



# Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

## October 23, 2020

### LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Mid-term Break:** School closes Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup> and will re-open Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Hello everybody in Scoil Ghráinne CNS, I am delighted to be joining you here. I can see that you have all been super busy since you came back to school and everyone is really looking forward to a well earned break. I want to congratulate our pupils on all on your hand hygiene, coughing and sneezing etiquette and social distancing routines. Our caretaker Robbie has been kept extremely busy filling up sanitizers and cleaning door handles and opening windows. June and Ruth are following protocols with regard to form filling etc with school visitors, not to mention calling home when someone is feeling unwell.

Teachers are going non stop with teaching and learning, and still keeping protocols in place. They are missing normal lunchtimes in the staffroom with their colleagues, doing extra yard duty but no one is complaining. Parents have been very responsible following guidelines and wearing face coverings while keeping school visits to a minimum. The cleaning staff are five star and they will be in next week too! So you can see it's a team effort and we are all in this together. Job well done all, and we can keep going for another while. It will be worth it in the end!

It is important that we have a good rest next week and we come back to school full of energy and enthusiasm. We are planning some activities for next term which will keep us busy. The non uniform day will go ahead on Friday and please be mindful that Halloween is celebrated by some but not by all. We need to remember to be responsible for ourselves and our focus next term will be on supporting, accepting and respecting each other. Kindness begets kindness.

School enrolment for next year is now open so you can pick up an application from the office if you wish. Weather has been very good in general since our return to school but temperatures will soon start to drop. Wear your school uniform proudly and smartly and if you need an extra layer, wear one under your uniform. Every child needs a good winter coat with a hood as we spend a lot more time outdoors this year. As the saying goes; there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!

Enjoy the mid-term,  
Stay safe,  
Stacey McAuley

**Junior Infants** have done so well in their first month of school and their teachers are very proud of them. They have been doing super work with washing their hands and remembering to cover coughs and sneezes. Well done! They have been very busy learning all about myself and my family. They have been having lots of fun during Aistear, playing in the Home Corner and doing lots of art activities. They've enjoyed the stories 'The Rainbow Fish' and 'Owl Babies' and have been busy learning nursery rhymes and songs. The children have even started to learn some new words in Gaeilge. We are looking forward to learning lots of new things and having great fun, in Junior Infants!

**Senior Infants** Senior Infants have been very busy since returning to school! We missed our friends so much and we are thrilled to be back! We have read lots of great stories including 'Monkey Puzzle' 'Owl Babies', 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' and the Little Red Hen. We have been revising all of our Jolly Phonics sounds and have started learning some new tricky words. In Maths we are been working on 2D shapes and spatial awareness. We have been doing lots of counting and love that Ready Set Go Maths is back! In Gaeilge covered Mé Féin and An Scoil we have also been learning some lovey songs and we can count up to 10 as Gaeilge. So far in Aistear we have been playing in the home corner and on the farm. It has been so much fun pretending to be farmers and looking after all the different animals.

**First class** have been little troopers since we got back! They have been working so hard during this challenging time. It's always a big jump from Infants to first class, but our brave bunch have aced the transition and with all the extra conditions too! We learnt lots about frogs, pond life, Autumn and hedgehogs. We are did the number stories of 11-15 and we are learning about time in maths. We have doing so well learning our spellings every week and we learnt lot of new poems and songs!

**Second class** are delighted to be back in school as we really missed seeing our friends each day. We have been making extra efforts to help keep each other safe. We wash our hands regularly throughout the day and we stay in our class bubble! In September, we loved learning about our skeletons. Did you know that babies have more bones than adults? We made dancing skeletons using cotton buds in Art.

**Third class** have been working hard on settling back into school life. We have been learning about the counties of Ireland and our local area, where we took a visit to Phibblestown house. We have also been investigating different types of simple machines where we have learned about axels, pullies and we even made our own levers dogs! The girls and boys have also been learning about the history of transport and cars. Here we made our own functioning cars using wooden pegs, pipe cleaners and buttons! All the children in rang a trí have been discussing their long-term goals and have set personal short-term goals.

**Ms Kavanagh's class** were learning about the zoo and different zoo animals. We read the story 'Monkey Puzzle' and practiced rhyming words. We also sang the song 'Monkey Puzzle'. We enjoyed 'The Zoo' role play in Aistear and built our own zoo in small world. For art we made monkeys.

