

Welcome to our
Newsletter!
Summer 2019

'Scoil Ghormáin Naofa' Newsletter

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Welcome note from the Principal.....

After a year crammed with learning scientific, musical and social activities we have arrived at the end of June! It has been a **wonderfully vibrant year** with so many opportunities being afforded to our students.

To achieve so much is made possible by the **dedication and enthusiasm** of our team of teachers. To have so many **committed and passionate teachers** in one school is quite unique. We are supported too by a **dynamic SNA team and wonderful secretary**. I have been complimented on the atmosphere that affects visitors when they arrive and this is down to the positivity amongst the staff which spreads to our **super student body**.

Congratulations to our 5th and 6th class students who were confirmed by **Archbishop Diarmuid Martin** on June 15th. They conducted themselves gracefully and with respect. I would like to pay tribute to their teachers and SNAs who worked to prepare them for this day. There was a huge amount of **lovely feedback about the music** at mass. I am indebted to Ms. Byrne and Ms. Ní Shuilleabháin for this. It was wonderful to have Ms. Hearne and Ms. Carroll accompany the beautiful choir and instrumentalists. The PA did us proud with refreshments in the school afterwards. All reflected so well on our school!



We recently conducted **standardised testing** and are very happy with the outcomes. With the introduction of the new Drumcondra tests, there was a predicted plummet of scores nationally but at Scoil Ghormáin Naofa, we managed to retain the bell curve result for our school. Well done to all.

Many thanks to all families who supported our **fundraising initiatives** this year. We have selected the **purchase of ipads** as our primary focus for next year. This is to complement our **digital learning framework** initiative. We would also like to look at **music and special education resources** as two other areas worthy of funding. Occasional visitors may crop up during the year and it is wonderful to be able to use fundraising to provide these interesting experiences for our students.

I would like to acknowledge the **huge work of the volunteers** in our school. To those who have engaged in **paired reading**, we are grateful for your time and commitment. This is an area that we are keen to develop next year. Parents and grandparents are urged to contact class teachers or the office for more information. To those parents who offered their skills and talents in various areas, thank you. We love to welcome **parental involvement** in our school.

On a personal level, I would like to acknowledge the Trojan work of the **Board of Management and Parents' Association** who so actively support the work that we do in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to say '**au revoir**' to our **outgoing 6th class students**. May they continue to **embrace learning** in all its forms in post primary school. I would encourage them to join societies, teams and clubs in their new school as it is this **attachment** that is so important for teenagers to flourish. The world is your oyster – explore!

I wish you all a happy, restful summer! Emer Russell

Prayer to End a School Year

God of wisdom,
we thank you
for all the gifts you have given us
throughout this school year.
We praise you for giving us life,
for saving us in Christ,
and for choosing us to be your people.

As we come to the end of this school year,
we voice our gratitude
for the good things you have done in us,
and we praise you for all who have shared
in the work of this school.

We ask you to bless them in your love
and give them refreshment and peace.
We praise you, God,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers/Revised Edition UBCEB

2019/2020 Dates to Remember

August 27th 10-12.30;

School Uniforms for sale in the school

August 28th 9am;

Students return to school

October 28th – 1st November (inclusive);

Mid-Term Break

20th December – 3rd January (inclusive);

Christmas Holidays

20th & 21st February;

Mid-Term Break

16th & 17th March;

St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday

6th April – 17th April (inclusive);

Easter Holidays

4th May;

May Bank Holiday

1st June – 5th June inclusive;

Mid-Term

26th June;

Summer holidays start

School email address:

cns.iaswx@gmail.com



School website address:

www.castletownnationalschool.ie

School Twitter account:

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

Class Updates;

Junior/Senior Infants;

Final term has been eventful! Ms. Rowley came to visit our class and we had lots of fun with her. In Aistear we learnt all about the **Optician**: we played in the optician's, made glasses in art and even went searching for glasses in the sand!



Aside from the fun with Ms. Rowley we worked hard on all areas of the curriculum! In Irish we learnt all about **Bia, Siopadóireacht** agus **An Teilifís**. Our Maths topics were money, weight and capacity. Most recently we've been busy practising our addition in preparation for the more challenging work to come in Senior Infants and First Class! Science was a main area of focus this term with the children observing the **life cycle of butterflies and chicks**! We went on a trip to the Duck Pond in Arklow to observe a swan and her cygnets. We have been busy all year and have really enjoyed working hard and making our learning fun! Wishing you all a happy and safe summer! Ms. Whittle

1st/2nd Class;

It has been a busy few weeks in 1st and 2nd class. We said **goodbye to Ms. Carroll** as our teacher but are glad that she's still here in school to keep an eye! Ms. Hearne is very **impressed with our learning** throughout the year and is so happy to be back.

As the year winds down, we continue to work hard but are very lucky to be having such fun with all of the activities going on. From active week to chicks hatching, there has been **great excitement**.



We incorporated the **theme of the Zoo** in our learning – we took a trip through our SESE books, we completed some lovely parrot art and we even learned the **names of different animals as Gaeilge**! We learned the song *An Eilifint* in music too. This is all very fitting as we look forward to our **school tour to Wells House** where we will get to visit the farm and see the different species of animals to be found there.

