



# Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

## September, 2019

### LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new families and staff members that have joined Scoil Ghráinne this year. The school has grown steadily over the past 11 years and now in our 12<sup>th</sup> year of operation we have 667 children representing 62 different Nationalities and more than 20 religious backgrounds.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our teaching and non-teaching staff for helping the new school year get off to a terrific and smooth start.

Scoil Ghráinne CNS had many great successes last year. We were subject to a Whole-School Evaluation (WSE) from the Department of Education during December and we were very pleased with the feedback. We are continually working on improving our school and this will always be a focus for us.

We also celebrated our 10 Year Anniversary with a fantastic school show ahead of the Easter break. This was a fantastic way to celebrate all that is great about our school.

Please keep an eye on our school website for updates, class blogs and upcoming events. This can be accessed at [www.scoilghrainecns.ie](http://www.scoilghrainecns.ie) Please also feel free to follow us on Facebook.

Many thanks,

Ken Scully

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**School Closure: School closes Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of October and re-opens Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

**Junior Infants:** the boys and girls have settled in really well to Scoil Ghráinne. The children have started to make lots of new friends and are really enjoying learning lots of subjects such as Aistear, Ready Set Go Maths, Gaeilge, PE and lots more. The boys and girls have started to learn about 'Myself' and 'My Family'. They are really enjoying learning new songs like 'Rolaí Polaí', 'The Rainbow Song' and 'It's Time to Go Home'. Junior Infants is so much fun!!

**Senior Infants** last month topic we concentrated 'myself'. Our roll play area was the home corner and we made self-portraits in art. We had great fun doing the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and we made collages of all the different scenes.

**Croí:**

**Ms. McPartlan:** Croi has a new teacher and SNA's to their class this year. Ms. McPartlan is their new teacher and our SNA's are Valerie, Sabrina, Jackie and Ellen. We have had a great month settling back to school. The children are enjoying taking weekly trips to the library, shop, outdoor classroom, PE hall and nature walks. We have an exciting year ahead!

**Ms. Winter's** Everyone has settled back into school so well, we have been learning all about ourselves and our family. We have started Aistear in croí and are especially loving pretending to make dinner in our kitchen! We're all looking forward to another great year.

**First Class** have. 1st class have been learning all about myself and frogs for the month of September. Focusing hard on number stories 11 and 12. Highlight for most of them was drawing their very own self-portraits and drawing their own frogs and painting them using pointillism. As a year band they are working hard on their organisational skills both in class and lining up. We're already seeing an improvement in this so we hope they keep up the great work!

**Second class** This month 2nd Class have been settling in to their new classes, getting to know new friends and reuniting with not-so-new friends! We've been learning about the human skeleton and our internal organs. We've also done some interesting science experiments to find out how our teeth are affected by fizzy drinks!

**Third class** In English we In English we've been reading all about Fantastic Mr. Fox, and we've also learnt a new poem called "The Counties of Ireland. We went for a walk around Phibblestown house and learned loads about how Ongar has changed over the years! We collected some autumn leaves and drew them onto coffee paper for Art



**Fourth Class** have been very busy since coming back to school. We've been learning about our family trees, different types of homes all around the world and the natural wonders of the world. In Irish we got to meet some new characters through our new book, Bua na Cainte! The most exciting part was going on a climate strike and having news2day come in from RTE

**Fifth class:** This month 5th class have been busy getting back into our new school year routine. We have been learning all about ourselves and our families. We discussed our likes and our dislikes, our goals for the year and what we would like to achieve. In science we learned lots about climate change and enjoyed taking part in the climate action protest. We also learned about schools in the past in history and made projects to display what we've learned. In geography we learned about the earth's core and different types of rocks. We've had a busy September in 5th class!

**Sixth class:** The three 6th classes have been very busy since the beginning of September. In English, we have learning all about persuasive writing and about predicting in reading. In nGaeilge, bhí muid ag foghlaim faoi, "Mé Féin" agus bhí muid ag scríobh ár nuacht. We have been very busy learning about Place Value, Lines and Angles in maths. Our environment and our locality were the focus of SESE this month and the children really enjoyed participating in the school strike for climate change. Many of the boys and girls in 6th class have also been enjoying taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol GAA competition.

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association would like to welcome back all the students from their summer holidays and also extend a warm welcome to all new students and their parents to Scoil Ghrainne.

The PA has a busy few months ahead starting with organising the school photo's, calendars, Halloween non uniform day and the Winter raffle.

Our AGM will take place Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.00pm in the school staff room. The current Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary will step down and a newly elected committee will be formed. All parents are welcome to attend.

PA can be contacted at the following address:  
[scoilghrainnepa@gmail.com](mailto:scoilghrainnepa@gmail.com)



Ms. O'Connor

Introducing Ms. Josephine O'Connor. Ms. O'Connor is from Dublin, her parents were from Tipperary, and she married a Wicklow man John, has one son Liam. Ms. O'Connor has been with us as an SNA (Special Needs Assistant) in Scoil Ghrainne since 2010. She has worked in Croí for several years. This year she is back in mainstream. Ms. O'Connor likes the variety of work. She loves that no two days are the same working with special needs children and although it's challenging, she finds it very rewarding! Ms. O'Connor says the secret ingredient is a good sense of humour! And that, she definitely has! She says her job feels so worthwhile when she sees the progress of the children from infants to when they leave us in 6th class. Ms. O'Connor also has very fond memories from when she worked for Irish Ferries for 14 years. She worked on board ferries information desk in all weathers so she definitely has her sea legs. But she missed spending time with her family so she joined our team here on land! Ms. O'Connor has one dog, a Yorkshire Terrier, Lucky, who is 13. Lucky is the boss and baby of their house! Ms. O'Connor's hobbies include reading, gardening, knitting during winter and she has recently taken up pitch and putt. Ms. O'Connor is job sharing this year, which she loves as it also gives her more time to head to Galway where she has a holiday home! We are so lucky to have Josephine's experience in Scoil Ghrainne. She has such a great way with the children, a real natural. It's also always a pleasure to meet her in the staff for a good chat or to share ideas on methods to use with the children.