



# Scoil Naomh Chaitríona

## Newsletter – Nov/December

College Street,  
Ballyshannon,  
Co. Donegal  
Tel : 071 98 51062

Email: [officescoilchaitriona@gmail.com](mailto:officescoilchaitriona@gmail.com)

### Dear Parents

With Christmas on the horizon, there is plenty of reason to feel upbeat and cheerful. These weeks are always so much fun and there is a lovely atmosphere of excitement and anticipation amongst the children in the countdown to the holidays. Our playroom is looking like Santa's grotto, our tree and decorations are going up, and those pesky elves are back to their old tricks. Once again, the month of December will have a different look and feel to it, but we will do our best to spread as much festive cheer and joy that we can.

### Important Dates Coming Up

**November 29<sup>th</sup> (Monday):** School Closure.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Friday):** Please have all hamper items in.


**December 17<sup>th</sup> (Friday):** All raffle cards to be returned. (Sold or unsold)

**December 21<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday):** Christmas Draw will take place.

**December 22<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday):** Christmas Holidays -12:30 close.

**January 6<sup>th</sup> (Thursday):** School Reopens

**Birthdays:** A very Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their birthdays in November

**Wiktoría (5), Jacek (7), Ella-Mae (9), Sophie (11), Zuzia (12)** 



### Update on COVID Guidelines

I would like to thank all our parents who have taken a sensible and cautious approach with regards to Covid. I know only too well from my own children how difficult it can be trying to arrange childcare at the last minute when a child is suddenly unwell. The Chief Medical Officer has once again reiterated the importance of contacting your GP if your child develops symptoms, not to attend school and not to rely on Antigen tests. (These are only recommended as an extra safety measure for people not presenting with symptoms). There has been a lot of new guidance lately so I've done my best to summarise it below.

# Latest Covid Guidelines

## Facemasks

With very short notice the Department of Education has notified schools that it will be compulsory for children in 3<sup>rd</sup> class and upwards to wear face masks in school unless they have a medical exemption. I am awaiting further clarity from the Department on this and there will be a degree of flexibility for the rest of this week. I will keep you posted once I learn more. The majority of children wore their masks today and we were able to supply a mask for anyone who forgot.



You can find the official letter on facemasks from the Department here:

<https://tinyurl.com/scoilchait1>

You can read a letter to parents from the Chief Medical Officer Dr Tony Holohan here: <https://tinyurl.com/scoilchait2>.

## Antigen Tests

Last week the Department announced the introduction of Antigen Tests for primary school children. If a child tests positive for Covid, their parent should contact the school principal. The principal in turn contacts the families of those children sitting close to the child in question. (At no point will the child in question be identified by the principal.) Parents will then be given the option to order a free Antigen Test Kit. Children may still come to school if they are symptom free and have a negative Antigen Test. You can find out more on our website or by clicking [HERE](#).



## Further Guidelines

Dr Tony Holohan has also suggested that children should avoid doing the following over the next two weeks:

- Indoor birthday parties and play dates – these should take place outdoors and should be kept small
- Sleepovers
- Indoor community gatherings involving children including communions, confirmations, nativity and other seasonal events

If you are arranging a birthday party or a play date, this should be with a maximum of one other household and should take place outdoors. No one with symptoms should attend these events.

Children with any symptoms of COVID-19 should not go to creche or school. They should stay at home and parents should arrange a PCR test as soon as you can.



## News and Upcoming Events

Onto some more positive news 😊 .....

### Christmas Fundraiser

Our annual Christmas Hamper draw raises vital funds for our school. These funds help ensure your children get the best resources we can provide them and that they have many fun events to look forward to in the months ahead.

I know it is a busy and costly time of year but all support is welcome. Please make sure you return your assigned hamper item as soon as possible. Much of what we raise comes from selling to the public in the local shops and post office. If you feel you could spare an hour to help please let us know here:

<https://forms.gle/MkS4N7nRdKU1enhG7>

### Science Week

We had great fun during Science Week with lots of fun experiments and activities. Paper airplanes and helicopters were flying through the skies, there were magic tricks galore when students from Colaiste Colmcille visited and Mr Kelly raised an eyebrow or two with his cabbage water experiment!

### Christmas Play

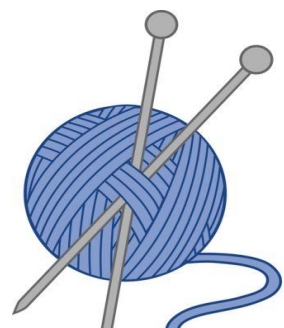
Unfortunately, its looking more and more likely that we won't be having a Christmas Play this year, either in-person or virtually. We will monitor the situation day by day but for now we will be putting the children's welfare first, avoid mixing our pods and limit singing. We also don't want a situation where any families have to isolate over the Christmas period. We have plenty of other fun festive activities planned which will spread plenty of Christmas spirit.

### Wellbeing Month

Wellbeing month was a great hit amongst the pupils and staff. Each week had a different theme; Mindfulness, Healthy Eating, Kindness and Active Week. We all had such fun and we owe a special thank you to our Well-being Coordinators, Ms O'Reilly and Sarah O'Loughlin. Check out a video and some pictures on our Website [here](#).

### Knitting

Sarah has started knitting lessons with the children in 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Class and hopes to eventually get around to teaching the whole school. It has been hugely popular and the children have the needles and wool in their hands any chance they get.





## Ms O'Reilly's Room

The Junior Room has been a hive of activity as ever. Station teaching has started for literacy and numeracy, the theme of food took over the play room and the infants loved taking part in all the fun activities for Wellbeing Month.



## Mr. Carr's Room

Once again the creative juices were flowing in the Middle Room. The children wrote some fantastic Winter themed poems and stories but we are particularly proud of their artwork.





## Mr Kelly's Room

Quite the inquisitive bunch in Mr Kelly's room who enjoyed plenty of science experiments during Science Week. Great fun was had testing the aerodynamics of paper airplanes and also in investigating which foods are acids and which are a base.



## Wellbeing Month

