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 Scoil Ghormáin Naofa

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School information

The school calendar, booklists and uniform information are available to access from our website over the summer
<http://castletownnationalschool.ie/calendar/>



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

As we hurtle towards the end of another busy year at Scoil Ghormáin Naofa, I have welcomed the time to **reflect on our year**. I had an anxious summer last year in preparation for reopening in September but the sound of **childish chatter and joyous laughter** made it all worthwhile!

I hope that you like our **new, reduced newsletter**. We decided that with daily updates on Dojo and our social media pages, that it would be **kinder to the planet to reduce paper**. It is important to us, as a **Green School**, to reflect on our practices. With this in mind, we have also decided to **ban Twistable-type colours** so that we can **eliminate another single use plastic**. We continue to **ban glitter** and our **reusable school water bottle** is available to purchase for €4.

We have been **blessed with our outdoor landscape** here in Castletown and we have experienced a renewed appreciation for it this year; this has truly been a **positive effect of the pandemic**. We have optimised the use of our outdoor space by **developing an outdoor classroom** that is always in use on a mild day! **Donations from parents** accessorised the area beautifully making it a pleasure to be in. Our **biodiversity development is, for me, the highlight of our year**. As we considered our place in the universe with all the time we spent in lockdown, we came to appreciate the role we play in nature as **custodians of the planet**. We are excited to pursue this interest further next year with the installation of owl and bat habitats. It has been fantastic to see **Carmel and Finola** spearhead the **biodiversity plan** for our school, assisted so enthusiastically by our students and staff. We hope that our students bring this message with them home and indeed through life.

As we bid adieu to our super **6th class students**, I will remember their kindness and motivation in **fundraising** for St. Vincent de Paul with such drive at Christmas. I hope that they take this spirit of **giving to those less fortunate** with them through their life journey. The diverse range of talents and skills in the class, from art, to music, to GAA, to rugby, to debating, to creative writing, to kindness, to Irish, to numeracy.... **I hope you know that we have valued you all individually**.

I would like to acknowledge the Trojan work of **our staff (teachers, SNAs and secretary)** who I witness going above and beyond the call of duty to provide an **excellent academic and holistic education for our children**. There is no 'clock on - clock off mentality' here, our staff are **genuinely motivated by their care for the students** and I think that was especially obvious during the lockdown months.

I express **my gratitude** to all parents, members of the PA, clergy and board of management for all their ongoing support.

My wish for next year is that we can begin to resume a normality for our children. How brave they have been in the face of such unnatural challenge. We will continue to do our best to create **happy, positive learning experiences** for them. I wish you all a really happy care-free summer embracing all the outdoor adventures that you can!

Emer Russell

Junior & Senior Infants 2020-2021

Many tales could be told about the **fun and laughs** that we had in class this year, however the best memory that comes to mind was the day that all the children were dressed up as **Superheroes for their Walk with a Smile for Active week**. Unfortunately, I had left the classroom to make an urgent phonecall, but while I was gone **Captain Underpants** came into the room to visit with the children. Apparently, Captain Underpants told the children that her super power is throwing underpants at people who are misbehaving! Personally, I found this a bit rude and lowering of standards for a Superhero but the **children thought that it was hilarious!** She assured them all that they have their own super powers and indeed we saw evidence of this later that day when they all walked and ran a full mile with a smile while dressed as their favourite Superhero!

Wishing you all a **super, fun filled and safe Summer**. Looking forward to seeing you all again in September! Orla Morris and class.



Senior/1st Class

Given the task of choosing one favourite memory was very difficult, as we have so many! We have really enjoyed **Junior Achiever with Naomi**, art projects every Friday, **gardening with Carmel and Finola** and **rugby with Daisy** every Thursday.

Active Week was such great fun. We enjoyed the walk to the beach especially. We loved our **'Superhero'** themed walk around the pitch too. The ice – creams afterwards were so tasty. Thanks to Aideen and Noel for being so generous. We are really enjoying our **new garden and swing**. We have enjoyed **feeding and watching the birds** throughout the year.

We loved performing at our Christmas concert and we look forward to hopefully having a live audience again next year! Although the year has been a little turbulent amid the restrictions brought about by covid, we have had a very full and fun year. We now look forward to what September brings! Ms. Walker and all the boys and girls in senior infants and 1st class would like to **wish everyone a happy and safe summer**.

Nicky Walker



2nd & 3rd Class

What a year it has been! We would like to **thank parents** for their patience, understanding and dedication to work during lock-down. We want to say a **huge well done to the children** for their **resilience and positive attitude** during these strange times. They have come out the other side still smiling and even more eager to learn. They are **superheroes**.

Despite setbacks throughout the year, we have made many wonderful memories in 2nd/3rd class. When asked, they said the following stood out for them: **our Christmas show, Active week**, and our famous **appearance on News2day!** Finally, we wish you all a wonderful, happy, healthy and safe summer.

Ms.D'Arcy & Mc.Devitt xx



4th & 5th Class

We have lots of **fantastic memories** from during the year but what stood out to the class after some heavy debating was; **our beach walk**, all activities during **Active Week**, video call with the **National Museum**, making Rice Krispie buns, tag rugby, **Junior Achievers**, developing our wet land area for our **biodiversity project** and rounders on the field on sunny days! We hope you have a super summer!

Mr. Breen and class



6th Class

Our favourite memory this year is of the **5km Santa Dash in December** which we organised in aid of the **St. Vincent de Paul Charity**. We trained hard and enjoyed getting fit and healthy for this worthwhile cause. Our families and neighbours donated generously and we couldn't believe it when **we raised over 3000 Euro!** On the day of the race there was **wonderful community spirit**; parents and teachers supported us as we ran the **scenic Clone Loop**. Afterwards it was celebration time with **lovely food courtesy of Donal, hot chocolates by Fiona and a movie**. This event really got us into the Christmas spirit!

During the 3rd Term, there have been many highlights. **Active Week** was hugely enjoyable for our class; we loved getting involved and helping others with many activities. We enjoyed all the **outdoor learning** this year - **cataloguing trees in the woodland**, planting and painting benches! We also particularly enjoyed project-work this year and everyone produced excellent **World War II projects**.

Our final week at Scoil Ghormáin Naofa will be an exciting one, with our **Graduation Ceremony and 6th Class tour** to look forward to. We have been **reminiscing fondly** about an amazing eight years here while also looking forward to our next adventure in Secondary School.

Ms. Ní Shúilleabháin and class



Wishing Everyone
A Happy & Safe Summer!

