

# 'Scoil Ghormain Naofa' Newsletter

Castletown, Inch, Gorey, Co. Wexford

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Welcome to our  
th Newsletter!  
tumn Term 2015



Happy Halloween



## Welcome note from the Principal.....

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As our first half term draws to a close, it's hard to believe that Halloween is upon us already. Our new Junior Infants, along with all our other classes, have settled in extremely well and have recently been busying themselves getting into the Halloween spirit. Cobwebs, skeletons and ghosts abound our classrooms and corridors. This will culminate on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October when we hold our annual Halloween fancy dress day. I'm sure that both staff and children will look terrifyingly spooktacular on the day!

Coinciding with this the Parents Association will hold their annual Halloween Disco in The Golden Anchor from 5-7 pm. The children all really enjoy this disco – it is a great way to start the holidays and there are lots of fantastic prizes up for grabs! Over the past year I have been amazed at the generosity and goodwill of people giving of their time and/or expertise to help out in different ways and it's greatly appreciated.

As our reflection states 'Tús maith leath na hoibre' (A good start is half the work). This certainly applies to the activities and learning in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa over the past number of weeks. We have truly had a very busy start to the year, as you will discover for yourself further on in the class news sections.

As always, if you wish to discuss anything with me, you can arrange an appointment with Siobhán in the office and I'd be happy to meet with you.

Is mise le meas,  
Lisa Dempsey

## General Information

**Private and Confidential forms:** If any of your details have changed since last year's Private & Confidential form (mobile number, address, etc.) please inform Siobhán immediately. It is most important that you include an emergency contact number that is operable, in the event of an accident or illness.

**Allergies and Medication:** Please ensure that the class teacher and the office are aware of any allergies/ medical conditions that your child may have.

**Pupil Absence:** Under the Education Welfare Act 2000, children must not be **absent** from school for 20 days or more. We understand that children may be ill or a family emergency can occur. Therefore it is imperative that you send a note in explaining all absences. This will be kept on file should there be a query from the NEWB Welfare Officer. This is standard for all children.

**Payment of money:** All **money** owed to the Office (photocopying, art & craft, book rental, swimming, etc.) should be placed in an envelope labelled with your child's name and class teacher. Payment can be in cash or by cheque. If you wish to arrange a monthly/weekly schedule to pay the fees please contact Siobhán who will gladly assist you.

**Supervision & Parking** The Manager would like to draw your attention to the fact that the school is not responsible for pupils who are on the premises outside of the official opening and closing times. Supervision begins at 8.50 am. Please do not drop your children to school before this time as children will be unsupervised. Please respect our road markings and refrain from parking on the double yellow lines or the bus bay. Please also be aware of parents who have babies and toddlers and do not park in the spaces provided for them. Ensure child-minders, grandparents etc. aware of these policies.

## Reflection

"Tús maith leath na hoibre"



*A good start is half the work!*

## Staff News

We are delighted to welcome **Ms. Louise Whittle** to our staff. Ms. Whittle is our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class teacher and a very welcome addition to our staff.



### Meet the staff:

**Ms. McGonnell:** Junior & Senior Infants

**Ms. Byrne:** 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**Ms. Dempsey:** Principal & 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

**Ms. Whittle:** 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class

**Ms. Darcy:** 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class

**Ms. Ryan:** Deputy Principal & Resource Teacher

**Ms. McDevitt:** Learning Support Teacher  
**Carmel, Michelle and Finola** are our S.N.A. team.

**Siobhán** is our Secretary.

We wish all staff a happy, healthy and safe year ahead.

**School E-mail Address:**  
[cns.iaswx@gmail.com](mailto:cns.iaswx@gmail.com)



**School Website Address:**  
[www.castletownnationalschool.ie](http://www.castletownnationalschool.ie)

Please remember to regularly visit our website which is updated on an ongoing basis with news and photos

For your  
Calendar:

Mid-term Break:  
26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Oct  
incl. (normal finish  
time on 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Halloween Dress Up:  
All classes  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Annual Halloween Disco:  
23<sup>rd</sup> Oct @  
5-7pm Golden Anchor

Monster Bingo:  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
Inch Hall

Parent/Teacher  
Meetings:  
16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November

## Class News:

### Ms McGonnell – Junior/Senior Infants.

Eight new Junior Infants started school at the beginning of the term. They have settled really well into the school routine and are enjoying all aspects of school life. They have made many new friends.

