

'Scoil Ghormáin Naofa' Newsletter

Castletown, Inch, Gorey, Co. Wexford

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Welcome to our
Newsletter!
September/October 2017

Welcome note from the Principal.....

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to begin by extending my **gratitude** to you all for your warm reception. I am thrilled to be taking over as Principal in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa. What a vibrant, happy place to be! I have met many of you already but for those who I haven't, I look forward to meeting you over the coming year. I am also looking forward to working with the **community** to continue to develop this wonderful school. Special thanks to Joe O'Shaughnessy and the Board of Management, to school staff and to the Parents' Association for their support.

New staff: I am joined by fellow new appointees this September. We welcome teachers Niall Breen, Johanna Murphy, Vicki Kinsella and SNA Fiona Byrne. Already they have brought so much to school life. Our school team is so motivated and dedicated.

Acknowledgement: There are many initiatives taking place in the school. I am so enthused by the commitment of our staff who have taken on coaching and coordination for Rackard League and Mini 7s tournaments, coordination of Maths week, teaching the school choir, working to maintain the Active School flag, the Green flag and importantly by engaging in continuous professional development which makes Scoil Ghormáin Naofa a school of progression. I am very grateful for this generosity of spirit towards making Scoil Ghormáin Naofa the best that it can be. There will be more detail throughout the newsletter about these activities.

Assemblies: We love our weekly assemblies. This is a chance for the school community to **gather and reflect** on our individual and class achievements. We often have a song or a poem at assembly. We reward both the **holistic and academic achievements** of our students thus giving them their time to shine!

Communication: I am a firm believer in the importance of positive communication between school and home. As such, you may follow our activities on **Twitter** (@Castletown_NS) or via our **website** www.castletownnationalschool.ie. We have also successfully implemented **Class Dojo** on a school wide basis and this is replacing the text alert system previously used. By subscribing to this you have saved the school a significant amount of money which can be used elsewhere - thank you. I also prefer Dojo as it enables us to bring you into the daily life of Scoil Ghormáin Naofa in a way that text messages cannot. The children love that their praise and reward is notified to parents. We hope you are enjoying it as much as we are! This **newsletter** is also a vital form of communication and I thank our newsletter team for their hard work in producing it!

School Mass: Many thanks to Fr. Brough and Fr McCarney for concelebrating our special opening of school year mass. Well done to Shane for serving the mass and thanks to Mary, our sacristan. Beautiful music was provided by Ms Byrne and our students who sang their hearts out!

Sensory room: As we go to print, we are finalising our sensory room. We believe that this will be a fantastic addition to our school. The sensory room will provide a **sanctuary** to students who need it. The sensory room is a **progressive and proactive** measure to ensure that school can provide the calmest environment possible for those who may need assistance in this respect. It is a **solar system themed room** and I will include a picture of the finished product on Class Dojo for all to see. I would like to commend the **team effort** that has gone into making the room happen; from board members, to teachers, to SNAs. I am truly grateful.

Mental health awareness: We are mindful of the importance of **positive mental health** and as such, staff will be upskilling in meditation and mindfulness teaching in the coming weeks. We hope to be part of a **pilot mindfulness scheme** for schools. We believe that ease of mind is conducive to optimum learning. Continuing in this theme, our 5th and 6th class were delighted to be part of **The Big Sing for Mental Health Awareness** in Glenart College on October 20th. The choir sang 'Believe in Yourself' and I am very grateful to Ms. Byrne for all her work.

Finally **well done to our students** on a very productive first term. Here's to a great year. I hope everyone enjoys the mid-term break. See you at the Hallowe'en disco!
Is mise le meas, Emer Russell

Reflection



*"Is leis na ceithre bhalla seo a
chothaítear, ní amháin
foirgneamh na scoile, ach todhcaí
na bpáistí laistigh - School is a
building which has four walls with
tomorrow inside "*



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

Ms. J. Murphy: 1st/2nd Class

Mr. N. Breen: 3rd/4th Class

Ms. E. Russell: 5th Class and Principal

Ms. Byrne: 6th Class

Ms. V. Kinsella: S.E.T.

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

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

Carmel Duke, Finola Quirke and Fiona Byrne are our S.N.A. team.

Siobhán is our Secretary

School email address:

cns.iaswx@gmail.com



School website address:

www.castletownnationalschool.ie

For your Calendar:

School Fancy Dress;
28th October 2017

Hallowe'en Disco
Golden Anchor
28th October 2017
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Mid-Term Break
30th October 2017 -
3rd November 2017
Inclusive

Sing Out Loud
Wexford Opera House
13th November 2017

School Christmas
Concert
20th December 2017

School Closes 22nd
December and re-
opens 8th January
2018

Class News:

Ms Whittle – Junior/Senior Infants

Another new year; another new set of Junior Infants. We are delighted to welcome 11 new children to our school who are ready to learn!