We also got the chance to **study wildflowers** and took the opportunity to take our **learning outside**. We **identified and recorded** the various wildflowers on our school grounds. We hope to continue this exploration throughout the summer and look forward to the **long, sunny days** of freedom ahead.

3rd /4th Class;

3rd and 4th Class have had a very enjoyable final term and are looking forward to their summer holidays! We recently had a visit from members of **Gorey Fire Brigade** and learned so much about **fire- safety** in our homes. Two very important messages they gave us were to check our **fire alarm weekly** and to learn our **Eircode by heart**, in case of emergency! **Structural engineer** Diarmaid also visited us this term and we learned about **house design, sustainable energy** and **building for the future**.

In **Drama**, we were treated to a performance of the play "**The Bluebird**" when a theatre group came to visit us. It was fantastic! In **Art**, we wrapped up the year by creating **Mondrian- inspired windsocks**. This class really have enjoyed **being creative** this year! **Active Week** was the highlight of this term for us, we loved "**Wake Up, Shake**

Homework

As a staff we decided to replace written homework with **reading and active homework** for the month of June. We hope that this was a **positive experience** for all and that lots of fresh air was inhaled!

We encourage students to register for Gorey library's **Summer Star reading challenge** to stimulate the grey matter over the holidays. Details were sent home and more information is available from your local library.

GAA

It was another very successful year on the playing fields in both codes for the boys and girls. They **represented their schools with pride** each time they took to the field. The Rackard League teams were very competitive with the boys reaching the **A quarter finals** in both codes. The school also continue to compete very well in the **Mini 7s** competitions with **another huge win** for the boys 7s football team coming out on top for the **second year in a row**. That team were then asked to **represent Wexford** in Wexford Park at half time of the Louth, Wexford senior football championship game which was a great honour.



Congratulations to Joseph O' Flaherty who represented the school and Wexford in the **Cumann na mBunscoil in Portlaoise** recently in a blitz. Likewise, congratulations to Fionn Kavanagh who was chosen to represent Wexford at half time at the **All-Ireland football final** on the 1st of September in Croke Park. Best of luck Fionn! Finally, I would like to thank all the staff and parents for their **help and dedication** throughout the year. It is all very much appreciated. Hopefully next year will be just as enjoyable!

Class Updates contd.;

3rd /4th Class contd.;



Up" every morning and the **Croghan Walk** was great fun also. We cannot wait for **Sports Day** and our **School Tour!** Thank you for a great year and enjoy a very happy and safe summer. Ms. Ní Shúilleabháin.

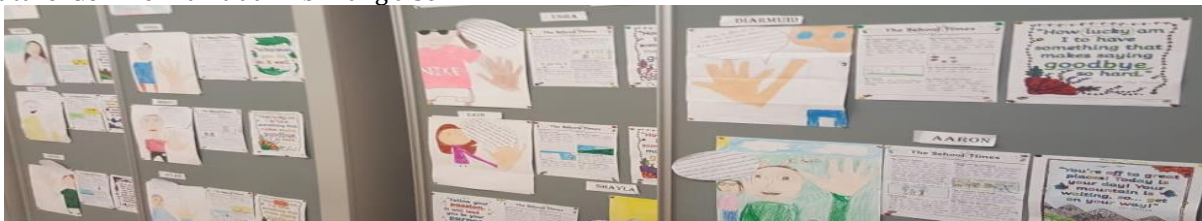
4th & 5th Class;

Hello from Mr. Breen's class. **Thank you for all your support** throughout the year. It is hard to believe we are near the end of another school year. It has certainly been a busy and exciting term. The class have put a huge effort into the entire curriculum but a special mention must go to their **research on the Maoris**, their Maori masks and famous **portraits in Art**, their **report writing** and investigations on the **culture and life in China**. Outside of the classroom we have all kept very active during the last term with active week, gymnastics, martial arts, basketball/soccer leagues, our sports day and our **school tour to Explorium**. The children have worked extremely hard this year and are now ready to relax for the summer. I would like to wish all the boys and girls a very **safe and enjoyable summer**. I look forward to seeing you all again in September.



6th Class;

Well what a busy final term we have had! We have enjoyed active week and this year **6th class beat the teachers and parents**, something which I am still hearing about! As part of our STEM efforts, 6th class researched the topic of **renewable energy** and made and presented **PowerPoint presentations**. In English, we focused on **report writing** during this term. In maths, revision of all topics was on the agenda. We completed standardised tests in Maths and English and well done to all. Sixth class have just made their **Confirmation** and are busy preparing for their **Graduation** ceremony next week. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the boys and girls of 6th class well as they look forward to a new and exciting adventure. Enjoy this new experience, always try your best and be yourself. We are **very proud of all you have achieved** in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa and a very bright past can only lead to an even brighter future. Go n - éirí an t-ádh libh rang a sé!