The children went on a 'September Walkabout'. Firstly, they worked in groups to find different items within the school grounds. Then, they were looking for signs of autumn: leaves in all the different autumn colours, berries on the bushes and pine cones of course.

Each child created their own artistic masterpiece based on the work of Wassily Kandinsky. They also learned how to create a colour wheel by mixing the primary colours.

The children are enjoying learning through play. Our theme is 'Home'. The children have been busy cooking dinners, ironing and cleaning while others have been quite content to sit back, relax and watch the television.

The children are counting down the days to Halloween and are looking forward to dressing up.



### Ms. Byrne's 1st and 2nd Class

Well, what a busy first six weeks to the new school year! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome 1<sup>st</sup> class to our classroom. We hope you have lots of fun and learn a little bit along the way!

We have spent much of our first weeks looking at the work of Kandinsky, a Russian abstract artist. Children used primary colours to mix their colours and make new colours. Then a variety of shapes and lines were drawn to create individual masterpieces. Below is a small sample of some of these. The children really enjoyed creating their own unique pieces with little guidance from teacher. We are now looking forward to creating some spooky artwork for Halloween.

We are learning all about Oíche Shamhna now (see picture below). In Maths, we have learned all about 2-D shapes. We used geoboards and peg boards to create shapes and then made our own pictures (see below).



2<sup>nd</sup> class have begun their preparation for First Holy Communion and had their enrolment mass on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. They were so well behaved in the church and participated in the mass so fully. They made their parents and their teacher very proud. Well done to all nine children involved. We look forward to the next mass on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Timelines were created in History. Children are still as handsome and beautiful as they were as babies. We have learned about how we have developed during our short lives.

Although there has been lots of activity and fun to date, we must mention our pet goldfish Nemo who passed away on Monday. He has been in the school for almost nine years and we had all grown very fond of him. We will really miss him and hope that he is very happy in animal heaven.



### Ms. Dempsey's 3<sup>rd</sup> class cannot believe that it's Midterm Break already.

We've had a very busy start to the year, playing hurling, going to a magic show, performing at "The Big Sing" and learning lots of new things. Here is just a snap shot of what we have been learning about! As part of "Maths Week" we completed a 'Problem of the Day' and played interactive games on "Khan Academy". We hope to have lots of fun with Maths in 3<sup>rd</sup> class this year through games, quizzes and hands-on activities.

At the moment we are also enjoying reading the story of the BFG by Roald Dahl while at the same time improving our vocabulary, comprehension and questioning skills.

## Curriculum News:

### Maths Week:

**Q: What do mathematicians eat on Halloween?**

**A. Pumpkin Pi**



Maths week was celebrated in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa from 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October! To mark the occasion we had a Maths Problem of the Day every day for the week. Please see the website for pictures of our winners and their prizes! Well done everyone!

### Fire Safety Week:

**Theme for 2015:**  
**Smoking at Home can cause Fatal Fires**



As part of Fire Safety Week (October 6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>) we held the first of our termly fire drills. All classes were involved in the drill and everyone managed to get out of the building in a timely and orderly fashion.

### Mental Health Awareness Week:



**'Singing is good for the soul!'**

As part of **Mental Health Awareness week** (6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October) we attended 'The Big Sing' in the Arklow Bay Hotel alongside other primary and secondary schools in the locality. Scoil Ghormáin Naofa was proudly represented by 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> classes. We sang the Rugby World Cup Anthem 'World in Unity'. It was a great day out for all involved as we enjoyed performing and also listening to the other school's compositions. What a great way to promote Mental Health Awareness for both children and adults!

### Paired Reading:

Paired reading takes place each week from Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class. Thanks to the dedicated parents who give their time each week to support & enhance the reading ability of our children!

## Gorey Credit Union

We are delighted to welcome back the staff of Gorey Credit Union to our school after Midterm. (Day to be confirmed). It is great to see so many of our pupils saving on a weekly basis, especially the new savers from Junior Infants.





## Class News contd.

Ms. Dempsey's Class contd.

In SESE we have explored the countries, rivers and mountains of Ireland, we have travelled back in time and learned about life during the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age and we conducted an experiment to investigate the effect that exercise has on the heart.

Right now we are enjoying creating **Halloween Art** and we are all looking forward to dressing up and playing spooky games! (see below)

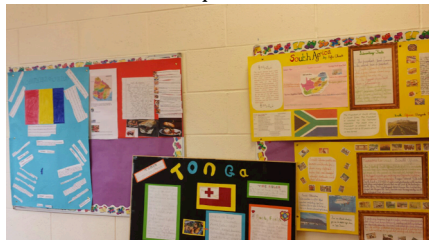


### Ms. Whittle- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class

We've been very busy in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class. Not only have we been getting back in to the swing of things after the summer but we have also been doing lots of learning!!! With the Rugby World Cup came the opportunity to learn a bit more about the twenty countries involved and to cheer on our team. The children have been working extremely hard on their Rugby World Cup projects and are looking forward to presenting them to the class.

We were also lucky enough to be visited by a magician! Not any kind of magician, but a recycled materials magician! We were all very impressed with his tricks and have learnt the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling.

Most recently, we have been taking a look at our skeleton and are learning the names of many bones in the body. We all found it very interesting to find out how our "funny bone" got given its name. And believe us, you'll find it quite "humerus"! 🤪



### Ms. D'Arcy- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class

Since we arrived back to school in August the boys and girls in 5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> have been very busy. In English we have explored several poems and one in particular was quite peculiar called, 'Trian-tiwontigongolope.' This was an abstract poem about an insect. The children created very inventive art pieces based on this poem. They have also composed their own skipping rhymes and have been skipping to them. These rhymes are displayed on the windows facing onto the yard if you wish to read them.

Tá na páistí ag obair go dfion ag foghlaim Gaeilge freisin. Anois tá siad ag foghlaim dán deas, 'Fear Bréige.' Gach Aoine bíonn siad ag imirt cluichí gaeilge agus bíonn siad ag labhairt Gaeilge go ne-amhfhoirmiúil i rith an lae.

In Art, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> have been very creative making timelines, string art pieces, blow painting autumn tree art, autumn leaf art pieces which turned out extremely well.

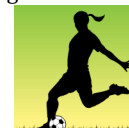
In history we were exploring myths and legends, how Setanta became Cú Chulainn through story, art and drama (role-play, still images and improvisation). In Geography we revised our counties and learned countries in the EU. We explored countries in the Mediterranean and worked in pairs to compile a holiday of our choice in one of these sunny regions. To integrate with Maths we recorded weather temperatures in Dublin and Athens and compared them on a trend graph.

We have been very active too; skipping, dancing in the classroom, playing hurling and swimming weekly. The Rackard league boys had a very enjoyable day in Creagh College recently enjoying Gaelic matches, relay races, tug-o-war and the crossbar challenge.

## Sports All Stars

### Rackard League Football - Boys

Well done to our boys; **Ross Arnold, Evan Wolohan, Jack Higgins, Jamie Kavanagh, Jack O'Gorman, Conn Kinsella, Gavin Kelly, Niall Condren, Donnacha O'Connor, James Kavanagh, Michael Kavanagh, P.J. Crotty and Doran Daly O'Toole** who represented their school in the Rackard League Football Competition. After a successful league campaign they reached the district final where they were beaten by a stronger Kilrush team. After midterm we will enter a shield competition against the other district finalists. Thank you to Mick and Séamus Kavanagh for all their great trainings!



### Rackard League Football - Girls

Well done to our girls, **Orna O'Shaughnessy, Priya Daly O'Toole, Grace Ivanoff, Aibhín Kenny, Sophie Ivanoff, Sophia Church, Cáit Gegan, Usha Daly O'Toole, Louise Foley, Síofra Higgins and Síofra O'Connor** who proudly represented Scoil Ghormáin Naofa on the Castletown Rackard League Football Team. They put up some great battles, particularly against Craanford in their last game Ms. Dempsey and the girls are now looking forward to competing for the Shield which will be played early in November.



### G.A.A. Hurling Coaching

**1st to 6th classes** attended Hurling coaching sessions provided by Wexford County Board for the last six weeks. Thank you to those parents and children who shared their hurls and helmets with others. This enabled every child from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> to participate in the coaching and give them a taste of hurling.

### Rugby:

**3rd to 6th classes** will engage in Rugby Sessions provided by the IRFU after midterm break.

### Swimming News :

**Ms. Byrne's and Ms. D'Arcy's** classes have completed their 6 week swimming lessons block.

Swimming for **Ms. Dempsey's and Ms. Whittle's classes** will commence in January for six weeks in Arklow Swimming Pool. This will be followed by Ms. McGonnell's Infants.

### First Holy Communion



We will celebrate our First Holy Communion on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. This is a very special day for all the boys and girls in second class who will be preparing throughout the year for this special sacrament with their teacher and

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> continued.....

We are currently working on compiling a Ghost Stories booklet. This booklet will comprise of local or national Ghost Stories. The children have designed fantastic booklet covers and one will be chosen to cover the booklet. We will tell our Ghost Stories in class on the last day before midterm

6<sup>th</sup> class are very excited about their monthly subscription to the Primary Planet Magazine and they are holding a Halloween Themed Cake Sale on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October to help cover their costs. We are all excited about the delicious, spooky treats they will serve up.



## Án Taisce Green Flag Award:

Another year another Greenschool committee!! Welcome to our new members and hopefully the old members will help the new members in their role. Our new committee is Jamie Kavanagh, Jack O'Gorman, Ailbhe Rowlands, Sophie Ivanoff, Niall Condren, Conor Fanning, Bridget O'Brien and Cillian Blackwell. This is the school year we will find out if our hard work, working on our Travel flag has paid off. We need to continue with our WOW as much as possible and keep our litter to a minimum by bringing our rubbish home and recycling as much as we can. Remember we also have energy and water flags, so we need to turn off all electrical items when we are not using them and to conserve water where we can and this also includes doing the same at home.

## "Active School Flag" Programme:

A new committee has been formed for this school year. The following is our new committee; Eimear Wolohan, Courtney Fegan, Daniel Proctor, Paige O' Connor, David Byrne, Sofia Church, Siofra Higgins, Dan Kelly, Alannah Noctor, Jack Fanning, Aaron Healy, Jennifer Allen, Ms.D'Arcy, Ms.McDevitt, Concepta Church and Linda Noctor.

We have also introduced an active homework programme called Super Troopers to get families not only moving more in a fun way but it also encourages families to spend time together doing a shared activity. Our activity for the month of October is skipping.



## Parents Association Fundraising Events:

### Monster Bingo:

We will be holding a Monster Bingo Night in aid of Scoil Ghormáin Naofa in late November. (Provisional date Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.) This will be one of our main fundraisers of the year. It promises to be a great night of entertainment and a great social night for all parents, staff and members of the wider Castletown community. There are fantastic prizes up for grabs on the night! Please come along to support the school and have a great night out!

### Halloween Disco:

A **SPOOKTACULAR night** will take place on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Golden Anchor 5pm until 7pm. Entry is €3 per child or €10 for a family. It promises to be a great night with plenty of fun and prizes for all who attend.

### Christmas Cards:

Following on from the success of the Christmas Card Fundraiser a few years ago the children are going to **design their own Christmas Cards** again this year. These will be available in early December for us to buy whilst orders will be taken in mid-November.

## Save the Date



### October

23<sup>rd</sup> ; School Closes for Mid-Term Break  
Halloween Disco 5pm

### November

2<sup>nd</sup> ; School Reopens  
14<sup>th</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> Class First Holy Communion Mass  
16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> ; Parent Teacher Meetings, school will finish at 2.25pm to facilitate this  
22<sup>nd</sup>; The Big Sing  
27<sup>th</sup>; Monster Bingo Provisional Date

### December



12<sup>th</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> Class First Holy Communion Mass  
17<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Night of Entertainment in the Church  
22<sup>nd</sup> ; School closes for Christmas Holidays

### January

6<sup>th</sup>; School Reopens  
8<sup>th</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class Swimming in Arklow commences  
22<sup>nd</sup> ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Class First Holy Communion Mass

### February

13<sup>th</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup>&4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class Swimming in Arklow finishes  
18<sup>th</sup>; School Closes for Mid-Term Break  
22<sup>nd</sup>; School Reopens  
26<sup>th</sup>; Junior/Senior Swimming in Arklow commences  
27<sup>th</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> Class First Holy Communion Mass

### March



16<sup>th</sup>; School Closes for St. Patrick's Weekend and Easter Holidays

### April

4<sup>th</sup>; School Reopens  
23<sup>rd</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> Class First Holy Communion Mass  
30<sup>th</sup>; School Closes for May Bank Holiday

### May

5<sup>th</sup>; School Reopens after May Bank Holiday  
15<sup>th</sup>; First Holy Communion Ceremony for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
29<sup>th</sup>; Corpus Christi Mass Arklow

### June

6<sup>th</sup>; School Closes for May Bank Holiday  
7<sup>th</sup>; School Reopens  
24<sup>th</sup>; School Closes for Summer

