature on Virgin Media News.

We were delighted to be included in Limerick City and County Council Artist in Residence Programme. This involved a series of music workshops culminating in the writing and performing of a song.

The school was included in the recently expanded list of DEIS schools.

Roscrea - St. Cronan's N.S – Principal Anne Powell

The challenges of the past school year have been many, yet we take some reassurance, as the end of term fast approaches, that we have managed, despite it all, to offer our pupils another year full of exciting activities, opportunities and experiences here in St. Cronan's. With a directive from the Department of Education for schools to concentrate on Literacy and Numeracy skills and Wellbeing we set about including as much fun and enjoyment in our planning as possible.

Pupils donned their aprons and developed their culinary skills, making lasagne and spaghetti bolognese, baking rice crispy buns, fairy cakes and biscuit cake and making home-made ice-cream. 6th class had a great time making pancakes for everyone on Shrove Tuesday.

Pupils engaged in lots of scientific experiments involving electricity and magnetism. The Junior Room observed the squirming antics in their classroom wormery! They also grew their own crystals and created their own slime!

The school walls were always adorned with ever-changing colourful and creative art-work from 3D water lilies to model villages, from stunning self-portraits to sweeping landscapes, from swirling snow-scenes to still-life sketches. Impressive Easter bonnets were constructed in the Senior room and modelled with pride to everyone's delight. An outdoor elf village was created using recyclable materials which illuminated our school throughout the Christmas season. Halloween provided yet another modelling opportunity when both classes communicated via Zoom to show off their amazing costumes.

Many Maths themes were explored outside the school premises, shopping activities in Dunnes Stores, town walks which focussed on Measuring and Time, surveys and Data.

Our S.S.E. focus was on the Primary Language Curriculum. Pupils enjoyed a very entertaining video interview with children's author David Walliams and a Zoom meeting with authors Sarah Webb and Alan Nolan for Book Festival Week.

We invested heavily in a new reading scheme to enhance Literacy Skills in the Junior Room. We were successful in our application to The Primary Language Initiative and the Senior Room pupils enjoyed an introduction to the French language.

Lots of mini dramas took place in both English and Irish in both classrooms. C.L.A.S.S. (Covid Learning and Support Scheme) was an initiative to address the impact of Covid on our pupils' learning and offered 30 extra teaching hours. Our focus was on Maths, Irish and Well-being. As part of our well-being lessons a wonderful raised bed was created in square foot sections. An array of fruit and vegetables are now growing at the school and pupils are responsible for their maintenance. All the flower containers are looking colourful and healthy and our team of gloved helpers ensured that our school environment looked spic and span on Spring clean Day.

We were so proud and delighted to be selected as one of the 10 Primary schools in Ireland to win The SuperValu Busy Bees competition. A team from our local SuperValu store made a presentation of €5000. In an attempt to encourage healthier eating habits we have taken part in The Food Dudes initiative and pupils may order freshly made lunches from The Lunch Bag every day if they wish.

Throughout the year pupils have availed of soccer, hurling, Gaelic football and rugby coaching and 5th and 6th classes really enjoyed the experience of participating in the Interschools Sports Day in Villiers in Limerick.

In the last term we have been able to accomplish so much more than we expected as restrictions are eased a little. We have managed to have face-to face Parent Teacher meetings in the School, a fun Sports Day, two different school tours- the Junior Room went to Turoe Pet farm and Activity Centre in Galway and the Senior Room had a great time in Redhills Adventures in Kildare. Fire Officers were able to visit in person to give our children some very worthwhile advice. We gave our three 6th Class pupils a top class send-off at their Graduation Day when families and friends joined us to enjoy the children singing, dancing and reading poems and prayers followed by a veritable feast provided by The Parents' Association.

An incidental inspection by The Dept. of Education took place in the first term of this school year and the inspector was really impressed with the standard of teaching and learning in our school. However, despite everything that is positive and good about our school, the sad fact remains that, as is the case in most Church of Ireland schools right now, that we are struggling to maintain our pupil numbers and are deeply concerned that the future of Church of Ireland Schools is not a bright one. We would welcome any support or advice that the Diocesan Board of Education might provide to address this growing and very serious problem.

Shannon, St John's NS - Principal Kevin Toomey

The 2020/2021 school year brought lots of great developments to St. John's National School. To begin with, we were thrilled to welcome back our pupils after a difficult end to the previous school year due to the pandemic. We were greeted with lots of smiling, happy faces as the pupils came back into their classrooms.

St. John's opened their Autism Specific class unit, the first of its kind at primary level in Shannon, in September. This took a lot of organisation and hard work by all staff members (in particular the principal, Mr. Kevin Toomey) to get the doors opened for our new pupils. The classroom is situated in a modular building and is kitted out with a sensory room too. We welcomed Ms. Fiona O'Brien, Mrs. Valerie Hegarty and Mrs. Sarah O'Callaghan to our team as members of staff for the unit. A designated playing area with a fantastic jungle gym and soft play area was built alongside the unit. Thanks to Ei Electronics and Roadstone for providing much needed financial support in making this area become a reality.

We have been granted funding from the Department of Education for an extra mainstream classroom, a purpose-built autism specific classroom and staff room. The plans have been drawn up and we look forward to pushing this project forward over the coming months. The school building will more than double the size when this project is complete.

In relation to school activities, our pupils worked really hard during the year and enjoyed many different events such as Maths Week, Science Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Creative Week, and Wellbeing Wednesdays. These were all completed while the children were in school from September to December, and again from March to June.

Like the rest of the country, we were teaching remotely from January to March 2021. We are so proud of our pupils as they put in a huge effort in their remote learning. This involved each class grouping having an hour and a half Zoom Call/Google Meet with their teacher daily. Both the pupils and staff looked forward to these every day – a chance to chat to friends, check in with everyone, sing some songs, play some games and get lots of learning done. Credit must be given to the fantastic parents and pupils who became familiar with these new platforms very quickly in order to engage in remote learning.

