

'Scoil Ghormáin Naofa' Newsletter

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Summer Term
June 2016 Edition



Welcome note from the Principal.....

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of another school year in our school, may I, on behalf of all of us thank you most sincerely for your co-operation, help and wonderful support throughout the year.

Before we close the door on this current year it is worthwhile and rewarding to reflect back upon and consider all the events and learning that have occurred over the past year and perhaps for the current sixth class over the past eight years. Sometimes unless we actually take time out from our busy lives to actively do this many of our achievements can pass us by and we can forget all that has taken place.

Here in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa in the last few weeks alone we have celebrated **The First Holy Communion**, received **Our Green Flag for Travel** and our **Active School Flag**, we have held our annual **Sports and Open Day**, visited **DCU for our school tour**, attended a **cycle workshop**, had a visit from **Gorey Fire Station** and the **Irish Ladies Golf Union** and held our annual **Golf Classic Fundraiser**. This all happens alongside the learning that takes place everyday in our classrooms.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to congratulate Ms. D'Arcy on the birth of her twins. We were all delighted to learn of their safe arrival and we wish her and her family all the best during this very special time.

I would also like to bid farewell to Ms. Bolger and thank her for her work over the last number of weeks with our 5th and 6th class. She has put great effort into preparing for the 6th class graduation ceremony and I wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

I would like to wish our 6th class students every success and happiness in the future. As our reflection from Lee Ann Womack states '*I Hope You Dance*'; I hope that our 6th Class students are leaving Scoil Ghormáin Naofa with the self belief to embrace new challenges and with the confidence to 'have a go' as they enter a new phase of their learning journey and they move onwards with their lives.

Is mise le meas,
Lisa Dempsey

Board of Management

The Board of Management held their final meeting of the academic year on Tuesday 14th June during which they reflected upon a productive and successful year in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa. The Annual Report will be published on the school website this week.

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils and their families, our Principal, teachers, SNA's, secretary, cleaners, Parents' Association and everyone connected with our school a very happy peaceful and safe Summer Holiday.

Active School Flag



Flags, flags everywhere!!! More good news, we have also achieved our Active Flag. A lot of work has gone into achieving this flag by both students and teachers. We focused on our PE curriculum and set targets to improve on to attain our flag. We had a visit from the Active flag assessment representative and he went through all our work over the last two years and also observed our Fun Friday activities. He also met with the Active Flag committee who most definitely answered any question he asked and we were very proud of them. We have this flag until 2019 and then we have to apply again. Well done everybody.

Reflection



I Hope You Dance
- Lee Ann Womack

Staff News

Our School Office is accessible from 9 am until 3 pm Monday to Friday and Siobhán will be happy to help you in any way.



Meet the staff for September 2016:

Ms. Whittle: Junior & Senior Infants

Ms. McDavitt: 1st/2nd Class

Ms. McGonnell: 3rd/4th Class

Ms. Dempsey: 4th/5th Class

Ms. Byrne: 5th/6th Class

Ms. Ryan: Deputy Principal & Resource Teacher

Ms. D'Arcy: Learning Support Teacher
Carmel, Michelle and Finola are our S.N.A. team

Siobhán is our Secretary

School email address:

cns.iaswx@gmail.com



School website address:

www.castletownnationalschool.ie

School Twitter Account

[@castletown_ns](https://twitter.com/castletown_ns)

**For your
Calendar:**

6th Class Graduation
Thursday 23rd June at 11.30 a.m.