Class Updates contd.;

Ahare Room

Wow! We can't believe a year is almost over already! The boys have had a great year and they have all worked so hard throughout the year. There was great excitement for Active Schools week where the boys took part in different activities from **Tug of War** to **Wake up Shake up**. **Bubble play** was enjoyed thoroughly by all of the boys! It proved to be such a great way to have a break from our work here in the classroom. We also enjoyed having picnics with some of the other classes but unfortunately the weather has not allowed us to have too many!

The boys have really enjoyed using the interactive whiteboard to help with their **counting, matching and ordering of numbers!** This is a fun way of learning about our numbers but also a great way to learn about **turn-taking and sharing**.

Last Friday we welcomed a **pet farm** into our class! The children met a guinea fowl, a piglet, a kid goat, a hamster and other lovely animals. They even got the chance to **feed the kid goat** with a baby's bottle! The boys were thrilled with the visitors and they learned loads about the different animals.

The boys have worked so hard this year. I am **extremely proud** of them and of all that they have achieved. I hope that they have a lovely, peaceful summer and I can't wait to see them all again in September for another great year!

Active School Week 2019:



It has been another very Active term but the **highlight was being awarded with our 2nd Active flag!** We were visited by Mr. Tadhg Foran, adjudicator, on 17th June. He stayed with us for over two hours. He spoke with the principal Ms. Russell and Ms. D'Arcy. Then Ms. Darcy and the committee gave him a tour of the building, showed him our **new equipment** and P.E storage facility and then discussed all our **active endeavours**. He spoke with the **playground leaders** and visited Mr. Breen's class for a chat as well. We also discussed curriculum P.E with Mr. Foran. He told the committee that he was very impressed with their work and despite having no hall was overwhelmed with how well we manage all our activities. He was delighted to award us with our second flag. Huge thank you to Ms. Russell, all the staff, parents and all partnerships for all the work they have put in. It has been very much a **team effort**.

As well as this we all enjoyed **Active week Activities** such as martial art classes, circuits, dancing, bubbles on the yard, yoga and meditation, healthy living talk, Superhero Walk a Mile with a Smile, Soccer/basketball blitz finals, penalty shootout, tug of war demo, teachers vs 6th class basketball match and the big finale Croghan walk! Please see our **website** for all the details and photographs.

Have a wonderful active summer,
The Active School Committee.

Board of Management Update

The board of management would like to thank all who have contributed to making Scoil Ghor-máin Naofa the **best possible learning environment** for our students again this year. **Agreed reports** of all meetings are posted periodically on the school website www.castletownnation-alschool.ie. We wish you all a happy, relaxing summer.

Parents' Association Update

On behalf of our Parents Association, I would like to thank all of the parents, teachers and SNAs who helped out on what I can only describe as another **very successful sports day** on Friday 21st June. We hope that all our families had a fun day and we were absolutely delighted that the weather held up for us (especially the parents on the BBQ!).

I would also like to thank all of our parents for their **continued support** throughout the year – again a very eventful year with lots of fun activities for the school – highlights include: Halloween Disco, Pancake Tuesday, Grandparents Day, Easter Egg Hunt, celebrations for the Communion and Confirmation Classes, Croghan Walk and Sports Day. In addition, the PA were delighted to be in a position to **sponsor the Science Workshop** and some **dance/exercise classes** for the school.

We were delighted to see some **new parents** join the PA this year and we hope that they enjoyed the events. Again we would ask for continued support for next year and beyond. **We cannot run these fantastic events without your support.**

We would like to wish the **outgoing 6th class students** the very best of luck in the next stage of their education journey as well as the **new children** who will join our Junior class with Ms Hearne in September 2019.

We hope that you all have a **fantastic summer break**. See you all during the next term.
Mags Tallon. Chair Parents Association



STEM

We are delighted to announce we have been awarded the **Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science & Maths Award!** We have been awarded the plaque award (highest ranking) for our work in fulfilling a number of criteria under the headings of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths this year. The many activities we completed during the year have **enriched and enhanced the teaching and learning of STEM** in the school. We can't wait to put the funds raised by the Student Council to use and improve our resources in this area and continue to improve STEM teaching and learning in the school. The activities we completed this year can be viewed on the **school website** under the Science and STEM section.

Huge thanks to all the staff for their support throughout the process!

Student Council

Ever since the start of the year the Student Council have been hard at work to make this school a happy place and **give our students a voice!** We have held lots of meetings for planning and listening to the students' suggestions submitted to the suggestion boxes. We organised **Py-jama Day** as a fundraiser to fund items the students believe we need such as footballs, atlases, whiteboard markers and science equipment. It was a huge success with **€222 raised** and everyone had a great time. We even had our **breakfast in school!** We **led the annual Shoebox Appeal** and were happy to send off over 80 shoeboxes to children in need. It was also nice to host an Easter egg hunt for all the classes.

By Jennifer & Sophia on behalf of the 2019 Student Council.

*I would like to thank Usha, Jennifer, Sophia, Kiet, Finn and Robyn for all their work and commitment to the Student Council throughout the year!
Ms. Whittle



Parents' Association helping out on Sports Day