June brought one of the best days in school, our Fun Day. This year, instead of school tours, we decided to hold a Fun Day. The day consisted of Bouncy Castles, a magic show, a science show and a visit from a gorgeous litter of puppies. We ended the day with an ice-cream from the local 'Coffee Point' shop in Drumgeely. This was a definite highlight of the year for the pupils, and it was a joy to see their huge smiles all day after a tough year.

In June we said goodbye to two of our pupils in 6th class as they moved onto Secondary School. Both pupils were a joy to have as part of the St. John's Family and will be missed. We know they are ready for their next step in Education and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

The Board, principal, staff and extended school community are very proud of the school and how much it has achieved in the past year. We will continue to work as a team to provide an excellent atmosphere for our pupils to grow, learn and develop in every way. We can't wait to see what 2021/2022 school year holds for us.

Tralee - St John's Parochial N.S. – Principal Michael O'Toole

DEIS Urban Band 1 School We will be changing to DEIS Urban Band 1 school in September 2022/23. This means we will become a 3 mainstream teacher school. As well as this we have been sanctioned a 0.5 fixed term EAL support teacher, so the boys and girls in the school will have great support next year.

Official Visits we had an incidental visit from our inspector Ger Quirke who was very happy with the teaching and learning in the school. We also had a visit from Minister Norma Foley who was delighted with her welcome and thrilled to interact with the students.

Active School We had a series of great events this year to help us remain fit and active. We underwent scooter and cycle training. And following on from Bike Week and Active Week we now offer the children one day per week when they can park and stride to school with staff members and another day when they can cycle to school with staff members. We also participate in the Daily Mile and had a lovely visit from their founders. To finish the year our senior room had a strenuous 10 km hike facilitated by Tralee Mountaineering Club.

Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to thank all involved in educating and supporting our young children over the last 12 months, through another year of Covid restrictions and requirements. Our schools adapted well to keep the academic year progressing.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the teachers, the clergy, member of the Board of Management and Sunday School Teachers in nurturing the young children in their faith.

In particular we wish you acknowledge the great work of two principals who retired on the 31st August 2022, Mrs Margaret Brickenden, from Adare N.S., after thirty two years of service and Ms Audrey Colton, from Oxmantown N.S., Birr after twenty four years of service. We want to thank you both kindly for all your years of dedicated service to the children of our Dioceses, we wish you both a long and well deserved happy retirement.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our two new principals, joining us for the new academic year, Ms. Theresa Quinlivan, Adare N.S. and to Ms. Violet Barnwell, Oxmantown N.S.

The Boards thanks Dr. Ken Fennelly of the Church of Ireland Board of Education for his continued support over the past year. He and the staff at Church House are always on hand and ready to help with any issues of the Board and schools, and for this they deserve our sincere appreciation and thanks.

Lorna Sharpe
Secretary
August 2022

Limerick Diocesan Board of Education

Financial Statements

Year ended 31st December 2021

In accordance with instructions given to me, I have examined, without carrying out an audit, the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 from the information and explanations supplied to me.

Phyllis Mason

Limerick Diocesan Board of Education

**Income & Expenditure Account
For the Year Ending 31st December 2021**

	Notes	2021 €	2020 €
<u>Income:</u>			
Endowment Receipts	1	1,782	1,793
Donations		2,562	100
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,344	1,893
<u>Expenditure:</u>			
Bank Charges		14	24
Donations to Primary Schools	3	2,200	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		(2,214)	(24)
Surplus/ (Deficit) for year		2,130	1,869
Balance brought forward		29,533	27,664
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		31,663	29,533
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Represented By:</u>			
Bank Balances			
AIB Bank, O'Connell St. Limerick		10,060	7,930
Permanent TSB Glenthworth St., Limerick		21,603	21,603
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		31,663	29,533
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Limerick Diocesan Board of Education
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	€	€
1 Endowment Receipts		
RCB Capital	1,782	1,782
Deposit interest	-	11
Bank of Ireland dividends	-	-
	1,782	1,793
2 Investments held at 31 December 2021		
244 Units Bank of Ireland ordinary stock		
15,496.18 Units R.B. General Unit Trust (R of I)		
3 Expenditure:		
	2021	2020
Donations to Primary Schools		
St. John's, Tralee	200.00	-
St. John's, Shannon	200.00	-
St Michael's Limerick	200.00	-
St. Cronan's, Roscrea	200.00	-
Church St, Rathkeale	200.00	-
St. Marys, Nenagh	200.00	-
No. 1 NS, Cloughjordan	200.00	-
Kiltallagh	200.00	-
Oxmanstown, Birr	200.00	-
St. Nicholas, Adare	200.00	-
The Glebe, Aughrim	200.00	-
Total	2,200.00	-
4 Approval of financial Statements		

Note : A meeting of The Limerick Diocesan Board of Education is scheduled to take place on 15th September 2022. The Financial Statements are subject to approval at this meeting.

LIMERICK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Contributions from the Parishes / Groups/ Unions/ Individuals for 2021:

Parishes / Groups/ Unions/ Individuals	Contribution2021 €
Nenagh	€300
Tralee/Dingle	€200
Cloughjordan & Borrisokane	€200
Killaloe	€200
Glan	€50
Roscrea	€150
Clonfert	€300
Shinrone	€112
St Marys Cathedral LCP	€300
Kilnasoolagh	€250
All Saints Castleconnell	€200
Kieran Sparling	€100
TOTAL	€2,362
	Contribution 2020€
Nenagh (made in 2021 for 2020)	€200
TOTAL	€2,562