Schools Out for Summer:
Friday 26th June at 12 pm ☺

School Reopens for 2016/17
Wednesday 31st August 2016

Class News

Junior & Senior Infants

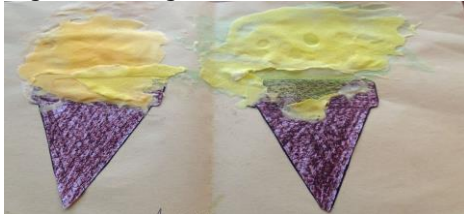
It has been a busy few weeks in the Junior & Senior Infant room. The children were learning about **'toys in the past'**. A toy shop was set up in the classroom and they had a great time buying various items. This was a great opportunity for the children to handle money as this was a topic covered in Maths. In Art we looked at the strand **'Fabric and Fibre'**. The children made clothes for a teddy. Thanks to the children in Ms. Whittle's class who helped out with this. Each child brought in a toy for **'Show and Tell'**. There was a wide variety of toys and it was a great experience for the children to stand up in front of the class and talk about something they love. The lovely weather gave us a chance to enjoy the sunshine outside. We practiced our races for Sports Day, went on a **2-D shape hunt** and even had a picnic outside. Our final theme for play is **'The Beach'**. The children can relax at the beach or buy a souvenir from the shop. In the "Small World Area", they can dig in the sand or swim in the water. **Station teaching** was introduced to the class in Term 3. The children really enjoyed this, especially the iPad station. Thanks to Ms. Mc Devitt & Carmel for all their help with stations in our room.



The 6th Class had been searching high and low for the puppet that was used for Irish when they were in Junior Infants. There was great excitement when we found the puppet and went on a secret mission to return **Rocaí Rua** to them. It was great to have the whole school travel together to Dublin for our school tour. A lovely way to finish off the term. I hope you all have a lovely summer holidays!

First and Second Class

Once again, the final term of this academic year 2015/2016 has been a busy one for 1st and 2nd class. **First Holy Communion** was a huge event. The children of 2nd class made us very proud as they received the Eucharist for the first time on May 15th. Children sang, read Readings and Prayers of the Faithful and brought gifts to the altar. The children had a wonderful and exciting day, yet showed the respect and reverence needed in the church. **Well done Sam, Shane, Diarmuid, Conor, Aaron, Jennifer, Ciara, Carla and Bridget.** I must congratulate 1st class also on the wonderful support they showed to 2nd class and for their patience in the classroom as 2nd class worked alongside Ms. Byrne in preparing for their special day. Well done also to all the boys and girls who sang in the school choir. I think it was our best year yet!



Our theme for the last term has been summer. In art, children made a lovely classroom summer display and used puffy paint to make some interesting ice-cream pictures. Our theme in Irish has been **'An Trá'**. Children have learned lots of new vocabulary and can make lots of sentences around the theme. We have learned a poem called **'Vacation'**, based on a family's dilemma about where to go for their summer holidays. We will perform this at our end of year Assembly. We have continued to enjoy Fun Fridays. The Cycle Workshop with Ciara from An Taisce was great fun also and definitely made the children more conscious of safety while cycling. Over the last few weeks we were busy practicing for our Sports Day and we had a great time on our school tour on Monday 20th of June. Let's hope this great weather continues for the summer. We wish everyone a happy and safe summer ☺.

Third Class

It certainly feels like its time for Summer holidays in 3rd class at the moment after yet another busy term. We welcomed the arrival of Summer by composing a **Summer acrostic poem**. We looked at all the words synonymous with Summer before putting pencil to paper and composing our fabulous acrostics. As part of our SESE programme **officers from Gorey Fire Station** came to visit us and we learned about fire safety and how to react in the event of a fire. We also had a fun visit from An Taisce where we participated in a **cycle workshop**. Cycling on the road can be dangerous and we now know how important it is to wear our helmets, make sure our bike is in good working order and to follow the rules of the road.

In P.E. we have learned how to play the game **'Rounders'** and we enjoyed sunny afternoons out on the pitch batting and fielding. We also practiced our athletics in preparation for sports day which we all thoroughly enjoyed. It was a wonderful sight to see the three buses head off with the whole school community on their school tour on Monday. We had a very enjoyable day. I would like to wish all the children of 3rd class a happy, safe and enjoyable Summer Holidays. Best of luck in 4th Class

Curriculum News:

Department of Education Standardised Tests:

In Scoil Ghormáin Naofa, we administered **standardised tests** for **English** and **Maths** for 1st to 6th class in line with Department of Education guidelines. This year we are used the 'Drumcondra' standardised tests.

The results of these were presented to you in your child's end of year report. There is an explanatory leaflet for parents regarding standardised tests on the **National Council for Curriculum and Assessment website: www.ncca.ie**. From the homepage select 'Primary', then 'Assessment & Reporting', then 'Standardised Testing'. Please remember that these tests only provide a snapshot of your child's performance on one day of their learning journey and should be viewed in this context.

