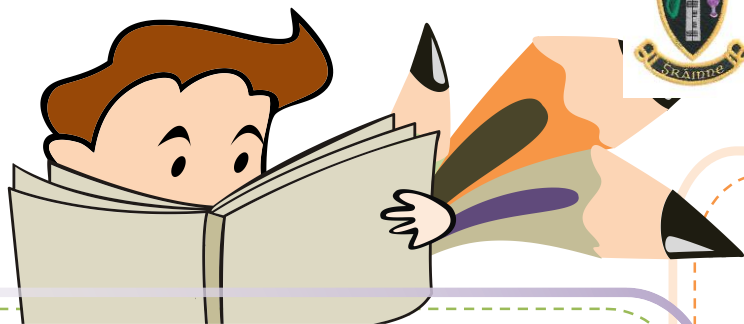




Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

May, 2017



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Work on our outdoor classroom is progressing well and we hope to have it completed by the summer break. This space at the back of our campus wasn't being used in any way. For a while we housed our school rabbits but we have found a better use for the space. Half of the area will be used for Junior Infant outdoor play (Aistear) with the other half being used for an outdoor classroom. Teachers will be able to bring their class outside when the weather is good and use this area for reading lessons etc. Also during yard time, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes will be able to use this space to relax and take a break from the busy yard space.

I would like to thank Mark our caretaker for taking a leading role in this project. I'd also like to thank Mr. Garvey, Mr. Duggan and Mr. O'Cuirín for all of their help with preparing the area for the fencing posts. Finally I would like to thank the PTA for fundraising for this project. The total estimated cost of this project is €5000 and all of this amount came from fundraising efforts. It really gives us all a sense of great pride when the school community work together to provide the best facilities for our children.

As school begins to wind down towards the summer break, I would like to thank you all for your continued support for our school. On behalf of the whole staff I would like to wish you all a very pleasant summer break and we look forward to seeing you all again at the end of August.

Many thanks,
Ken Scully

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE MIDTERM BREAK: School will be closed Monday June 5th and Tuesday June 6th for the June bank holiday.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS: School closes for the summer holidays Friday June 30th @ 12.

Junior Infants As part of learning about people who help us the Junior Infants had some very special visitors: The fire brigade! We all took turns to spray water from the hose and even got to look inside the fire engine. It was great fun!! We can't believe we only have a month left in Junior Infants. The time has flown and we're learnt so much. We're really looking forward to our school trip and active week. We're singing the song "Mr Sun" everyday and keeping our fingers crossed for more sunshine!

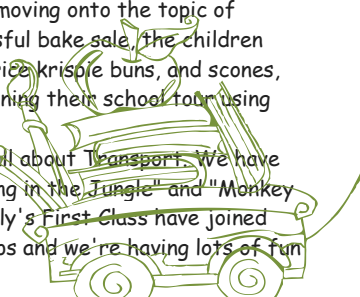
Senior Infants In Seomra Oraiste we have been learning all about the sea and the beach. We read Sharing a Shell and The Lighthouse Keeper's lunch. We talked about our favourite foods and even wrote out a recipe. In Art we made our own lighthouse from clay. In Seomra Dearg, we read Handa's Hen and Sharing a Shell. We talked all about Africa and especially Kenya. We got a chance to design our own African clothes. We watched videos of Masai Warriors jumping really high and made prints of them jumping. We discussed lots of different African animals too. In Seomra Corcra, we read the story Meerkat Mail. We learned all about the summer time and we even wrote postcards and delivered them to teachers all over the school. We made a beautiful collage of under the sea animals in our classroom too. We are sad to say goodbye to Ms. Hillary soon, but are very excited to meet our new teacher.

First Class have been learning about Africa. We looked a Masai village in Kenya. We discussed the similarities and differences of school life here and there and we made African art: different types of masks and African print. We also looked at homes from around the world. In maths we've been learning about money so be sure to let us use it in real situations to help us learn!

Second class have been really busy learning about the Titanic. We learnt about the design of the ship, its journey and the devastation caused by the crash. We learnt about the different classes on board the ship and the many differences in the ways they were treated. We created some beautiful art work based on this theme! The children are continuing to practice and learn new songs on their recorders

Third class We have been learning all about the Normans in History. Earlier in the year we learned about the Vikings. We now know that the Normans are descendants of the Vikings, they got their name because they settled in a place called Normandy in France. Diarmuid Mac Murrrough asked Strongbow to come to Ireland to help him fight Ruráí O'Connor and that's how the Normans ended up in Ireland. **Croí Ms. Ryan's class** have begun working on the topic of friendship, and will shortly be moving onto the topic of bullying. We had a very successful bake sale, the children worked very hard making 500 rice krispie buns, and scones, and are looking forward to planning their school trip using the money that they earned!

Ms. Egan's class are learning all about Transport. We have been reading the books "Walking in the Jungle" and "Monkey and Me". Children from Ms. Kelly's First Class have joined Jason and Fawaz for Play Groups and we're having lots of fun learning together.



Fourth Class have been learning about the Middle Ages and Medieval times. We learned about what life would have been like in Medieval Kilkenny and Dublin. We also learned about the Black Death, a deadly disease that spread through Europe during the Middle Ages

Fifth Class have been learning all about Spain. We have been learning all about Spanish culture, food, art, sport and music. The boys and girls have been really busy creating their Spanish projects which they will present to other classes in the coming week. We have also been focusing on procedural writing in English. This week we will begin work on our 5th class cook books, where each student will bring in a recipe from home which we can add to our delicious array of treats and culinary delights:)

Sixth Class the children have been learning a bit about African countries. The children took a look at Malawi and the poverty that exists there. In art, they were creating monoprints with African designs and some of the children in 6th class built and designed pots from clay. In science 6th class were learning about the different types of levers and how wind is made.

INTERCULTURAL DAY AT SCOIL GHRÁINNE



A very important and much loved part of the Scoil Ghráinne year happened last night. We celebrated Intercultural Day! Lots of families brought in delicious food representing their country and culture. We enjoyed the delights of music from around the world. As we ate and watched the children play in their colourful traditional clothes. Thank you so much to Ms. Gallagher and all the wonderful staff and parents who helped out and came together as a community to make it such a lovely evening.



Dear Parents,

Re: Road safety in the Ongar Area

As a parent and an experienced childcare provider, the health and safety of children is of huge importance to me, as I'm sure it is to you too.

I am very concerned about the safety of children attending Scoil Gráinne and Mother Hubbards crèche in the morning times.

The traffic situation around Mother Hubbards crèche has become intolerable and in my opinion, very dangerous. I have personally witnessed several incidents lately, where it has been down to pure luck that a child has not been injured.

The congestion around the crèche in the morning around school drop off time is causing people to make very dangerous manoeuvres directly endangering children. It also means crèche staff, bus and parents are often unable to safely use the crèche allocated spaces.

Scoil Gráinne provide a wonderful drop off facility and I would encourage all parents who drive to avail of this rather than parking on The Avenue and Chipping Row.

While I cannot enforce parking restrictions in the area, I would appeal to you use common sense. Let's not wait until a child is hurt, or worse, before we change our ways. Let's put the children first **now**. If you yourself don't park around the crèche, please ask any parents you know who do to consider using the school drop off.

We all have a responsibility to ensure **ALL** children can go to and from school as safely as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Warm regards,

Karen McGovern
Mother Hubbards Childcare

