



Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

December 20, 2024

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the conclusion of 2024, a year filled with prosperity, excitement, and numerous successes for Scoil Ghráinne CNS, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for the vital role you have played in making this year so positive for our school community. From achievements in sports and curricular advancements to fundraisers, school renovations, and various initiatives, there have been countless highlights. However, what stands out most is the positive attitude our pupils demonstrate towards school life on a daily basis. This success is greatly supported by the ethos of collaboration between home and school, which helps to foster the positive educational experience our pupils deserve. **Teaching and Learning:** *School Self-Evaluation and the New Maths Curriculum.* This term, we conducted a School Self-Evaluation (SSE) Summary Report in the area of maths. The evaluation included a detailed collection of data from all classes and staff, along with a SCOT analysis. The findings provided valuable insights that will guide our teaching approaches moving forward. One significant conclusion was that, while pupils feel confident with basic number operations and arithmetic, they sometimes lack confidence in explaining their methods. Addressing this is now a priority in alignment with the new maths curriculum. Agreed SSE actions for the coming year include: incorporating 'maths talk' into daily lessons, introducing maths journals, and enhancing the use of concrete materials during lessons. We are confident that these initiatives will help pupils develop greater confidence and a deeper understanding of mathematical methodologies. **Extra-Curricular Activities:** *Girls' Soccer Team Aviva Trip.* Our Girls' Soccer Team had an unforgettable experience at the Ireland vs Wales Euro playoff second leg at the Aviva Stadium. It was a memory they will cherish forever! A big thank you to Mr Gillen, Ms Gath, Mr Quilty, and our parent and grandparent volunteers for making this fantastic occasion possible. *Basketball Success!* Congratulations to our girls' and boys' basketball teams, who both emerged victorious in the Ongar Shield Tournaments recently! Throughout the competition, the pupils represented Scoil Ghráinne CNS with distinction. We are extremely grateful to their coaches for their invaluable support and guidance. *Scoil Ghráinne CNS's First Rounders Team.* We are thrilled to have launched our very first rounders team, organised by Ms Gath, Ms Winters, and Mr Gillen. This initiative provided a wonderful opportunity for children who may not participate in other sports. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and we hope to see this become a regular feature in our extracurricular offerings.

Foreign Languages: This term, Mr Garvey introduced an exciting foreign languages programme for 3rd Class pupils. TY students from Setanta College began teaching French, German, and Spanish every Wednesday from early November through to Christmas. We hope to continue this programme in the new year. By exposing pupils to these languages early, we aim to give them insight into the opportunities available at second level and perhaps spark a lifelong love for languages.

Keith Duffy Foundation Fundraiser and New

Sensory Room: We are overwhelmed by the success of our recent fundraiser, not just in terms of the amount raised but also the generosity and commitment of The Keith Duffy Foundation (KDF) and our dedicated marathon runners. **In total, we raised over €15,000**, which will significantly support our counselling services, assessments, teacher training for additional needs, and extracurricular activities for our Croí classes. Additionally, thanks to KDF, The Sensory Pod Company is sponsoring a fully equipped sensory room for our Croí classes—a transformative addition to our school! **New School Uniform Policy:** Following a comprehensive consultation process, our new uniform policy offers pupils the option to wear either the school tracksuit or the formal uniform every day. I am delighted that we have implemented this change, which I hope will make life a little easier for parents/guardians and pupils while better aligning with the modern active teaching approaches we adopt at Scoil Ghráinne CNS. **Parents' Association:** Our Parents' Association has had another remarkable term. In addition to hosting productive meetings, they played a crucial role in the uniform policy review and the success of our KDF fundraiser. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals whose values align so closely with those of our school community.

Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. As we look forward to 2025 and the start of Term 2, I have no doubt there will be many more positive highlights ahead!

Jonathan Hanley
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER:

WINTER BREAK: SCHOOL CLOSSES FRIDAY DEC 20TH @12 AND REOPENS JANUARY 6TH

What have the children been up to?