School Reports and Book Lists:



School Reports that have not been collected will be posted out to parents. **The Book List, School Uniform Order Form, Information on School Fees (Photocopying, Swimming etc.) and information on which teacher your child will have in the new school year** will also be enclosed.

School Tours:



We all headed off together to DCU on Monday 20th June to the Let's Go Camp for our school tour. There was great excitement as the whole school was transported to this exciting and action packed campus for the day. This was a great activity based tour which tied in nicely with our Active School Flag. The variety of activities kept every age group engaged - from Bouncy Castles to Zorb Ball Rolls. The children all had a fantastic day and were exhausted from all the activities on the way home.

Tara Hill:

Ms. Byrne's 1st and 2nd and Ms. Bolger's 6th class will also go on a special end of year tour to Tara Hill on Wednesday 22nd June.





Fourth and Fifth Class

As our final term draws to a close, the children of 4th and 5th class can once again look back on a very busy term full of enjoyable experiences! Our English writing genre for this term was **report writing**. We started the term by studying different reports and learning lots of interesting facts about "Mars" and "Bears" in the process. We discussed the key features in this genre and began the planning process for our own report writing piece. Our focus was on natural disasters. Each child chose from earthquakes, tsunamis, flash floods and wild fires. We found the process both enjoyable and informative. We all learnt loads, even our teacher! Make sure to keep an eye out for our reports in the corridor. We took an in depth look at the story of the **Titanic** this term. In history, we learnt all about the events leading up to the Titanic tragedy and what happened as a result. We examined some letters, posters, menus and pictures from on board the Titanic. We weren't finished there! In **Art** we created an image of the Titanic as it crossed the Atlantic Ocean, in **Drama** we took on the roles of the different classes on board the Titanic and in **Music** we listened and responded to the song "**Nearer my God to Thee**", the song played by the string quartet as the Titanic sank. Overall, we got a real sense of the tragedy that occurred that night but also saw the positive effect this event had on passenger safety for the future.



This term saw our first **Book Club** meeting. We discussed books that we were reading or had read recently. We focused on the plot, the characters and why we enjoyed the book so much. The class got lots of recommendations from each other and we definitely have a list of books to read in the future. Not only did we enjoy discussing our favourite novels but we got to enjoy some hot chocolate while doing it! Our 5th class were very lucky this term as they got to take part in two events in Wexford. We spent an afternoon in **Wexford Opera House** at a drama called "**Me, Mollser**" (see photo below). This was a piece based around the time of 1916 and focused on what life was like in the tenements. It was funny yet moving and we were all very impressed! Most recently, 5th and 6th class attended a **rugby blitz** in Wexford. We competed against schools from all over Wexford and did our school proud. Our Irish focus has been on a very familiar pop song- **Béic Amach**. This is the Irish version of Taylor Swift's song, Shake it Off. We are quickly picking up the lyrics and will soon be putting some dance moves to it! As the school year comes to an end, I'd like to wish my 4th and 5th class a very happy and enjoyable summer. Best of luck in 5th and 6th class!

Fifth and Sixth Class

Mrs. Darcy was sad to say an early goodbye to her memorable 6th class pupils this May, having taught them for 4 of their 8 years in Castletown Primary School. She first had them in Junior Infants, 8 years ago and weren't they adorable! She **is very proud of her students and wishes them the best in their upcoming graduation and an exciting time ahead in secondary school**. I wish to thank Mrs. Dempsey and all of the staff and pupils for a warm welcome to the school. I (Mrs. Bolger) have been lucky to have the honour of shepherding 6th Class through their final few weeks at Castletown National School. 6th class have been busy preparing for their upcoming graduation this Thursday. The pupils have been reminiscing about their time at the school and the many **fond memories** that they have of school tours, Rackard League matches and concerts. Most of all they will miss each other as they are a very tight knit class and everyone gets on so well together! This term 5th and 6th class have **researched jobs** they might be interested in when they are older. The class are ambitious and have a wide range of job interests including **interior designers, a veterinarian, a barrister, farmers, a fisherman, a jockey, a professional rugby player and a primary school teacher**. They considered their possible profession from many



angles including how to qualify, salary and lifestyle including hours worked and holidays. The resulting projects are very informative and even include details of a famous person with this job. '**Oh, the places you'll go!**' was the theme for art where pupils chose a world famous landmark which they would like to see some day. These were combined with a painted skyscape and some hot air balloons in various sizes to show perspective. Places the students would like to visit include the **Eiffel Tower** (Paris), **Ayers Rock** (Australia), **Big Ben** (London), **St. Basil's Cathedral** (Moscow) and

