



Scoil Naomh Chaitríona

Newsletter – February

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Dear Parents

The children have all settled back into school well following the Christmas break. As a new year begins, we can reflect on a very successful Term 1. The children enjoyed new initiatives such as the Bedtime Reading Club and Toy Library. The Cycle Bus has proven a big hit once again and the children have also enjoyed gardening, baking and a couple of trips to the Abbey Centre. We have plenty of exciting things planned for Term 2 and the fun has begun already with swimming, Spanish classes and Ukulele lessons.

**The digital version of this newsletter contains links to more news and photographs on our school website*

Important Dates Coming Up

1st February (Wed): St Brigid's Day

6th February (Mon): School Closed. Public Holiday

7th February (Wed): Internet Safety Day

10th February (Fri): Open Day for new enrolments. 2.15pm – 4:00pm

16th & 17th February (Thurs & Fri): School Closed. Mid Term Break

6th March (Mon): First Confessions (Second Class)

Now enrolling for September 2023

It's Enrolment season once again. We are having an Open Day on **Friday 10th of February** from 2:15pm -4pm. Please help spread the word.

Our numbers have seen a steady increase in recent years 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.

News and Upcoming Events

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday the 7th of February marks Internet Safety Day. In an age where the internet is so intertwined in our daily lives it is important that we encourage our children to develop safe and responsible online behaviours. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be teaching the children how they can keep safe online and also address cyber bullying. We will also be sharing some free online webinars for parents by text and on Class Dojo.

Grandparents' Day Mass

Thanks to all who attended our Grandparents' Day and made it a really special occasion. A special word of thanks to Fr Vincent for celebrating such a lovely mass and to our parents who helped out with teas and coffees.

Swimming

We are three weeks into our swimming lessons and its great to see the children's confidence in the water grow. Swimming is a very important part of the P.E. curriculum and provides children with an invaluable life skill.

Ukulele

Mr Bracken's class (3rd & 4th) have started ukulele lessons with instructor Brian O'Sullivan. Brian delivers a lesson each Monday and Mr Bracken reinforces the chords learned throughout the week. Three lessons in and the children are strumming chords and singing along already.

Credit Union Quiz

We are super proud of our two quiz teams who put in excellent performances in the Credit Union Quiz. Our Senior Team finished in a very impressive 2nd place overall! Huge credit must go to Mr Kelly for preparing the children so well and of course to the whizz kids themselves! Well done all!

Fundraising

At Christmas time we postponed our usual Christmas Hamper fundraiser so as not to put any extra financial strain or pressure on parents. We are planning to have a fundraiser at Easter now instead which will hopefully raise funds to allow us to provide your children with the resources and experiences they deserve.

Active Flag!

On track for our first ever active flag! We have been working very hard Scoil Chaitríona towards achieving a physically educated and physically active school community. Research shows that active children find it easier to concentrate and focus, achieve higher test results, behave better, and enjoy school more.

In November we challenged our classes to active breaks, children engaged in as many different exercises throughout the day over a period of four weeks. Mr. Brackens 3rd & 4th class won this challenge.

In December we engaged in Drop Everything And Dance (DEAD). On the sound of the bell, we danced the Macarena.

In January we undertook the skipping challenge. The children managed to skip enough to total climbing 15 different mountains around Europe. The winning class of this challenge were Mr. Kelly's 5th & 6th class.

Our playground leaders are responsible for leaving out playground equipment at each big break every day and the children are enjoying these new activities. On Fridays we have music on yard.

The strand we are working on this month is Aquatics. The children are enjoying swimming lessons, a valuable life skill. In all classes we are also doing Land Paws, a programme that teaches children how to be safe around water.

We will continue with new activities each month and we encourage you to try out some physical activities at home also, whether its a walk, a cycle, a swim or playing football outside.



Ms O'Reilly's Room

The Junior Room as always has been a hive of activity with hands on learning and fun.

The children have been working hard on their literacy and numeracy skills, learning lovely songs and poems, and creating some wonderful artwork.

We all had great fun when the snow arrived. You can read more and view some pictures on Ms O'Reilly's section of the website [here](#).



Mr Carr's Room

First and Second class have had a busy couple of weeks since our return. We have been focusing on poetry in our English lessons. The children have been learning the structure of Kenning Poems and Acrostics.

We have also been exploring Pop Art and researched the lives and works of the famous artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. The children then created some beautiful Pop Art inspired pieces themselves.

You can see their poems and artwork [here](#).



Mr Bracken's Room

There's been plenty of excitement in 3rd and 4th class. Not only have they started swimming this term but they've also been learning Spanish and the ukulele. Learn all the news from Mr Bracken's room and view pictures and videos by clicking [here](#).



Mr Kelly's

5th and 6th class have as always been leading by example and working hard. Mr Kelly has been preparing the children well for the Credit Union Quiz. The senior room have also started Spanish lessons and have recently been learning some valuable skills in sewing and St Brigid Cross making.

In a couple of weeks, 6th class will be participating in our Transfer Programme facilitated by Mary McHugh which helps prepare the children for the big transition to secondary school.



Click [here](#)

Nuala

Our dear friend and colleague Nuala Gallagher sadly passed away after a long and courageous battle with illness on Wednesday 18th of January.

Nuala was a pillar to the Scoil Chaitríona establishment over the past 20 years and she represented all that was great about our school.

Nuala was full of warmth, love, positivity and always wore an infectious smile. She brought the best out in everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. Nuala has left a lasting impression on us all and has positively impacted on all of our lives.

We are all heartbroken but can take comfort in the many great memories she has left us with.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam

