



# Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

## November 27, 2020

### LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe we are the end of another month. We are busy preparing for the end of 2020. There is no doubt we will all remember this year.

Scoil Ghráinne is a busy place as usual; We are practising for our winter performances and on the lookout for new talent. There is lovely art work all around the school. We are still going outside for our daily mile and it's important to wear a coat to school every day, as some days can be wet and cold. We are back using part of the GP hall for sports activities which helps in the wet weather especially.

Our new opening time is also working well. Please remind your children to social distance at the school gate. It is great to see so many children cycling, scooting and walking to school. One girl told me last week that she saved up all her pocket money in order to pay for her bike. It was great to see the value and pride she took in owning her own bike. Encourage your child to meet and greet in the morning as it sets us all up for a good day and it is a good practice.

School uniform develops a sense of belonging in our students and it is important that they wear the correct uniform. School ties and sweaters are important items and hijabs need to be plain black if worn with the uniform. Large earrings and necklaces are unsafe and shouldn't be worn to school.

Finally, congrats to our moustache growers on the staff who raised €800 for November.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**WINTER HOLIDAYS:** The school will close at 12:00 pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December and will re-open on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

**PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS:** January (TBC)

**Junior Infants** have been very busy learning all about the theme of food, over the last couple of weeks. They have been listening to the stories 'Handa's Surprise' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and have been learning the nursery rhymes 'I'm a Little Teapot' and 'Hot Cross Buns'. They have been making some beautiful caterpillars and butterflies in art and have been playing in the Cafe in the Role Play Area. They have been learning all about the lifecycle of a butterfly and have been discussing their five senses. As you can see, they have been very busy children!

**Senior Infants** have been learning all about Space! We read some amazing books, our favourites were 'Whatever Next!' and 'All about Space'. We learned lots of cool facts about the moon, the sun, the planets and stars. Did you know that the sun is so big that 1 million earths would fit inside it!! Our role-play area in Aistear was set up as a space station, we even had astronaut costumes and aliens masks! We learned some new poems including 'zoom zoom zoom we're going to the moon' and the solar system song. For SPHE we have been focusing on Getting Along and talking about how to be a good friend. We also discussed Internet safety (Webwise). We talked about how to use the internet safely when playing online games/watching youtube etc. We have started learning our new tricky words for homework and the children have been making amazing progress. Keep up the great work!!

**First class** have been working so hard! Our topics this month were Dinosaurs and Space. We were so interested to learn about Mary Anning, a fossil hunter and Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon. We have been continuing with 'Number' in Maths but we also learned 'o'clock' and 'half past' in 'Time' and we studied Capacity. In Art we made Dinosaur Silhouettes and Paper Mache Planets!

**Second class** have been learning all about Ocean Habitats. We used the iPads to research our favourite ocean creature and wrote really interesting information reports. Our teachers were super impressed with our neat handwriting and amazing facts! We created ocean dioramas using shoeboxes. We used lots of different materials to decorate our dioramas and had lots of fun! In Maths we were learning about Data. We surveyed our class to find out everyone's eye colour, favourite video games, favourite crisps and presented them in pictograms and bar charts. This month we have also been learning how to stay safe on the internet. We learned that the best thing to do if you see something online that worries you or makes you feel uncomfortable is to close it down and tell an adult as soon as possible!

**Ms Kavanagh's class** In Room 1 we have been learning about homes, the different rooms and items in each room and we are also making 3D houses in art. We have also been learning about resilience and practicing different ways of relaxing and strategies we can use to keep us calm. We have been learning to name and identify different emotions and are doing our own feeling check-in everyday. We are really looking forward to starting GAA lessons with Erin go Bragh this month.

**Ms. McPartlan's Class** We were learning about space, Some of us memorised the names of all the planets in order from the sun. The children really enjoyed doing art work based on stars, astronauts, aliens and rockets. We made fruit rockets during our Cooking Lesson and some hot chocolate on a colder day. We are lucky to have Coach Martin back to teach us more GAA skills this year. The days are getting darker and we are making a huge effort to do our exercise outside when it is bright.

