

Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

April 27, 2018

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our new school library is just about ready to open. This upgrade to our library has been ongoing for a number of months and we hope to have an official opening over the coming weeks. This has been a massive undertaking and I would like to thank all the teachers, parents and friends of school Ghráinne for all of their hard work in making this a reality.

Grants school uniform suppliers will be in the school hall on Thursday the 7th of June and Friday the 8th of June from 1 pm - 3 pm. This will give all families a chance to purchase the new school tracksuit and school uniform for the coming academic year. Please note that from September 2018 children in Junior Infants and Senior Infant classes will only need to purchase the new school tracksuit, it will not be necessary to purchase a uniform for you child.

The school office will shortly be issuing all families with a re-registration letter. This letter will give details of the school fees received by the school for the current school year. We would ask that all outstanding balances be paid by Friday the 1st of June. After this date, all families with outstanding amounts will be issued with a booklist for the next academic year.

During this year there were significant changes made in relation to Child Protection procedures and guidelines for schools. To this end, the school will be closed to pupils on Friday the 1st of June to allow the school staff to explore and familiarise themselves with these new procedures.

Many thanks,

Ken Scully

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mid-term break: School will close on Friday the 4th of May at the usual times. The school will reopen on Monday the 14th of May.

Child Protection Training Day: Friday the 1st of June
School closed for pupils.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Ellen and Louis Nowak Ní Cheallaigh Mammy for donating more library books and a picture frame and to Bartosz and Jakub Chlod for donating jigsaws and a Minecraft paper construction set.

Junior Infants our roll play this month was **The Doctor's Surgery** as we were learning about **People That Help Us**. We learned some very impressive new vocabulary, such as 'stethoscope' so be sure to ask us at home! We were also learning about new life, babies and how to care for them.

Senior Infants have been learning all about Spring. We looked for different signs of Spring on a nature walk and talked all about animals and their babies. In Seomra Dearg we have been reading **Dear Zoo**, learning about different zoo animals and their habitats. We even wrote a letter to Dublin Zoo asking for a pet! In Seomra Corcra we read **Handa's Hen** and talked all about Africa. We learned about animals in Africa and during art we designed our own traditional African clothes. In Seomra Oraiste we have been reading fairy tales. Our favourite story is **Snow White** because we love the 7 dwarfs. We even got a chance to write our own fairy tale and then made costumes for fairy tale characters.

First class have been learning all about special occasions such as **St. Patrick's Day** and **Easter**. We even made some lovely Spring chicks! We are now focusing on the theme of the farm. We are finding out about the different food that comes from the farm as well as the different animals and their babies. Spring is a busy time for the farmer!

Second class have been looking at the Arctic and Antarctica. We looked closely at Tom Crean's exploration and the animals he may have seen. In groups we created a project about an Arctic animal. We also made clay penguins and painted them. This month is also very special for some children in second class as they are making their first Holy Communion.

Third class this month we have been learning to tell the time. We have been practising reading the time using analogue and digital clocks. We have also just sewn our sunflowers. We are watering them every day and can't wait to see them grow. In SESE we are learning about the human body, in particular the heart and lungs. We have also started to learn about the Stone Age and they lives of people at that time. In Art we have been learning about Impressionism and the work of Claude Monet

Fourth class have loved learning all about the Ancient Romans and what life was like living in the Roman Empire, all about Pompeii and the gladiators in the Colosseum. It is really interesting. We have been learning more songs on the recorder and are working really hard with it. The songs are getting more and more difficult but we practise every night and are really persistent with it. This month we are going to learn all about the Celts and we are very excited to learn about the plants and animals that live in Irish boglands too.

Fifth class are learning all about transport and travel. We have researched the history of transport and started working on projects looking at how and when the car and plane were invented and how they have both developed since. We have also begun procedural writing, where we are practising giving each other step by step instructions and reading samples of instructional texts. In art we have constructed hot air balloons, which are another form of transport. We are examining the properties of different materials in science, including solids, liquids and gases. We are also very proud of our Write a Book projects which we have just completed!

Sixth class have been working harder than ever. We have been making huge efforts to be neater with our work, more efficient with our homework and more organised in class. The reasons that we have increased our levels of effort is because it is our last term in primary school and we are making sure that we are ready for secondary school. It is difficult to believe that after eight years we only two and a half months left in primary school.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Since our last newsletter update in February the new committee has been getting up to speed on the mechanics of the parents association. We are looking forward to telling you, in future updates, about some interesting initiatives to further encourage parental involvement in our children's education. For information about joining the Parents Association pop us an email to pta@grainnecns.com.

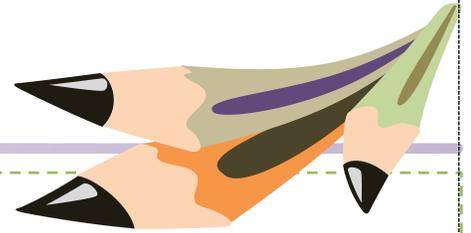
GREEN SCHOOL - SCOIL GHRÁINNE!

Fantastic news for Scoil Ghráinne this week as we have received confirmation that we are to be awarded our third Green Flag which is for Water Conservation! A huge well done to all staff and pupils. A lot of hard work was done by the whole school to ensure we completed all the steps needed to receive this flag especially by the pupils on the Green School Committee.

NEW LIBRARY

Can you help?

We are looking for books for our new library to represent our children. Do you have any of your **own country's language books or dual language** books at home that you would like to donate to the school library? If so please let Ms. Donegan or Ms. O'Connor know!



MR. SCULLY

This month we have the pleasure of introducing our very own school principal, Mr. Ken Scully! Mr. Scully's hometown is Clontarf. He is the youngest of four children. He has one brother and two sisters. Mr. Scully is married to the lovely Deirdre, (not our Deputy principal Ms. Deirdre McKenzie, a different teacher altogether!!) Mr. Scully worked in our neighbouring school. Mary Mother of Hope SNS for many years as a mainstream teacher, where he is remembered very fondly especially with the GAA enthusiasts. This is Mr. Scully's 6th year as our principal in Scoil Ghráinne. And how lucky we are to have him! Like most of our staff, Mr. Scully loves to travel. He has been to many countries, such as USA Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and all around Europe. Just recently he visited Krakow in Poland, he found it a beautiful country with so much to see and do. It's unusual to see Mr. Scully in a suit outside work as he is very sporty! He used to play a lot of Gaelic Football and Hurling. Mr. Scully plays on 5 a-side soccer team and he loves a spot of golf at the weekends. When he was a class teacher Mr. Scully had several hamsters through the years...his most memorable one was called 'Tripod' because he only had three legs! Before becoming a teacher Mr. Scully had many different jobs, including a life-guard, a personal trainer and a barman. Before training as a primary school teacher, he trained as a post-primary PE teacher and he is a qualified Aromatherapist! Mr. Scully is a multi tasker, keeping on top of all the different things that go on day to day in our school and always with a smile! He is a seasoned guitar player and many of our pupils have been lucky enough to hear him play and love to sing along. His door is always open for a chat no matter if it's to discuss your day with your class or just give a bit of advice or some ideas. Mr. Scully brightens up your day when he passes you in the corridor and sings your name!