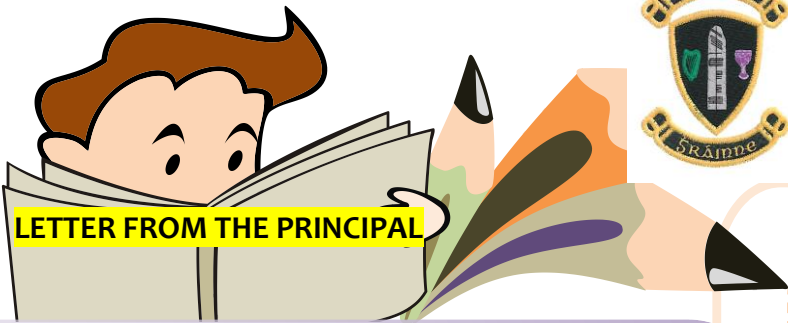




# Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

October 27, 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

First and foremost, I wish to express our gratitude for your ongoing support, which has enabled your children to have a positive start to the school year. Your commitment to your child's education is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference. Additionally, I would like to extend our appreciation to all our staff for their dedication this year. A special well done to the new teachers we recently welcomed to our school, who have seamlessly integrated into our school culture.

**Teaching and Learning:** At the beginning of the school year, we were delighted that the Free Book Scheme was smoothly implemented in our school, and we are pleased to know that this initiative will continue to benefit our students in the future. Many thanks to our school secretaries and Ms. O'Brien for ensuring its success. On the academic front, we are encouraged to see our students making progress in bridging the gaps created by previous school closures. The road to full academic recovery is lengthy, but we are making headway and remain optimistic about the journey ahead.

**Literacy - Reading for Enjoyment:** Numerous studies have demonstrated that "reading for enjoyment" significantly enhances children's academic experiences. To promote this, our literacy team has made substantial investments in expanding our school library's book collection. We hope that by offering a diverse range of genres, more children will discover books they enjoy. We also encourage parents to take advantage of the Blanchardstown library, an excellent free resource that can support your child's reading at home.

**ICT - Microsoft Visit:** As we all know, the tech industry in Dublin offers numerous opportunities for future careers. Therefore, we strive to provide opportunities for pupils who may have an interest in this field. After mid-term Ms. McGuire has organised a visit from Microsoft Dream Space to engage with our 6<sup>th</sup> classes in science and technology workshops. I'm sure the students will thoroughly enjoy the experience, and some of them may even consider working for Microsoft in the future.

**School Development:** To enhance communication, we have established a parent's notice board on Aladdin, which we hope will be a valuable resource to keep parents updated on school activities throughout the year. Many thanks to Mr. Garvey for developing this platform. Additionally, over the mid-term break, we will continue the renovation of the school's external areas, including repainting the Croí playground and the small fences in the car park. We extend our gratitude to the local company, Blackwood Decorators, for efficiently carrying out these improvements, and our Caretaker Robbie for overseeing them.

**Special Education:** Our Croí ASD classes continue to excel, thanks in large part to the dedicated efforts of the Croí team. The collaboration with parents has been instrumental in ensuring the children had such a positive start to the year. All of our teachers have received further training in Occupational Therapy from OT Ireland over the past term, which we expect will better support our students with OT needs. In addition, we have equipped each classroom with a box of resources recommended for children with a variety of special education needs. Many thanks to Ms. McKenzie and Ms. Tuite for their commitment to this project.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Congratulations to our GAA teams, who have represented our school exceptionally well this term. We are very grateful to their mentors for their voluntary dedication. A special well done goes to our boys' team, who reached the Cumann na Mbunscoil semi-final. We have also seen a high participation rate in a wide range of extra-curricular after-school clubs offered in the school, which the children thoroughly enjoy. The pupils also have the soccer season to look forward which will be starting back up next term,

**Parent's Association:** Thank you to our Parents Association for their unwavering support through fundraising and sourcing various resources for the school. In addition to the many events already organized by our Parent's Association, they have committed to additional fundraising to support the school's development of special education. This is an exciting prospect, and it gives us hope that we can continue to provide resources and support for the students who benefit so much from these efforts. Finally, as the mid-term break approaches, we wish all our families a safe and enjoyable time. We look forward to welcoming our students back and anticipate more positive shared experiences in the lead-up to Christmas!

