

'Scoil Ghormáin Naofa' Newsletter

Castletown, Inch, Gorey, Co. Wexford

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Welcome to our
Newsletter!
Summer Term 2017

Welcome note from the Principal.....

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is almost hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the 2016/17 academic year and what a year it has been. The third term is always exceptionally busy and this year is no exception.

Here in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa in the last few weeks alone we have celebrated First Holy Communion and Confirmation, attended G.A.A. and rugby coaching and held our annual Golf Classic Fundraiser. We still have our Sports Day and School Tours to look forward to! This all happens alongside the learning that takes place everyday in our classrooms, making Scoil Ghormáin Naofa a very busy place.

We would like to wish our 6th class students every success and happiness in the future. As our reflection from Walt Disney states 'All our dreams can come true...if we have the courage to pursue them.' We hope that our 6th Class students are leaving Scoil Ghormáin Naofa with the confidence to follow their dreams and aspirations and that they will remember what they have learned here as they take the next significant step in their lives. We would like to bid farewell to Ms. Murphy and thank her for her work with our 4th and 5th class. Her musical and sporting talents have enriched our school community over the last year. We must also say goodbye to Catherine our S.N.A. and thank her for her dedication to the children in her care. We wish them both all the best in their future endeavours.

Finally it is also time for me to say goodbye. I have spent three wonderful years as Principal of Scoil Ghormáin Naofa and I am very proud of all that has been achieved in that time. I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to be part of the school community in Castletown and I have so many wonderful memories of my time here.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and cooperation over the past three years. It meant a great deal to me and without it we could not have progressed forward as we did.

Know that my dedication to my position of principal will continue as we transition to new leadership at Scoil Ghormáin Naofa throughout the summer. Scoil Ghormáin Naofa is set up for success now and I wish my successor all the best in their new role

Is mise le meas,
Lisa Dempsey.



Board of Management

The Board of Management held their final meeting of the academic year on Monday 19th 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 next 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.

Reflection

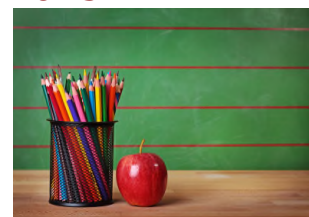
Ar Scáth a Chéile a Mhaireann
na Daoine



*'All our dreams can come true...if
we have the courage to pursue
them'*

- Walt Disney

Staff News



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

Meet the staff of 2017/2018;

Ms. Whittle: Junior & Senior Infants

A.N. Other: 1st/2nd Class

Ms. McGonnell: 3rd/4th Class

A.N. Other: 5th Class

Ms. Byrne: 6th Class

A.N. Other: S.E.T.

Ms. Ryan: Deputy Principal & S.E.T.

Ms. McDavitt /Ms. D'Arcy: S.E.T.

Carmel, Finola and A.N. Other 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:**

**Sports Day and
Open Day**
Friday 23rd June

**End of Year
School Mass**
Tuesday 27th June
@ 1pm

School Tours
Jnr. - 2nd Classes Tue 27th
June
3rd - 6th Classes Wed 28th
June

6th Class Graduation
Thursday 29th June
@ 11am

**Schools Out for
Summer**
30th June @
12pm

**School Reopens for
2017/2018**
31st Aug

Class News:

Ms Whittle – Junior/Senior Infants

Where has the year gone?! It's hard to believe the Junior Infants have been with us a full year at this stage or that Senior Infants will soon be FIRST CLASS! Time flies and we've certainly been having fun!

This term we were visited by the Dog's Trust. We were taught all about how to take care of dogs and how to stay safe when meeting a new dog for the first time. We listened carefully and picked up lots of new information. We all loved having Ted, the dog, in our classroom.

Ms. D'Arcy organised a brilliant Active Schools Week that we all really enjoyed. Our favourite activity was the Tug of War! The whole school were surprised with how determined we all were! We all tried our best and Ms. Whittle was delighted to see us working as a team.

As part of our reward chart this term we reached two goals. The first activity we won was a "Trip to the Movies". This reward integrated perfectly with our Money topic in Maths. The children were given some money to go out to the "foyer" and buy some treats for our movie. The children LOVED this and the experience was made even more enjoyable because of the help and the enthusiasm Ms. Murphy's 4th class provided. A huge "Thank You" to them and their teacher, Ms. Murphy



Our next reward was a Teddy Bear's Picnic. We were all so excited to bring in our teddies that we forgot about the picnic! We enjoyed some fruit and sandwiches outside in the sun..... after our teddy bears had a race of course!