### **Ms. McPartlan's Class** Welcome back to a new school year!

Our class have had a super two months settling back into school. We were really excited to see our friends again. Our topics were 'Myself', 'being back at school', 'Autumn' and 'Halloween'. We are especially enjoying a scavenger hunt at Phibblestown House collecting all things Autumn. We made hedgehogs from clay and made the hedgehogs a cosy house to live in with pinecones, leaves and conkers. Wishing everyone an enjoyable midterm!

**Fourth class** were very excited to return to school and meet our friends and teachers again. Being in our own bubbles and pods took a little bit of getting used to but we are happy to report that we have all settled into the new routine. We have been learning about our local community, our body and different forces in SESE. We are reading a novel together which is very enjoyable. In maths we have been doing a lot of revision and we are now adding and subtracting using 1000s, we learnt some new 2D shapes and we have started to multiplication. We have been so busy! We hope everyone has a lovely mid-term and stays safe over the Halloween celebrations.

**Fifth class** have settled back to school very well and have been enjoying seeing and interacting with (at a distance) their friends and teachers. We have been very busy since we started back at school. In maths we have been focusing on addition and subtraction as well as 2-D shapes. In English we have been practising our recount writing skills agus bhí muid ag foghlaim faoin téama "Mé Féin" i nGaeilge. We have been investigating electrical circuits in science, we have been learning about the Stone Age in history and we have been exploring the different types of rocks in geography. The children have enjoyed playing ball games in PE and singing the old Irish song "Peigin Leir Mór" in music class. It has been great having the children back to school and we look forward to an action packed academic year ahead!

**Sixth class** have been hard at work since our return to school learning about tourism and their locality. They have investigated how their local area has changed over time and recognised the many attractions to living in ár áit dhucháis. In SESE the children have been learning about their responsibility for environmental care and have explored different Feasts and Festivals around the world. The children have also demonstrated their creative side through one-point perspective drawings and when designing their own funky houses in Art.

### **PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS**

The Parents Association would like to welcome back all the students back to school and also extend a warm welcome to all new students and their parents to Scoil Ghraíne. Welcome! This year's AGM of the Parents Association will take place over Zoom on Monday 19th October at 7 pm. Please send an email to [scoilghrainnepa@gmail.com](mailto:scoilghrainnepa@gmail.com) for login details. As all Parent/Guardians are members of the Parents Association, we invite you to this AGM where the current committee, Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary will step down, and a new committee will be elected. The aim of the Parents Association is to provide a forum for the Parents/Guardians of children attending Scoil Ghraíne to work together with the Principal, Board Of Management and the whole school community to help provide the best possible education for the children attending the school. If this is something that interests you, please feel free to attend either this AGM or future PA meetings. We look forward to seeing you and hopefully meeting some new Parents/Guardians to the school.



### **MS. DONEGAN**

Introducing Ms. Sinead Donegan! This is Ms. Donegan's fourth year working in Scoil Ghraíne. This year, she is teaching Junior Infants and she is loving it! Ms. Donegan has a BA Hons degree in Geography and Economics. She then went on to study primary school teaching because she found she had a passion for working with children. Ms. Donegan comes from Co. Meath and she loves visiting her family. When she goes home she really enjoys seeing her sister's new puppy, Millie, who is now 7 months old! Awe! She also has two cats, Tigger and Whiskers! Ms. Donegan has a twin sister, Aoife. Interestingly they were born at only 27 weeks and they spent the first three months of their life in hospital. Ms. Donegan also has a younger brother, Joseph. Ms. Donegan likes to keep busy and keep active. She likes to run, hike and cycle. She got a new bike at the start of this year, which was lucky, because she got to cycle a lot during the 'keep safe at home' time. Ms. Donegan climbed Mount Errigal in Co. Donegal and Mount Brandon in Co. Kerry this summer and she hopes to climb more of Ireland's beautiful mountains in the near future. Ms. Donegan has travelled to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bali, the Netherlands, France and Spain. Like the rest of us, Ms. Donegan misses meeting up with her friends and having a laugh. But she still manages to treat herself with her favourite snack, a plain black cup of tea (no milk) and some chocolate! Ms. Donegan is such a caring and inventive teacher. Her class are very lucky, as they get to be as active as their teacher!