



Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

Croí ASD Classes

December 22, 2023

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the Christmas holidays and the close of what has been a dynamic and productive first term at Scoil Ghráinne CNS, I want to express our gratitude to everyone for your unwavering support and cooperation.

First and foremost, thank you for your incredible efforts in working alongside the school to support your child's education. The success of our recent fundraisers stands as a testament to the positive collaboration between parents and the school community. The benefits of our fundraisers are already evident, directly impacting pupils with special educational needs. A special acknowledgment goes to our Parents Association for their hard work and commitment in this area.

Christmas Activities

The past few weeks have been filled with joyous Christmas activities, including winter performances, a festive school assembly, our Christmas raffle, a jingle bell race and a visit from Santa himself! We were thoroughly impressed by the excellent behaviour and enthusiasm displayed by all our pupils during these events.

SSE: Focus on Maths

Academically, it has been a busy term marked by diligent work and steady progress. As part of our School Self-Evaluation (SSE) focus, we renewed our emphasis on Mathematics, aligning with the new curriculum. The pupils have engaged in hands-on maths activities, reflecting the evolving explorative approach of the new maths curriculum.

Literacy:

As part of the continued development of our school's literacy programmes we recently invested in two hundred more books for our school library. The pupils are already enjoying these as a lot of work went in to choosing books which were popular and beneficial to the pupils. Many thanks to our school's literacy team for the work they have done in this area. Reading for enjoyment is consistently noted in research as being important for children to make progress across all the subjects in school. If you have time at all, please try to continue to set a few minutes a side each evening to read with your child. This quality time really has a positive impact

Our Croí ASD classes have experienced a wonderful few months, with engaging in-class activities and participation in external activities such as gymnastics. We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated parents and the Croí team for their unwavering commitment to the children.

Hot School Meals

Exciting news arrived this term as our application for hot school meals was successful, paving the way for implementation next year. Preparations are underway, and we have partnered with a local company to ensure high-quality meal provision.

Extra-curricular activities

The term has been bustling with extracurricular activities, and our Gaelic football and rugby teams have showcased very good performances. A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated teachers who contribute significantly to these activities on a voluntary capacity.

Student Council

Our school's student council, initiated last month, has already made a positive impact. They've conducted meetings, organized the 'class of the week' competition, and their exemplary work has earned them an invitation to visit The Dáil in March from Minister for Transport, Jack Chambers.

Thank you!

In concluding this term, we are immensely proud of how well our pupils conduct themselves daily, embodying the spirit of collaboration that defines our school community. A sincere thank you to everyone—teachers, SNAs, parents, cleaners, secretaries, caretakers—for your unwavering dedication.

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and enjoyable Christmas break!

Jonathan Hanley
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER:

**WINTER BREAK: SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12 ON
FRIDAY DECEMBER 22ND AND REOPENS
MONDAY JANUARY 8TH**

What have the children been up to?

Junior Infants have had a very busy half-term. We are settling well into life at Scoil Ghráinne and enjoying school more each day. We have been learning about lots of things, including The Café (food) and The Vets (animals). We are playing lots of maths games, learning to write numbers and our counting is improving all the time. In Gaeilge, we have learned about Bia (food), Caitheamh Aimsire (our past times), and An Nollaig (Christmas). We learned all about Resilience and are learning about how to cope with 'small deals' and 'big deals'. We each got a Worry Worm to help us keep calm and listen to our worries. We have had lots of fun days this term; Jersey Day, Winter Walk, Jingle Bell Race, Cosy Day. However we are most looking forward to our Winter Performance of Little Red Riding Hood and have been rehearsing very hard to put on a great show. I'm sure our parents will be very proud of us. Nollaig Shona Duit!

Senior Infants have been doing so much this term! We loved learning about the moon landing and reading about Neil Armstrong. We were singing songs about the solar system and our Aistear area was turned into a space station! We made pastel drawings of the planets. This month our Aistear area was a toy shop. We were learning about winter and we made penguin pictures in Art. We have been working hard on our phonics and handwriting and we are up the number 7 now in maths.

First class have been busy preparing for our winter performance. The girls and boys have been learning about the Season of Winter and Toys from the past and all around the world, we had lots of fun asking our parents and grandparents what toys they played with when they were young. We are busy learning new sounds in phonics and using our phonics sounds to write fantastic sentences.

Second class have been learning about Winter. We concentrated on money and 2D shapes in maths. We made beautiful snow globes in art.

Third class have been really busy this term! We've been focusing on Report Writing & our use of verbs in the past tense. As Gaeilge rinneamar ceachtanna faoin 'An Geimhreadh' (We did lessons about 'Winter'). In Maths we have been learning our $\times 2/\times 4/\times 8$ tables every night and looked at fractions of these numbers. We really enjoyed doing the 'Dance' strand in PE as well as making Egyptian projects in SESE

Croí have been busy over the past while. We have been learning all about our feelings and saying why we feel that way. We have really enjoyed going to gymnastics this term. We loved practicing our rolls and tumbles. Each week we got braver at walking across the big balance beam. We have enjoyed singing Christmas songs in class especially 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'. We are really looking forward to our winter holidays.

Fourth class have been learning about the science around us. We started learning all about fractions in maths and we created pictures arranging shapes symmetrically. We learned about the post office in history.

Fifth class have been learning all about report writing and have completed reports on various different topics. In maths, we've learned all about fractions, decimals and percentages. In art, we completed various different winter scenes using mediums such as paint, water colours and chalk. We've also really enjoyed our rugby training sessions and some boys and girls took part in a very exciting rugby blitz in Coolmine, demonstrating their newly-learned skills. We've had such a busy term, full of learning and fun!

Sixth class have been learning about the Industrial Revolution in history. We were discussing Climate change in Geography and we are starting multiplication in Maths. We made and decorated glass candle jars in art.

GAA NEWS

The last number of weeks have been a quiet period with no games taking place but the boys hurling & girls camogie teams will begin training in January with games taking place around April. All 5th & 6th class welcome but if there's any players with lots of experience in 4th class they can of course come to training too!

MS. DOWNEY



Introducing Eva Downey! Ms. Downey has been teaching in Scoil Ghráinne for almost two years now. She has taught Junior Infants, 1st Class and 3rd Class. Ms. Downey is the youngest in a family of five. She has an older sister called Leah and an older brother called Aaron. She has loads of cousins! But most of them live in Australia, which gives her a great excuse to travel there some day! Ms. Downey attended St. Patrick's College, DCU and graduated alongside Mr. Gillen and Ms. Gath in 2022. Ms. Downey is from Dublin, just down the road from Scoil Ghráinne. She has a 5 year old Cockapoo called Suki. Suki is a rescue dog from a shelter. She is the baby of the family now (replacing Ms. Downey!) She is a much loved member of the family now, even when she chews up the new shoes (that's Suki, not Ms. Downey!). Ms. Downey loves to crochet. She has made loads of different dolls, teddies and clothes. The first thing she ever made was a cardigan. Ms. Downey loves music and going to concerts. Everyone in the school last year knew that she went to see Harry Styles in Slane and London! Ms. Downey loves to be creative so she loves teaching drama and art. She really enjoyed the art from the winter art competition! Like most of our staff, she loves to travel! She went to New York last summer! She even went up to the top of the Empire State Building! Ms. Downey is part of the arts committee in our school and we are so lucky to have a super organised creative teacher like her in our Scoil Ghráinne family!