Our next reward is an "Outdoors Day", the class aren't too sure what to expect but they are still working really hard to achieve this next goal.

Aside from all the fun and games we have been busy at work!! Our Aistear theme this term was Space. We learnt all about rockets, the moon landing, the planets and what it's like to live in space. We built rockets out of blocks, created rockets in junk art and pretended to be astronauts in the socio-dramatic area. We've been learning about capacity, money, time & 3D shapes in Maths, water safety in SPHE and Siopaóireacht in Irish. In English, we've been practising our handwriting, playing sight word games, writing our news and we even wrote a report on Mars!

What a year it has been! As the school year comes to an end, I'd like to wish my Junior and Senior Infant class a very happy and enjoyable summer. Best of luck in Senior Infants and 1st class! Ms. Whittle

Ms. McDevitt – First/Second Class

What a busy term!! We had a visit from the Dog Trust and yes, we did have a dog in our class! We learned a lot about dogs and especially how we should greet a dog for the first time. During Active School's Week we got very active. We took part in "Wake Up and Shake Up" each morning and this made us bright eyed and bushy tailed for learning in class. We took part in a tug-of-war and really enjoyed watching the teachers vs. 6th class basketball match. 2nd class received their First Holy Communion on the 30th of April and made everybody proud, especially their teacher and parents. You have to agree they looked fantastic. We also had a visit from the Féile and took part in hurling and rugby coaching. Yes we did fit in some school work too:-) Now we can all look forward to our summer holidays and we hope the good weather continues. Happy holidays everyone!!!



Curriculum News

STEM Tests

Department of Education Standardised Tests
In Scoil Ghormáin Naofa, we administered standardised tests for English and Maths for 1st -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 snap-shot of your child's performance on one day of their learning journey and should be viewed in this context.

School Report & 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.

New Special Education Guidelines for Primary Schools

The Department of Education recently issued new guidelines for primary schools regarding supporting pupils with special educational needs. This new structure emphasises that pupils with the greatest level of need will have access to the greatest level of support. As it will take some time to update school policies in this area, the current practice of how pupils are identified for access to additional support in our school will remain the same for September 2017. The Department of Education has also combined the role of the Learning Support Teacher and the Resource Teacher into one role. From September 2017 all teachers in this role will be known as Special Education Teachers or S.E.T. Further information about the new guidelines will be advised to parents during the forthcoming school year.

School Tours

We will all be going on our school tours during the last week of school. On Tuesday Ms. Whittle's class will visit Glenroe and Ms. McDevitt's class will visit Fort Lucan. On Wednesday 3rd – 6th will go surfing.



These tours have been eagerly anticipated and the waiting is almost over!

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Class News contd.

Ms. McGonnell's 3rd /4th Class.

Grandparents were invited into the school for Grandparents' Day. This was a very special and enjoyable occasion. The children and grandparents played cards, draughts and chess. They had a ring challenge on the ring board also.

In Science, the children undertook a project to create a bridge. The children had to design and make bridges that a toy car could travel over. The finished bridges were fantastic. We held an exhibition in the library so the other classes could see the wide variety of bridges.



A tag rugby blitz was held in Gorey Rugby Club and 3rd & 4th Class were delighted to travel with 5th & 6th to this. The weather was great and the children enjoyed playing some very competitive games and experienced success.

The Dogs Trust held a workshop in school. This was a very informative session and helped the children understand the level of responsibility that is required when owning a dog.

We are looking forward to our school tour to Tramore Surf School next week. It will be a great way to end our school year.

I hope everyone enjoys the holidays!

Ms. Murphy 4th/5th Class

Where to begin?! We've had a very successful year here in 4th and 5th class and it's hard to believe that the school year will soon draw to a close.

It is amazing how much we have achieved since September. These achievements range from the academic, to the sporting and from the creative arts to the numerous fun activities we were lucky enough to have been involved in during the year.

Back in March, we had Seachtain na Gaeilge. We had Gaelgóirí an Lae from each class every day and we spoke lovely Irish on the yard during break times to earn prizes! The whole school also performed the Haka as Gaeilge and each class performed a song, a poem or a piece of music for our ceolchoirm. It was a great success. In 4th and 5th class we sang some of our Irish songs and they went down very well.

We have been very busy helping out Carmel in the garden this year too. We grew our own carrots and runner beans in the classroom. Some of us brought them home to sow and others planted them in the school garden. We have already tasted some of our own lettuce and radishes and we hope to harvest our potatoes soon. We also integrated the garden into different areas of the curriculum. In Science we took slips from "Spider Plants" and "Busy Lizzies" and put them in water for the roots to grow downwards. When the roots



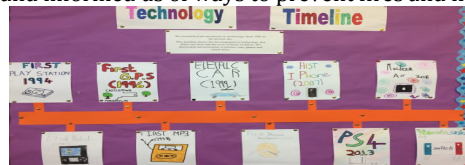
In Art, we painted bird houses from the garden and earlier in the year, we created a winter scene of fir trees.

We have created lovely pieces of summertime art most recently and it is getting us in the mood for our own summer adventures (see photos above).

We have covered a lot in History in recent months too, ranging from The Irish Potato Famine, where we designed our own Famine monuments, to advancements in technology in recent years, where we created our own 'Technology Timeline' (see photo below)

We have been very fortunate to have had both Rugby and GAA coaches visit the school this year. Our hurling skills have improved lots and Michael has been teaching us many new skills in rugby. We even took part in a rugby blitz in Gorey and one of our teams won the tournament!

Last week, we had a visit from two Fire Officers from the Gorey Fire Station. They chatted to us and informed us of ways to prevent fires and how act and escape if a fire starts.



We still have lots to look forward to in the coming weeks – our school tour and sports day in particular as well as many fun learning activities.

Ms. Dempsey will be back for the last week of school and we will say goodbye to Ms. Murphy. We achieved a lot together and made a great team!

Bainigí taitneamh as an samhradh agus guím gach sonas agus rath oraibh go léir don bhliain seo chugainn!

School Sports Day & Open Day

Day

We will hold our annual Sports and Open day on Friday 23rd June. All the children have been busy practicing in anticipation of this day. We look forward to a busy and fun-filled day as we formally welcome our new Junior Infants to our school. We will be delighted to meet them and their parents and we hope they enjoy the fine facilities, sporting events and delicious BBQ which will be on offer. A sincere thank you to all the parents who help out on this day and made it so enjoyable for everyone.

Sports All Stars



Well done to all Rackard League children. They represented their school with great enthusiasm and determination in their games and we are very proud of them. Special thanks to Michael Kavanagh for his help and to the parents for their support and lifts to the games.

Hurling: Niall Condren, Gavin Kelly, Donnacha O' Connor, Conn Kinsella, Michael Kavanagh, P.J. Crotty, Doran Daly O' Toole, Niall O' Shaughnessy, Ross Higgins

Camogie: Grace Ivanoff, Jessica Murphy, Aedín Kenny, Sophie Ivanoff, Sofia Church, Cáit Gregan, Julie Ivanoff, Siofra O' Connor, Siofra Higgins, Usha Daly O' Toole, Louise Foley, Rachel Wolohan



A huge thanks to all parents who made a voluntary contribution to the school. We have been able to purchase new Aistear equipment; Water Play Kits and Nexus Wooden Play Town and People. We have been able to subsidise school tours this year and purchase new resources for Learning Support and Reading Recovery.

We have purchased additional books, some lovely comprehension boxes to support Guided Reading and Numeracy boxes to support Maths. Thanks again to all!

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 they may bring to their own homes some day.

Class News contd.

Ms. Byrne's 6th Class

So much has happened in 6th class since our previous edition of the school newsletter that we could have our own separate newsletter! 6th class have taken part in another rugby blitz, performed in the Arklow Music Festival, completed the Junior Entrepreneur Programme, made their Confirmation, visited Croke Park on tour and walked to the local beach, to mention but a few activities. With all this going on, we tried to keep on top of our school work also.....it has been a busy 6 months. In the **Arklow Music Festival** we performed the action poem Cinderella by Roald Dahl. We were up against some stiff competition from two other Arklow schools who also recited Roald Dahl poems, but our pacing, intonation and costume/stage set up guaranteed us winners and we took home the cup once again! 6th class made the school and their parents very proud on the day. **The Junior Entrepreneur Programme** saw 6th class come up with a business idea, present it to a board of dragons, do out their costings and look at expected profit margins, source materials at a good price and of good quality, design and make products and finally, sell them on Showcase Day. The support from staff, parents, students and the wider community was so encouraging for our young entrepreneurs. The children raised over €900. The money raised was used for a pizza party to celebrate the success of the programme, funded their Confirmation tour and there is a small amount left that 6th class are donating to the school to invest in the school garden.

Despite the miserable weather, the children of 5th and 6th class celebrated their **Confirmation** on Saturday, May 27th. Each child confirmed had a special role on the day and made both teachers very proud as they carried out their duties so well and reverently. It is our hope now that the children continue to grow in faith and love of Jesus Christ. May they carry the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit with them throughout their lives.