**Third class** This month in Rang a Trí, the boys and girls have been very excited to start back with GAA training! In maths, we have been learning about 2D/ 3D shapes, symmetry, and have been working extremely hard on their multiplication tables. In English, we have been doing lots of work on Report Writing, and have been creating reports inspired by the animals in Dublin Zoo! For History, we have been learning about Ancient Greece, Greek Mythology, and the History of the Olympics. November has been a super busy month with both Science week, where we engaged in daily science experiments like 'Orange Fizz and Storm in a Glass', as well as Internet Safety month where we have discussed the importance of protecting our personal information when online.

**Fourth class** have been learning about fractions this month. We turned our knowledge into some very creative fraction art! In SESE we investigated static electricity through the use of balloons. We also explored the map of Ireland and took a closer look at the counties and landmarks around Ireland. We are looking forward to starting our cycling safety course.

**Fifth class** have been very busy this past month. Some of the most important lessons the children have been learning about this month involved being kind and respectful to one another as well as the importance of wellbeing. In Maths the children have been busy learning about long division and fractions. Writing reports has been the main focus in English and Ag Siopadóireacht was our topic in Gaeilge. In SESE the children have been exploring the different classifications of animals as well as the natural features in our environment.

**Sixth class** were very busy this month. The theme was The Americas and Brazil. In English, the children were writing to socialise and have been busy writing letters to the elderly in nursing homes. In nGaeilge, bhí na páistí ag foghlaim faoin téama: Ag Siopadóireacht. Fractions and Decimals have been the focus in maths and the children have been enjoying solving word problems. The children have been learning all about Brazil in Geography and have been working in their pods in order to create poster presentations. The children enjoyed learning about Native Americans in History and made some beautiful Native American Art using clay.

### PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Scoil Ghraíne Community National School Facebook page has now been renamed "Scoil Ghraíne CNS Parents Association". For the last four years, this page was used to communicate news and information between the school and parents/guardians. Since the introduction of the Aladdin app last year, all school communication is sent via the app now. From this month, this page will now be used by the Parents Association to share information about upcoming PA events and other school-related information. We look forward to sharing and engaging with you over the coming months. The last PA meeting was held on Monday 30th November at 7 pm over zoom. Please email [scoilghrainnepa@gmail.com](mailto:scoilghrainnepa@gmail.com) or message us on Facebook if you want to contact us.



### MR ROBERT FRAZER

Introducing Robert Frazer! Robbie is our caretaker in Scoil Ghráinne. He comes from a big family, he is the youngest of nine children! Robbie has five sisters and three brothers. Robbie and his wife, Mairead, have three daughters Nicole, Chloe and Amy. Robbie is very proud to be from Portlaoise in Co Laois. He enjoys going on long walks with his dog, Tacey especially on the beach. Tacey is a West Highland Terrier and he is 12 years old. Robbie likes to play board games with his family on the weekends. He also likes a game of pool and relax at weekends also with my friends (pre-covid!) Robbie's favourite place to go on holiday is Portugal. He loves the hot weather and spending the day in the sun or at the pool. Robbie has been to lots of different countries including Greece, Portugal, Spain, America, England, France, Netherlands. When Robbie was younger, he was a very good athlete and he competed in community games. He won the Leinster under 11 600m and represented Laois in Butlins! Go Robbie! Robbie was a self employed plasterer for the past 25 years. He worked in both Ireland and England. His favourite thing about working in Scoil Ghráinne is getting to meet so many new people, from teachers to pupils and all of the other school staff. He loves being able to help everyone. We are so lucky to have a caretaker like Robbie here at Scoil Ghráinne. No job is too big or too small for him... from keeping all the staff and children safe to getting his ladder and hammer to hang up teachers alphabet letter by letter!