



Scoil Chaitríona OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to write to you with our first school newsletter of the year — and my very first as Principal of Scoil Chaitríona. It is a real honour to begin this journey with you and your children, and I look forward to working together to make this a positive and successful year for all.

We have had a wonderful start to the term. The children have settled back into school routines with great enthusiasm, and it is lovely to see classrooms filled with energy, learning, and laughter. I want to thank our staff for all their hard work in preparing such a welcoming environment, and you, our parents for your continued support.

Upcoming Events/ Dates

- Tuesday 7th 1st & 2nd Class library visit- Creative Mindfulness
- Wednesday 8th October: Abbey Centre – Whole School
- Thursday 9th 3rd & 4th Class Writing Workshop Library
- Friday 10th GOAL Jersey Day
- Monday October 13th County Photo Deadline
- Tuesday 14th October, Webinar (via Zoom): Healthier Digital Habits in the Home – 7.30pm
Join Alex Cooney, CEO of CyberSafeKids, in conversation with Dr. Richard Hogan, family psychotherapist and author on how we can create a better tech-life balance at home
<http://bit.ly/48Nh0U3>
- Friday 17th October CyberBreak 24 hour challenge
- Tuesday 21st 3rd –6th class travel to Gaelscoil Donegal Town for Aspire project.
- Wednesday 22nd J. Infants– 2nd class from Donegal town travel to Scoil Chaitríona.
- Thursday 23rd October 6th class open day in Colaiste.
- Thursday 23rd October Halloween Dress Up
- Friday 24th October School Closure Voting Day
- Friday 10th November Shoe Box Appeal Deadline
- Saturday 21st March Confirmation
- Saturday 25th April Holy Communion

Peace Plus Aspire

This year Scoil Chaitríona is delighted to be part of the ASPIRE PeacePLUS Project. This project links schools together to help children learn through shared activities. It gives our pupils the chance to build friendships, practise teamwork, show respect for others, and learn about different cultures — all while enjoying fun and creative workshops.

We are very pleased to be partnered with Gaelscoil na gCeithre Máistrí in Donegal town. Over the course of the year, the project will fund opportunities for our classes to meet with the Gaelscoil and work together on joint projects and workshops. These will include school trips and activities in art, STEM, storytelling, sport, and wellbeing, all linked to the objectives in our school action plan.

We are excited about the opportunities this project will bring — helping our children to learn with and from others, while celebrating diversity and building new friendships.

CyberBreak

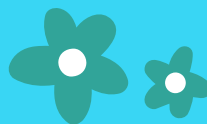
As a school community, we see the impact constant screen time has on focus, sleep, and well-being. That's why we're encouraging our students and families to take part in #CyberBreak: a 24-hour digital detox. 📵

 From 5 PM Fri, Oct 17 → 5 PM Sat, Oct 18, 2025.

A chance to disconnect from devices and reconnect with each other.

Let's model balance for our kids – together. 💡

You can access activities and ideas to do at home at the following website: <https://www.cybersafekids.ie/>



Classroom Highlights



Junior & Senior Infants

Our new Junior Infants have settled in so well to our school and even made it into the local newspaper, Donegal Democrat. Together with Senior Infants they have been enjoying dance, songs, Maths stations and GAA with Brian from Aodh Rua.



1st & 2nd Class

1st class have taken to the longer day without a single complaint! With their 2nd class, they are enjoying stations with transition year students, Art, GAA and even have got to make Rice Krispie buns!! Lucky ducks! We wish Ms. O'Reilly the best of luck as she starts her maternity leave next week.



3rd & 4th Class

Big move up the stairs for 3rd class!! Where are the years going!! Together with 4th class they have been working on Lego Spike Kits, Art & golf to mention a few. In Art we have made Koi fish, harvest tractors and mine craft portraits. A huge congrats to Mr Bracken & his wife Eve on the safe arrival of his son, Lugh.



5th & 6th Class

And finally, our babies are all of a sudden in 5th & 6th class!!! They had a special treat last month by getting the chance to partake in a golf taster session facilitated by Golf Ireland. This gave a fantastic opportunity for students to explore a new sport, develop a new skill for life, and enjoy the benefits that the sport of golf has to offer.

They also have been working hard on writing, reading their novel and exploring how to create depth in Art.



SNA APPRECIATION DAY

Thursday 25th was SNA Appreciation Day. We are so fortunate with our wonderful SNAs here in Scoil Chaitríona. Each of them goes above and beyond every day to make our school a safe, supportive, and happy place for children and staff. We are truly grateful for all that they do.

It was also bittersweet as we continue to miss Patricia and come to terms with her loss. It is heart-warming to hear the children speak so fondly of her and to share their memories. We will continue to honour Patricia in our daily actions by striving to model her kindness and care.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Lisa Coughlin to our staff. Lisa was recently successful at interview and will begin her new role in the coming weeks. We are very much looking forward to working with her and know that she will be a great addition to our school community.

