



# Scoil Naomh Chaitríona

## Newsletter – November

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### Dear Parents

The months of November and December tend to be the busiest but also the most fun here in Scoil Chaitríona. This past month we have celebrated Maths Week, Science Week, Wellbeing month and we still have the excitement of our 12 Days of Christmas events and school plays to come.

Below I've included some important dates for December, information on upcoming events and a summary of all the fun and learning that took place over the past few weeks.

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

### Important Dates Coming Up

**1<sup>st</sup> December (Thurs):** Parent Teacher Meetings. (School finishes 2:00pm for all)

**5<sup>th</sup> December (Mon):** School Closed. Reopens on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**7<sup>th</sup> December (Wed):** Ag Sugradh le Cheile (Junior Infants – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Parents)

**16<sup>th</sup> December (Fri):** Christmas Plays in our Hall. School closes at 12:30 for Teacher Training

**21<sup>st</sup> December (Wed):** Christmas Holidays 12:30 close

**5<sup>th</sup> January (Thurs):** School Reopens

### Christmas Plays

We are thrilled to be able to welcome parents into our school to watch our Christmas productions for the first time in 3 years. The plays will take place on the morning of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December between 10:00 and 12:30. More details to follow on exact times for each class but parents are welcome to come and watch all plays if they wish.

## News and Upcoming Events

### Christmas Shoebox Appeal and GOAL Jersey Day

Sincere thanks for the great response to our Christmas shoebox appeal and Goal Jersey Day. Over 15 boxes will be delivered to deprived children abroad this Christmas and €120 will go to people living in crisis.

### Christmas Hamper Fundraiser

This Christmas will be a difficult time for many families especially due to the inflated cost of living. We are postponing our annual Christmas fundraiser as we don't wish to add any extra strain on our school community. Instead, we hope to hold an Easter Hamper Draw in March to raise some vital funds for our school.

### Attendance and Punctuality

This year we are making a big push to improve our overall attendance and punctuality in school. Our attendance dipped over the last couple of years which was to be expected with the Covid pandemic.

In 2019/20 average attendance was 89%, it was 87% last year and at present we are currently at 89% for this school year. As part of our 3 Year Action Plan we are hoping to raise our attendance to at least 92%.

Please remember if your child is absent you need to let the school know. You can do this by writing a note in your child's diary or sending us an email.

It is also important that your child arrives to school on time. If your child is late by 10 minutes each day, that adds up to more than 6 full days of school missed in a year. In the link below you can read some advice from TESS in the 'Don't Let Your Child Miss Out' Booklet. <https://tinyurl.com/attendanceTESS>

This link will take you to our Strategy for Attendance which outlines our targets this year and what strategies we will be using to promote good attendance. Click [here](#)

### Ag Sugradh le Cheile

Ag Sugradh Le Cheile is an initiative that aims to promote active play by involving both children and parents. The workshop is targeted at children from infants to second class and will be hosted by the school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. During the workshop parents/guardians participate with their child/children in a variety of activities including ball games, music and rhyme and traditional games. It is enjoyable for both parents/guardians and children and there is an opportunity for discussion with tutors. The workshop is facilitated by specially trained tutors who have experience in both working with children and parents and also active play or physical activity. (A letter with more info will go home this week)

## Ms O'Reilly's Room

The Junior Room has been busy as always with plenty of hard work and fun filled learning. Literacy and Maths Stations are up and running and the children are making great strides with their reading and writing skills and their understanding of number. The classroom looks amazing with the children's wonderful artwork on the wall and there is an air of excitement as the practices for the Christmas play begin. Ms O Reilly gives regular updates on the Class Dojo App but you can also keep track of the latest news [here](#).



## Mr Cuddles

Perhaps the most popular character in Scoil Chaitríona right now is Mr Cuddles. Ms Coen has introduced this adorable bear to the infant room and the children just love getting a chance to take him home and care for him. A great way of building oral language and teaching responsibility and caring skills.



## Mr Carr's Room

The creative juices have been flowing in first and second class these past few weeks. Check out some of the wonderful poems and pieces of artwork the children have been working on by [clicking here](#). The children have been learning about Report writing and how to research and find accurate information. They enjoyed the outdoor Maths trails during Maths Week and carrying out investigations and experiments during Science Week.

As a reward for their hard work and excellent behaviour they were treated to a Pizza Party this week and they got to create their own pizzas. Well done all!





### Mr Bracken's Room

From The Ancient Egyptians to the Aurora Borealis, Third and Fourth class have been brimming with new facts and information. They have created some wonderful projects and the corridors leading to Mr Bracken's room are decorated with eye catching artwork. Mr Bracken has compiled a photo story video of all the fun they've had these past few weeks. You can have a look [here](#).



### Mr Kelly's

Fifth and sixth class have worked hard this term. They've enjoyed learning the local history of Ballyshannon, carried out interesting science experiments, and have been put through their paces in PE with Brian Roper. Our footballers have represented the school well at two GAA blitzes. Sixth class recently had a lovely morning at the Open Day in Colaiste Cholmcille. Click [here](#)



### Wellbeing Month

November is Wellbeing Month in Scoil Chaitríona. Ms O' Reilly our wellbeing coordinator put together an excellent schedule of events for us. We focused on positive mental health, the importance of being kind, we had an active and healthy eating week and this week we celebrate the different cultures and nationalities in our school. Some of the children's favourite events have been our Breakfast club and planting daffodils with Mr. Gallagher. Click [here](#).