Sports All Stars:

School Sports & Open Day

We held our annual Sports and Open day on Friday 17th June. All the children had been busy practicing in anticipation of this day. We had a **busy and fun-filled day** as we formally **welcomed our new Junior Infants** to our school. We were delighted to meet them and their parents and we hope they enjoyed the fine facilities, sporting events and delicious BBQ which were on offer. A sincere thank you to all the parents who helped out on the day and made it so enjoyable for everyone.



Rackard League:

Our season has come to an end once again. Well done to our **hurling and camogie stars** who represented our school so proudly over the last number of weeks. Our girls played matches against Kilmuckridge, The Gaelscoil Gorey and Ballygarrett. Our boys played against Ballygarrett, Kilanerin and The Gaelscoil Gorey.

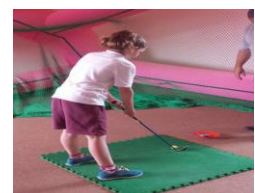


The boys team reached the **District Final** versus Kilanerin and although they played out of their skins they were unfortunate to be beaten in the end. All players represented their school with great commitment and dedication. I have no doubt that they will be back stronger and more determined than ever next year. Thanks also to their parents for bringing them to the matches and their trainers and teachers.

Well done to Jack Higgins who represented Wexford in an **inter-county football blitz** in Kilkenny on Friday 10th June. His team came 4th and Jack represented his county proudly.



Girls from 3rd to 6th class were treated to a golf starter session by trainers from the **Irish Ladies Golf Union** on Thursday 9th June. It was a great afternoon and the girls learned some of the basic techniques of golf. Who knows, perhaps we could have the next top lady golfer in our midst!



and **Cinderella's Castle** (Disneyland). Eric displayed great forward thinking in his choice of **'The Lilypad'**, by Vincent Callebaut which is intended to be a zero emission city afloat the ocean in the era of climate change. The Rugby Blitz in Wexford was a success with all pupils participating to great effect. Teamwork was the order of the day and we were all proud of the pupil's skill and sportsmanship on the pitch. The matches were very competitive and we put on an excellent display. 5th/6th Class have written **'I am from' poems** based on the original by George Ella Lyon. Some excellent descriptions of Castletown and the lovely homes have been written. These poems are really personal and include lots of detail and description about the children's lives including family traits and traditions. Our class successfully entered the **Arklow Parish Art Competition** themed **'Flower Festival'** with many colourful and varied entries. Congratulations to Eimear Wolohan who won 1st prize in the 5th/6th Class category with her beautiful picture and personal interpretation of the brief. Well done to all entrants on their lovely creations..

Án Taisce Green Flag Award

We did it!!! We got our Travel flag. Well done to everybody and a special mention to our Greenschool Committee. Our Walk on Wednesday has been a huge success over the past two years and we hope to keep it up. We are all more aware now of ways we can travel more



efficiently by carpooling or travelling in a green way and remember: it's not just our trips to school it is also outside school. Ms McDewitt, Jamie Kavanagh and Aibhín Kenny travelled to Kilkenny in May to attend the Green School ceremony to accept our award and flag. Lets keep it up now and in September we will be starting **our next two year programme** to achieve our **Bio-Diversity flag**.

Golf Classic

A **huge thank you** to all involved in our very successful Golf Classic which was held on Friday 10th June. Thank you to the Golf Classic Committee, led by Noel Ivanoff, for all their hard work. We would also like to thank all the business' and individuals who supported us in our endeavours. Perhaps if you are in any of the business' over the Summer you would **acknowledge their contribution to our school**. The success of the event depended on the generosity of the following:

Main sponsors: Tom O' Mahony of Clayton Plant Protection, CK Signs, C. J. O' Loughlin, Golden Anchor, Katie Daly's, Amber Springs Hotel.