Trips to Clone Bach and Confirmation Classes Tour to Croke Park and Stillorgan Bowl

I cannot allow this newsletter to pass without a special mention to our outgoing 6th class, who are coming to the end of their time here with us in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa. As with any year in any school, there have been ups and downs, good days and bad, but the good days certainly outweighed the bad. This 6th class have shown me respect, integrity, leadership, maturity and kindness throughout the past academic year. I hope that I have created memories with all eighteen pupils, which they can treasure forever and bring forward with them as they now begin the next exciting chapter of their lives. 6th class, it has been a pleasure and I wish you all health, happiness and of course, good exam results, as you begin secondary school. Our **6th Class Graduation Ceremony** takes place on Thursday, June 29th, at 11.30 a.m. in the 6th class classroom.



Success at Arklow Music Festival and Junior Entrepreneur

Golf Classic

A huge thank you to all involved in our very successful Golf Classic which was held on Friday 16th June. Once again we were blessed with beautiful weather. 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.

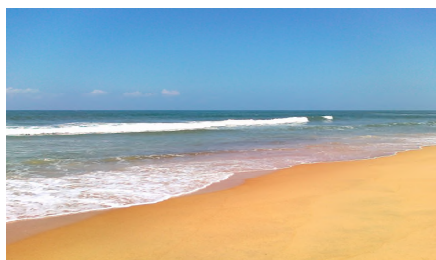
Graduation Ceremony & End of School Year Mass:

Our End of School Year Mass will take place on Monday 26th June at 1p.m. in the church. We look forward to a lovely ceremony where we will say 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 29th 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.

Trips to the local beach:

Ms. Byrne's 6th Class and Ms. Murphy's 4th and 5th class went on a special end of year trip to one of our local beaches, Clone, over the last week. Both classes had very enjoyable days, some even being treated to ice-cream from a very generous Mrs. Mary Byrne



Active School Flag

Our Active School Flag initiative began with gusto as we kick started term three with Active School Week 24th -28th April. The week is documented in photographs displayed outside Ms. Whittle's room.

It was a fun packed and extremely active 5 days. The school community were fantastic with their support. Each morning we began with an active start with Wake Up, Shake up! On Monday Ms.D'Arcy kicked off with a Wake Up Shake up Action rhyme, Tuesday Ms.Murphy had us doing fun laps, Wednesday Ms. McGonnell woke us up dancing, Thursday Ms.Byrne had us Snap, Cracking and Popping and on Friday MS. Whittle gave us a team hoop challenge.

Each day all classes got involved in a tug-of-war challenge. This was extremely entertaining.



Each day children also had active school homework to do too, such as go for a walk or a jog with a parent, dance for 5 minutes, skip or run around the garden for 5 minutes and play ball with a partner for 5 minutes.

At lunch time each day sixth class ran a penalty shootout competition with classes from 1st -6th competing. The top three children from each class went through to the final on Friday. We had a special guest goalie for the big occasion, a past pupil with vast experience in the goal. Niall Hempenstall, Castletown Senior goalie turned up shaking in his boots for the challenge of his life! It was a fiercely fought penalty shoot-out competition with many amazing shots on goal and many goals scored too (sorry Niall!). It finally came down to two fine sports people, Lee Kelly (2nd class) and Emer Ivanoff (1st class). The battle continued for so long we eventually called it a draw. Congratulations to our joint winners, Lee and Emer!

Friday was our most Active day with the penalty shoot-out final, basketball game with 6th class against teachers and parents and Walk a Mile with a Smile!

The basketball game, I'd like to say wasn't competitive, well it wasn't until the parents arrived! (Pat Condren!) Again it was a fiercely fought battle. The referee, Niall Hempenstall was one sided but there was no point in protesting. Even though 6th class had an extra man the opposition struggled on despite old age being a significant disadvantage. The more mature side did however have a significant height advantage with the likes of Mark O' Donnell, Pat Condren, Seamus Kavanagh, Louise Whittle, Johanna Murphy and Maresea White. The mummies were hard to contend with too! However 6th class had speed, agility, bundles of energy and buckets of determination. They gave an outstanding performance! The final result was a draw and the best outcome for all!

Walk a mile with a Smile was a great success. It was lovely to see so many parents turn up and participate. A lot of them did SMILE too!

A huge thank you to the staff, children and parents for making our Active School Week the success it was.

The Active School Committee.