



Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

September 30, 2021

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mid-term Break: School closes Friday October 22nd
and will re-open Monday November 1st

Hello everybody

It's hard to believe we have the month of September behind us. All our children are settling in very well. We have welcomed 4 new children into CROI and 78 new children to Junior Infants. There are other new families throughout the school also. We wish them all well in Scoil Ghráinne and hope they will be happy here and reach their full potential.

Welcome back to Mr Byrne who has returned from career break after 5 years and new staff include Ms Wells, Mr Lally, Mr Farrell and Ms Kilcoyne. Congratulations to Ms Kearns who has joined our SNA staff.

We are still talking sanitizer, ventilation, social distancing and mask wearing but we are used to these routines now and it is easier. Please continue to be vigilant and stay home if you are unwell.

The staff and BOM have been reviewing our Code of Behaviour over the past few months and it is now being discussed with our students. Have a look at the document on our website and feel free to give us feedback. You will also see our Child Safeguarding policy and we welcome your opinions on that also. Last week Minister for children, disability, youth, integration and equality, Roderick O Gorman paid us a visit. He was very impressed by our young children who were great advocates for a greener environment. We are renewing our Yellow Flag this year so we are encouraging all in our school community to celebrate our diversity and accept and respect all members of our school community. Remember the words of John Hume;

“Difference is of the essence of humanity. Difference is an accident of birth and it should therefore never be the source of hatred or conflict. The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace: respect for diversity.”

Enjoy the mid-term,
Stay safe,
Stacey McAuley

Junior Infants have really enjoyed settling into Scoil Ghráinne this past month. We have been getting to know each other and have been learning all about everyone and their families. We have recently started Aistear and the children are loving the role play area with the house. We have been reading lots of stories such as Elmer, Rainbow Fish and Owl babies and reciting lots of nursery rhymes too. Ms. McAuley has visited the boys and girls recently and they are trying their best to remember that in Scoil Ghráinne when we are playing on yard “we keep our hands and our feet to ourselves”. The children are having so much fun and are really looking forward to continue learning lots of new things next month.

Senior Infants have been very busy since returning to school. We read '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 working so hard. We learnt about frogs, pond life, Autumn and hedgehogs. We did the number stories of 11-15 and we are learning about time in maths. We are doing so well learning our spellings every week and we learnt lot of new poems and songs! We are excited to be learning about Jesse Owens in October as part of celebrating 'Black History Month.

Second class have been working on the theme 'Myself'. We mapped our family trees. We painted abstract self-portraits. We learned the names of the bones in our skeleton. Taimid ag foghlaim na baill choirp as Gaeilge freisin. We also had fun learning and performing the poem "The Meewho with an Exactlywatt"!

Third class have had a great first month back in school. We have been getting to know our new classmates and our new teachers. This month we have been learning all about ourselves! In History, we learned about our local area and in Science we undertook some experiments to explore our five senses. I rang Gaeilge d' fhoghláomar faoi Mé Féin agus d' insíomar ár nuacht. We created self-portraits and optical illusions in art. We have also been enjoying our new Spellings for Me programme and have been learning new spelling strategies. We can't wait to use it for homework very soon!!

Ms Kavanagh's class have been enjoying settling back into our school routines. We have also been busy baking each week. Last week we made some tasty gluten free porridge bread. We have been reading the story 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' and talking about the different activities we like to do. We have been on the lookout for signs of spring on our nature walks.

Ms. Benville's Class had new students starting in Croí for the first time! They are Settling in and getting to know their new classroom environment and teachers. They have been having fun doing lots of sensory play. They have enjoyed singing songs at circle time and their favourite activity is doing puzzles.

Fourth class started a new spelling program called 'Spellings for Me' and have been busy working on the iPads and learning different strategies to help with our spellings. In Irish, the theme was Mé Féin and we learned all about ourselves and our family. We are also learning about persuasive writing, and we are almost ready to start writing our own ideas independently. In art we drew self-portraits and created pointillism paintings inspired by Georges Seurat.

Fifth class were learning about Mé Féin. We created funky hair pictures of ourselves and alternative family crests. In maths we have been recording the different types of angles and estimating them in our community. We have also begun the Recount genre of writing in English and began pieces titled 'The best holiday ever'. 5th class loved European School Sports Day (ESSD). We had jigsaw races, made hula hoop huts and saw who had the longest javelin throw!

Sixth class have been hard at work since our return to school learning about tourism and their locality. 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.



YELLOW FLAG NEWS

Our big news this year is that we are working towards renewing our Yellow Flag! Yellow Flag is a practical programme that supports primary schools to become more inclusive of all cultures and ethnicities, celebrate diversity and challenge racism and discrimination. This month we are celebrating 'Black History Month'. We will be looking at people like: Jesse Owens, Martin Luther King Jnr. And Rosa Parks. We have our very own children's committee in school: Rosie Devlin, Rabab Mehdi, Laila King, Amos Ros-Bogdan, Isabel Rossignuolo, Melani Kerkoti, Amaris Soni, Timur Kraliks and Ibrahim Ahmed. They will be working very hard to create awareness and help celebrate the amazing amount of diversity we are lucky to have in Scoil Ghráinne. We are looking for some **parents to volunteer** too. If you'd be interested in helping out, just a small amount, don't worry!... please contact: Beverlyconnor@scoilghrainnecons.ie



MS. KRALIKA

Introducing Ms. Natalija Kralika! Natalija has been working as a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) in Scoil Ghrainne since 2014. She spend 5 years in Croi, our autism unit, a year in First class, a year on maternity leave and this year she is with second class. Natalija was born in Latvia. She has 2 sisters. Her own family now consists of 5 people. She has 3 amazing children, 2 boys (17 and 9 years old) and a beautiful 16 month old baby Mia. Natalija graduated Daugavpils Pedagogical University in Latvia and has Teacher of Foreign Languages Diploma and also Childcare FETAC level 5. Natalija loves spending time with her family, going to parks, playgrounds, farms etc. She also enjoys sports, such as, running and jogging. Natalija also likes crocheting, but it's difficult to get any free time with a little baby! Like most of our staff, Natalija loves to travel! She has visited some countries in Europe such as Scotland, Belgium (Brussels, Brugges), Netherlands (Rotterdam), Germany (Cologne) Italy (Rome), France (Paris), England (London) Sweden (Goterborg), Lithuania, Estonia and she loves spending my holidays in Spain with her family. Natalija has a pet tortoise called Nutella! I wonder who named him! Natalija is so gentle and kind to all the children in our school and she is great fun to work with.