Teams: Mick Byrne, Pat Purcell, Paddy McGlynn, Fr. Martin, Eugene Wolohan, Tommy Dixon, Paul Byrne, Roadstone, Joe Divito, Maura Ivanoff, J.P. Byrne, Liam Brett, Paddy and Anne Bernie, Seán Doyle, Dan Smith, Glen Fuels, Declan Kenny, John O' Connor, Jim French, Dave Taylor, Séamus Dempsey, Jack Kavanagh, John Kinsella, Brian Hughes, Jimmy Sugrue, Ned Sweeney, Pat Walsh, Joe O' Shaughnessy, Glanbia, Elavon, Betty O' Shaughnessy, Golden Anchor boys, Brian Murphy, Toss Byrnes, Ger Lennon, Phil Dean, Rodney O' Donnell, Joe Duffy, Joe Harvey, Frank Kinsella, Johnny Sinnott, Pettitts, Noel Carter.

Tee - Boxes: Councillor Joe O' Sullivan, Councillor John Heagerty, Michael D' Arcy T.D., Le Chef, Carmel Fogarty, Eddie Gleeson, O' Connor Nurseries, O' Leary Kinsella Auctioneers, Dermot O' Halloran, Gay Gleeson, Gardiner Grain, Mr. Mac, Halpin Furniture, Jim Casey, Barry Hickson, CD Auctioneers, Pat and Mary Condren, Mulligans Scrapyard, Allen Family, Diarmuid and Niall O' Shaughnessy, Arklow Bay Hotel, Billy Sheehan Gorey Bus, Kinsella Fish Company, Colman Doyle Finance, PTX Tyres, John Bass Tyres, Health Matters (Mc Cables), O' Donohoe Travel, Bridge Hotel Arklow, Blackstairs Cleaning, Arklow Building Supplies, Pat and Gretta Kinsella, Liam Brennan, Frank Pierce Auctioneer, Doyle Foley Accountants, Elavon HR Team, Tara Vale, The Orphan Girl, Castletown G.A.A. Club, Redmond Electric, Fanning Family, Shane and Emer Ivanoff, Traver's Insurnace, David Quinn, Peadar Carter.

Raffle prizes: Allen Family, Wardrobe, McGuire Jewellers, Jack Dunne, The Man's Shop Arklow, Murt Walsh, Browns, Heaven, La Rouge, Contra, Liz Collins, House of Cards, Funges, Skyfall, House 2 Home, The Dressing Room, Ruby Rouge, Making Faces, Black Amber, Shu 4 U, Fifth Avenue, The Book Station, Dominic Smith, Roche's Pharmacy, Gorey Jewellery, Philip Rochford Hair, Donal's, A La Campagne, Canavan's of Inch, Three Rivers Oil, Coral Leisure Arklow, Joe Duffy, Des Power Machinery, Bailey's Toymaster.

Auction Prizes: Richard Mulcahy, John O' Shaughnessy, Tom Bergin, Maura Kelly, Gallery Gaslamp, Ger Lennon, Eftim Ivanoff.

Golf Prizes: Katie Daly's, Staffords, The European Club, Seafield.



Class of the Month!:

Well done to **Ms. Byrne's 1st and 2nd class** on being awarded 'Class of the Month' for the second time this year. Throughout the year they really proved that they were **exceptional students** and they epitomise everything that Class of the Month symbolises. As a special treat they will go for a day trip to Tara Hill with Ms. Byrne.

School Garden:

The school garden is **in full bloom** at the minute with vegetables ready to be harvested. They will make for **delicious summer salads!** Thank you to Carmel for sharing her gardening knowledge and enthusiasm with the children and for planting the garden with them earlier in the year.



It is a great experience for them and hopefully a skill which they may bring to their own homes some day.

Dates for the Diary:



Graduation Ceremony and End of School Year Mass:

Our **End of School Year Mass** took place on Tuesday 21st June at 1.15 p.m. in the church. We had a lovely ceremony where we said thanks to God for bringing our school year to a successful closure.



A **Graduation Ceremony** will take place for our 6th Class students on Thursday 23rd June at 11.15 a.m. This will be a special occasion for our 6th class students and their parents as their primary school education comes to an end. Refreshments will be served on the morning.

