



# Scoil Chaitríona

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER



**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

January has gotten off to a slightly wintry start, and we sincerely apologise to families for the disruption caused by the recent snow days and school closures. We really appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. Since returning, the school has been buzzing once again with lots of fun, engaging learning taking place across all classrooms, and it has been wonderful to see the children settling back into their routines so positively. There are plenty of exciting activities and learning experiences still to come as we move through the term, and we look forward to sharing them with you over the weeks ahead.



### Upcoming Events/ Dates



- 2<sup>nd</sup> February Monday : Bank Holiday— No school
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 6<sup>th</sup> class retreat to Knock for those making confirmation.
- 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday & Friday, mid-term, no school.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March Tuesday, Curriculum Day for teachers, no school for children
- 5<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> March Annual Quiz in Owen Roes
- 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March, Monday, no school, annual holiday & St. Patricks Day.
- 25<sup>th</sup> March, Cultural Day
- 5 weeks of swimming lessons left, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb & 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> of March.

### Parents Association

I have applied for Parents Association Training for our Parents Association. I am waiting to hear back from them but hopefully it will be soon enough. Anyone is welcome to join our committee! The more the merrier.

### Swimming

Swimming is going very well and it has been wonderful to see the children trying their best, growing in confidence and really enjoying their time in the pool. They are also learning so many important life skills, from getting dressed independently to keeping their belongings together, which is just as valuable as the swimming itself.

### Communion Dress

The school has been gifted a brand new, never worn communion dress, not an expensive one but still quite pretty. If anyone would like to see it or take it, please come to me.

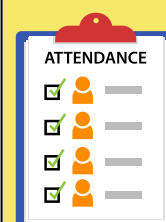
### Open Day

Our Open Day on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> was a lovely success, and we were so proud of our Sixth Class pupils and Student Council members who gave up their evening to help out. They did a fantastic job welcoming families, showing them around the school and answering questions — a wonderful example of leadership in action! Please keep promoting our school, encouraging others to join.



### Attendance

We would like to remind parents of the importance of good school attendance. We had been doing really well earlier in the year, but attendance has dipped a little recently. We completely understand that children can be unwell from time to time; however, where absences are not necessary, we kindly ask for your support in improving this, as every day in school really matters for learning and friendships. To help motivate the children, our next Pizza Party will be brought forward from Easter to February mid-term, and we are looking forward to seeing lots of great attendance in the weeks ahead.



# Classroom Highlights

## Junior & Senior Infants

We have been exploring 3D shapes through fun, interactive activities. We also took part in exciting STEAM challenges, working together to build, design and problem solve. Our Friday Olympic obstacle course was also a big highlight and the children enjoyed cheering each other on. We learned about St. Brigid's Cloak & we worked together to create our own colourful cloak!



## 1st & 2nd Class

First and Second Class have also had a fantastic month of learning! They explored Arctic animals, wrote acrostic poems, created penguins from clay, and even made their own 'snow' using cornflour and conditioner. They enjoyed sessions with Core Kids through our Aspire Project, where they engaged with children from the Gaelscoil with STEAM activities, sports and mindfulness sessions.



## 3rd & 4th Class

We have been busy this month between starting swimming and learning to play the Ukulele. We also completed a range of hands-on challenges using STEAM kits, developing our teambuilding and problem-solving skills. In SESE, we have been exploring Chinese history and geography. To top it all off we have been creating some beautiful artwork with special thanks to Sarah.



## 5th & 6th Class

Our class really enjoyed our recent trip to the Gaelscoil in Donegal Town, where we took part in a variety of sports, STEM and mindfulness activities. In class, we have been learning about the counties of Ulster, and in Art we are creating beautiful Titanic sunset scenes. Our GAA players also took part in a blitz last Tuesday and, despite the freezing cold, they played extremely well. Mr Kelly commented that they were an absolute pleasure to bring, praising their excellent behaviour and manners as they represented our school so positively. We are also enjoying the new dartboard we got recently!



## Cultural Day

Cultural Day will take place in our school on March 25th as part of our ASPIRE project, with Gaelscoil joining us for what promises to be a very special day. The children will enjoy a range of activities in the morning, and in the afternoon we hope to create a vibrant celebration of the many cultures that make up our wonderful school community. We warmly invite parents to share their heritage by bringing along traditional food, dress, music, objects or displays, so that our children can see, experience and take pride in the diversity around them. This is a big and exciting event for our school and a beautiful opportunity to celebrate who we are together — a notice will be sent out shortly inviting volunteers, and we would be so grateful for your support in helping make this day truly memorable.