Kind regards,

Jonathan Hanley  
Principal  
Scoil Ghráinne CNS

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**MIDTERM BREAK - SCHOOL CLOSES FRIDAY  
OCT 27<sup>TH</sup> AND REOPENS MONDAY NOV 6<sup>TH</sup>**

## What have the children been up to?

**Junior Infants** are settling into life in Scoil Ghráinne and enjoying being in primary school. We have been learning all about ourselves and our families. We've really enjoyed our sensory play, especially the shaving foam. We have been learning about Mé Féin, An Scoil and Oíche Shamhna in Gaeilge. We've read Owl Babies, Peace At Last and Rainbow Fish. In Aistear we learned about our homes/houses and the campsite. Our brains are overflowing with new information, but the best part about being in school are all the new friends we have made in our classes!

**Senior Infants** have settled nicely back into school. We read the stories Going On a Bear Hunt, Zog and Room on the Broom. We have been creating patterns and partitioning numbers and making data charts in Maths. We were learning about magnets and making maps of the school in SESE. We enjoyed learning about 'An Scoil' in Gaeilge.

**First class** have been learning all about Autumn and the lifecycle of the frog. We learned the song "What I am" and have been enjoying learning the days of the week "as Gaeilge".

**Second class** have been learning about the human skeleton and how the human body moves. We made skeletons out of cotton buds and labelled diagrams. We really enjoyed working on our family trees at home and in school.

**Third class** have been very busy working on our cursive writing since the start of the year and we drafted Recounts. In Maths we have been examining different types of Data, such as, pictograms and bar charts. We have been busy finishing our 'Spellings 4 Me' testing and are looking forward to working on it after the break! For SESE we have researching different animals on the iPads. During PE lessons we have been playing bench ball and, a new favourite; 'Capture the flag'.

**Croí** have been learning about Autumn and looking at leaves and their different colours and shapes. We have been learning lots of new songs and reading stories.

**Fourth class** have been learning about the history of Scoil Ghráinne CNS. We looked at pictures from when it was first built. We had fun interviewing our grandparents. We learnt about temperature in Science and studied how a thermometer works.

**Fifth class** have been concentrating on multiplication and division as well as angles. We've incorporated our learning into our artwork and created some beautiful 'Angle Art' paintings. In history, we've been learning all about the Celts and some classes completed diary recounts entitled 'A day in the Life of a Celtic Child'. In science, we created posters focusing on wind energy in Ireland and we made our very own wind turbines. We have also enjoyed 5 weeks of GAA training

**Sixth class** have been reading our class novel, The Diary of Anne Frank, Artur Quinn and the World Serpent and The Audition in English and we have been studying our local area. We made sketches of parts of the local area concentrating on the different lines in buildings.

### GAA NEWS

The girls team applied themselves to all training & Ms. Gath, Ms. Murphy & Ms. Leonard were delighted with their effort. Our boys football team had their best year ever, winning all three group matches plus a quarter final. The style of play we had was fantastic to watch and a real highlight. This got us into the cup but we were unfortunately beaten by a strong side, the Harold School. Both sides got a pizza party for all of their hard work.



MS. GATH

Introducing Ms. Leah Gath! This is Ms. Gath's second year teaching in Scoil Ghráinne CNS. Last year she taught 3<sup>rd</sup> Class and this year she is teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Ms. Gath has one older brother and she comes from 'the faithful County' of Offaly. Ms. Gath studied at St Patrick's DCU in Drumcondra where she completed her Bachelor of Education. Ms. Gath had a Golden Labrador dog called Sam for 15 years. She loves animals and has had 28 rabbits and 30 hens! She used to sell the hens eggs. Ms Gath is a very talented camogie player and plays for her club Drumcullen. We are so proud that Ms. Gath also plays camogie for Offaly and she was just named player of the year! What an amazing achievement! We are so lucky to have a pro like Ms. Gath to coach our very own SG camogie team. She also trains ladies Gaelic football and girls soccer. Ms. Gath's talents go further than sports, she is also very musical and plays the button Accordion and Tin Whistle and she teaches Drama Club after school! Ms. Gath's favourite subjects to teach are PE and Maths. Last year Ms. Gath travelled to New York, Boston and Washington and she hopes to see lots more countries. Ms. Gath won a Cumann na mBunscol camogie final when she was in Senior Infants. She is an inspiration to our budding stars in Scoil Ghráinne CNS in every way!