



Scoil Naomh Chaitríona

Newsletter – February

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Dear Parents

Spring is in the air, the evenings are now brighter and we all have an extra bit of pep in our step. We have a busy few weeks ahead in the lead up to Easter. Many of the fun and exciting activities which had been put on hold over the past 12 months are now, finally underway. We have seen a start to swimming lessons, Spanish classes and our whole school Art project, all of which have been a great hit.

It's Enrolment season once again. Our numbers have seen a steady increase recently and we're hoping for another strong intake this September. Many thanks for all your support and following on our social media page. We love showcasing all the great work your children are doing.

Important Dates Coming Up

February 23rd (Wednesday): School Open/ Enrolment Day 2-4pm

February 24th & 25th (Thursday & Friday): Closed for Mid Term Break. Reopen Monday 28th

March 4th (Friday): Lá Ghlas/ Green Jersey Day

March 17th & 18th (Thursday & Friday): Closed for Public Holiday



A very Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their birthdays in January and February :

Addison (8), Savannah (11), Marika (11), Conor (11), Marcell (12)

Dates for the Sacraments

Dates have been confirmed for the sacraments this year. A letter and a text will have gone out to all families involved. Click [here](#).

First Confessions – Monday 7th March @ 7pm **First Communion** – Saturday 14th May 11am

Confirmation – Sunday 1st May @ 11am

News and Upcoming Events

Enrolment/ Open Day

We are now accepting enrolments for children hoping to start in September. If you know of anyone interested, please spread the word. We are having an Open Day on Wednesday 23rd February and have released a virtual tour video of the school online. View it here:

<https://www.scoilchaitrionaballyshannon.ie/our-school/school-information/>

Swimming

Having missed out last year, its great that our children can get back in the pool and learn a very valuable life skill. Even after a couple of weeks we are seeing great improvements already.

Spanish Classes

We are delighted to have Maria Losada Diaz (Gallagher) joining us for the next few Wednesdays to give some Spanish lessons to our classes from 2nd -6th. The children are having great fun playing language games and they all loved learning the Spanish versions of their names.

Lá Ghlás

The St Patrick's Day committee have reached out to all schools in the locality to ask that we help out with a fundraiser to make this year's parade the best one yet. We are asking that on Friday 4th of March each child wears green to school and brings in €2 or a donation of your choice.

Bicycle Rack

We made an application through the 'Safe Route to Schools' scheme to have a bicycle rack installed on our grounds and we are delighted that we have been successful. Installation is expected to happen in the next few months.

Car Park/ Road Safety

The school car park and entrance continues to be an area of concern. Talks with the county council and Department of Education are ongoing. For now I ask that all drivers please enter and exit the car park with care and to be extra vigilant. I also ask that parents accompany their children as far as the main school gate in the morning due to the business of the car park.

Board of Management

Fiona Travers has been elected as a parent nominee to the Board of Management having won a close vote. Thank you for all your nominations and votes. At our most recent meeting we reviewed our Child Safeguarding and Anti Bullying Policies which are now available on our website: <https://www.scoilchaitrionaballyshannon.ie/our-school/policies/>



Library

We have put a lot of hours into refurbishing our library and giving it some TLC. We are delighted with the results and love seeing the children's faces when they see their new reading space and the selection of books on offer.

We received over 100 books from Childrens Books Ireland, 25 Irish books from Laureate na nÓg, a large selection of books in Polish from the Post Primary Languages Initiative and we've added several books ourselves.

We have set up a library committee who will be tasked with keeping the library tidy and in order, monitoring which books come and go and making book recommendations for children of each class level.



Art

We have two separate Art initiatives running in our school at present. The Creative Schools initiative will see up to five different artists visit our school over the next year. Our children will have a chance to experience workshops in drawing, animation, storytelling and comics, clay and ceramics, and photography. Our theme for this art will be a focus on the history and natural landscape of Ballyshannon – an excellent way to integrate Geography, Art and History all in one.

The second initiative we are participating in is the BLAST initiative which is now in its third week. Artist Bernie Wilson is working with our children using wood, paint and tiles to create a piece of Art for the wall in our foyer. We hope this piece will brighten up the entrance way to our school and give our children a sense of pride and achievement.

