

# Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

## September, 2018

### 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 10 years and now in our 11<sup>th</sup> year of operation we have 687 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 to get off to a terrific and smooth start.

Scoil Ghráinne CNS had many great successes last year. We opened our new school library which took a huge effort from a large number of people. We also remodeled our school garden to include a beautiful mural in honour of one of our SNA's Deirdre McDevitt.

We received our 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Flag award, not to mention successes relating to sports teams, quiz teams and internal practices that have led to improvements within our school.

We have great plans for this academic year too. We are officially 10 years old and we hope to mark this milestone with a few celebrations. We'll keep you posted throughout the year. Please keep an eye on our school website for updates, class blogs and upcoming events. [www.scoilghrainnecns.ie](http://www.scoilghrainnecns.ie) Please also feel free to follow us on Facebook.

Many thanks,

Ken Scully

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**School Closure:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of October - To facilitate in-school training for New Primary Language Curriculum

**Mid Term Break:** School will close @ 2.30 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of October and reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

A special thanks to Patricija Jankunaite for donating many great books for our library.

**Junior Infants** have settled in so well already! We have been reading the story of Elmer and The Rainbow Fish. We have been learning songs and poems in English and Gaelige. Our Aistear (play) area is The Home Corner. We have been learning about the rooms in the house and discussing the people in our family.

**Senior Infants** have been very busy in September. We have been learning all about ourselves and our bodies in English and Gaelige. We have painted fabulous self-portraits and are enjoying decorating our classrooms with our lovely work.

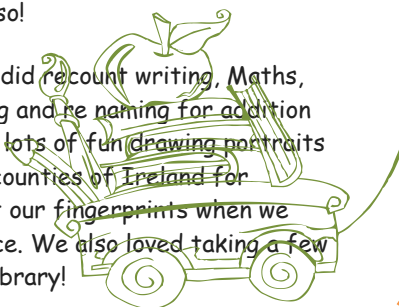
**Croí In Ms. Egan's** class, have welcomed two new boys Cian and Siddarth. They are so excited to have new friends in our class. This month, they have been working on the theme 'At School'. They have revised the vocabulary of Colours and School objects. In Circle Time, they learned a new action song 'Open and Shut.' We read the books *Monkey Puzzle* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?* In Art, they created a classroom display of colours and a 'Friendship Tree'.

**In Ms. Winter's** class have welcomed two new boys to the class, Dylan and Jack. They are both junior infants. We've been working on Elmer, Jack and Jill, Humpty Dumpty, body parts and we've loved listening to music.

**First Class** have been studying pond life and the life cycle of a frog. They really enjoyed making Pointillism art and pop up frogs. They have also been discussing themselves and all about their families.

**Second class** are very excited to be back at school! We are getting to know our new classes and class mates. We even have a different yard to play on with footballs, skipping ropes and hula hoops. This month we have been learning all about myself and the body in both Irish and English! We have taken an interest in Cubism and have created some really interesting drawings. Just like Picasso!

**Third class** In English we did recount writing. Maths, we did lots of re grouping and re naming for addition and subtraction. We had lots of fun drawing portraits in Art and studying the counties of Ireland for Geography. We looked at our fingerprints when we studied our skin in science. We also loved taking a few trips to our new school library!



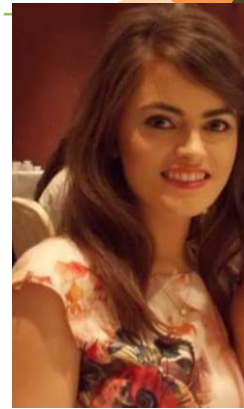
**Fourth Class** have been learning about the 7 Natural Wonders of the World. We completed projects on each Wonder. In Maths, we have learned about new 2-d shapes, including rhombus, pentagon, parallelogram, octagon and different types of triangle. In Science, we discussed the bones in our body and made a skeleton in art using cotton buds. We measured our heart rate by feeling our pulse, before and after exercise. We learned about the history of the GAA and designed our own GAA crests. In Gaeilge, we met 'spásaraí' named Rac agus Ról from Planéid Ceoil and their favourite Bia

**Fifth class** have been working hard since they started back in September. They've been learning about electrical circuits in Science. They've also been learning about geology in geography. They learned that rocks can be largely split into three groups: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. In history, fifth class has been studying the secretive schools known as hedge schools which were common in 1800s Ireland.

**Sixth class** have been focusing on our locality and tourism. We have identified areas of interest and compared our local area to county Galway and have made holiday brochures to attract tourists to visit Co. Galway. In history we are researching different feasts and festivals from around the world, including Eid, Diwali, Christmas and St. Patrick's Day, and we are looking forward to presenting our projects to learn more about each one. There have been some great moving debates taking place within the classes, to link in with the persuasive writing that we are practising this month. We are also enjoying using our protractors in maths to measure and draw lines and angles and in Gaeilge we have been practising our comhrá on Mé Féin. We have all began to settle into 6th class and we are looking forward to the year ahead

#### 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 Ghraíne. The PA has a busy few months ahead, planning a school survey for all parents, school photo's, calendars and winter raffle. We will also have some updates from the National Parents Council on some interesting initiatives to further encourage parental involvement in our children's education. A PA Information leaflet has been distributed to students and has also been posted on Facebook. The PA Committee hopes that this information leaflet has been helpful to you and that it encourages you to participate in any small way with the PA throughout the coming months/years. We had a fantastic turnout for our first meeting of the school year with lots of new faces and support being offered which is great. The PA can be contacted at the following address: [scoilghrainepa@gmail.com](mailto:scoilghrainepa@gmail.com)



Ms. Maloney

Introducing Ms. Michelle Maloney! Ms. Maloney is from County Longford, the only one on the staff! She has two sisters; Aoife and Niamh, one brother; Gerald and most importantly, her dog, Sally. Ms. Maloney has lived in Dublin for 11 years and she loves it here, but it's very different from growing up in the countryside. Ms. Maloney studied International Relations in DCU and obtained her Masters from the University of Ulster in Belfast. Ms. Maloney was a project manager for Food Dudes before becoming a teacher and she got to visit all sorts of schools all over Ireland. Ms. Maloney enjoys trips to museums, reading, all kinds of restaurants, swimming and going to shows, especially comedy gigs. She is very interested in politics and watching the news maybe that's why she enjoys working with the quiz club so much! Ms. Maloney is multi-talented and also teaches piano, and been involved in the Gaeilge and Diversity committees for the last few years. Another Scoil Ghráinne travel enthusiast, Ms. Maloney has travelled to Kenya, America, Dubai, Cambodia, Vietnam and many different places in Europe, including Berlin, Krakow, London, Paris, Malta and Spain and she is nowhere near finished yet! This is Ms. Maloney's fourth year teaching in Scoil Ghráinne. She's taught 4th class twice, 5th class and she is working with 5th again this year. Ms. Maloney's favourite things to teach are history and English. She particularly enjoys history and anything to do with it! She really enjoys teaching in here with us because she says, the staff are really kind and friendly and it's a very happy environment. Michelle is one of the reasons why we have a happy environment. With her extremely sharp wit, she always has the staff and children laughing. Ms. Maloney gets so involved with school life, and always with a beautiful positive smile on her face.