Junior Infants have been busy learning all about 'The Construction Site' and 'The Toy Shop'. The children are really enjoying choice play in Aistear where they get to choose the station or activity that they would like to do each day. The boys and girls have been working so hard on their show 'Little Red Riding Hood' and they can't wait to perform for their parents next week.

Senior Infants were very busy learning about Outer Space during the month of November. We had great fun exploring in our Spaceship in the role play area and made rocket ships using 2D and 3D shapes at the art table too. We learned all about Neill Armstrong and Irish astronaut Norah Patton, we enjoyed listening to the story 'The Darkest Dark'. Our theme for December has been the toyshop and Winter, we learned all about the signs of Winter.

First class have been working hard on their winter performance. They've been exploring toys from the past and around the world and had lots of fun role-playing as toy shop workers. We've also been learning new sounds in phonics and using them to write fantastic sentences!

Second class have been studying the themes of 'Water' and 'Winter'. We listened to the story 'The Tale of Lutey and the Mermaid' and had some interesting class discussions predicting what would happen next and what our favourite part of the story was. In Art we made shadow sea creatures and we worked on shoe box ocean and winter scenes. We have been using our maths brains to solve problems and talk about how we got the answers.

Third class have been practicing their multiplication and division facts over the past few weeks. They are enjoying maths games and gaining confidence in solving multiplication and division problems. In history we learned about Ancient Egypt and created projects to share what we learnt with other classes.

Forth class were learning about the Roman Empire. We decorated our classroom doors for Christmas.

Fifth class have worked very hard in November and December. We worked particularly hard in Maths where we have been learning about fractions, decimals and long division. We have been focusing on report writing in English where we have written reports on famous sports stars. In Science we have been learning about how sports people mind their bodies, focusing on foods that fuel our bodies.

Sixth class have been extremely busy this term. In maths, we have studied data, number theory and algebra as well as revising decimals and fractions. In English, we've improved our recount writing skills as well as doing lots of work on our grammar. For SESE, we had an in-depth look at climate change, climate breakdown and sustainability and some classes created projects on these topics. We've been very busy with art, using mediums such as oil pastels, fabric and paint.

Croí have started their very own newsletter!

SG PUPILS HAD SO MUCH FUN ON THE JINGLE BELL RUN! NOW WE ARE ALL EXCITED FOR THE WINTER PERFORMANCES!



MS DOROSCAN



Introducing Ms. Nicole Doroscan! Ms. Doroscan has been teaching at Scoil Ghráinne CNS for two years. Last year, she taught Senior Infants, and this year she is excited to be teaching First Class. Her favourite subject to teach is science because of the excitement and curiosity it brings out in her students. When she was younger, she dreamed of becoming an astronaut, but luckily for us, she graduated from Froebel College of Primary Education at Maynooth University and became a teacher! Ms. Doroscan runs a Spanish after-school club. She speaks Spanish and Romanian as well as English. Ms. Doroscan was born and raised right here in Dublin 15, and she even went to school locally! It makes it extra special that she gets to teach in an area she knows so well. Ms. Doroscan's has a younger sister Maya, and a six-year-old Cockapoo, Bruno, who thinks he's the boss of the house! Ms. Doroscan's mother teaches Spanish in secondary school, and her father is a stockbroker. Maya is doing her Leaving Cert this year and is aiming to become a teacher, following in the footsteps of both Nicole and their mam! Another SG teacher with a love of travel, Ms. Doroscan has been lucky to visit New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington in America, as well as Spain, Italy, Austria, Germany, and France in Europe. One of her favourite things to do is take long walks with her dog, Bruno. She also enjoys shopping and reading. Another passion of hers is skiing. She has been skiing since she was 9 years old! Ms. Doroscan has been playing the piano for over ten years and has completed all her piano grades with the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Ms. Doroscan also has the unique opportunity to work with a school in Beijing, where she teaches science online to students from China! How cool? We love the energy Ms. Doroscan brings to Scoil Ghráinne! She always has exciting, fresh ideas on how to implement the curriculum and her classroom always looks so colourful and interesting. She makes it such an exciting space for the children to learn!