So far this term we have been busy! We have been learning all about **autumn** and we have loved making some leaf monsters from all the autumn items we collected. (See below). We have been listening to autumn stories and singing autumn songs. We've loved learning all about the leaves changing colours.

Aside from our Autumn theme, we have also been busy **learning new sounds**. The Junior Infants have even started to read! We've been matching and making patterns in maths. In **Gaeilge** we have been learning how to say "Dia duit" and "Conas atá tú?" Our teacher thinks we are super learners!

On Monday 23rd, we are going on a trip to the **library**. This is an amazing opportunity and we are all very excited to borrow some books! A great way to end the first few weeks back!



Ms. Murphy – First/Second Class

We are all delighted to be back to school and have been learning so much since our return. We have welcomed four **new pupils** into 1st and 2nd class and Nathaniel, Rosie Bea, Robyn and Harry are settling in really well and have made lots of new friends.

We have fully embraced the season of **autumn** in the classroom and have done all sorts of fun activities to incorporate the theme. In English we wrote about things we see in autumn and 2nd class even wrote **acrostic poems** about this.



Our autumn art work turned out great too – we did **mono prints** of autumn trees along a lake and they look super! As well as this, we looked at the work of a famous artist called Giuseppe Arcimboldo who lived many years ago. He used fruits and vegetables to create portraits of people so we took inspiration from his work and created our own fruit and veg portraits.

In **History**, we have been learning about the old story The Children of Lir and in **Geography** we have been drawing maps of our school and our local area. **Science** has been really interesting lately as we got the chance to grow our own daffodil bulbs in the school garden with Carmel. We can't wait to see them bloom in the spring time!



First Holy Communion

5th February First Confession
20th May First Holy Communion

Curriculum News

Literacy

Our teachers had a meeting with Barbara from **Gorey library** and have organised some educational trips, engaged in block borrowing of novels and availed in the block borrowing of research materials. We aim to promote the relationship between school and library and create an awareness of the **importance of life long reading** to our students

Visual Art

Our corridors are a sea of colour! There is an array of media and techniques on display. All the strands of the curriculum are represented and include print, paint and colour, construction, fabric and fibre. Check out our pictures on **Class Dojo**!

Maths Week

Another **Maths Week** has been and gone. This year's activities were briefly interrupted by storm Ophelia, but that didn't stop the children of Castletown! Once again, we got right into all the fun and activities. Some rose to the challenge of creating a 2-d collage while stuck indoors!



Engrossed in the Maths Week Maths Trail!

Classes took part in the **word problem of the day** and they weren't easy! Our teachers were really impressed with how well we did.

Ms. Kinsella organised a **maths trail** for 3rd to 6th classes. It was great fun! Thanks to Ms. Kinsella for all her work in putting these together.



5th Class out and about on the Maths Trail!

This year saw the 2nd Annual **Maths Eyes Competition**. The response was phenomenal and the children really took some fantastic pictures! It's getting harder and harder to choose a winner each year. Check out dojo for pictures of our winners!

Class News contd.

Mr. Breen's 3rd /4th Class

We have had an exciting first few weeks in Scoil Ghormáin Naofa. We are delighted to say that the boys and girls have settled in very well into 3rd and 4th class and are working extremely hard. **History** has been very interesting. We studied various topics such as the myths and legends about 'The Salmon of Knowledge', and we even looked at some fascinating games children played in the past. Some other interesting things that we have been enjoying up to now are rugby and swimming in **P.E.**, where the class showed great team play and skills, falling from space pictures in Art, a catchy poem to help us learn the counties of Ireland in Geography and we examined the various bones in the human body during science. The class is also looking forward to completing their group projects on the counties of Ireland. We have been working very hard at our subtraction in **Maths** and gathering information to display on various graphs and charts. A huge well done to all in 3rd and 4th class, keep up the great work!



Busy at work on a Geography Project!

Ms. Russell's 5th Class

We have had a fun filled and interesting first term. 5th class have done a wonderful job helping Ms. Russell to settle in at Scoil Ghormáin Naofa and she is very grateful! One **highlight** of the term for the class has been the Hallowe'en decoration competition. Each child had to make a decoration from recycled objects found at home. They were allowed to enlist the help of family. We couldn't believe the **creativity** that resulted from this project!! Our corridor was filled with ghoulish and gruesome 3-d constructions – we definitely have future Hollywood prop designers in our midst! Check out our **website** for pictures of our spooky decorations! www.castletownnationalschool.ie



Engaging in conscience alley in SPHE!



Fun with paper conversations in History!

This term in **SPHE**, we have been looking at **online safety**. We now know that when we post online, we leave a digital footprint. We should always make sure that we only post positive comments. We also learned how to deal with cyber bullying. We know not to reply and that we should **report** it to our parents. While the internet is a wonderful tool, we learned that we must be responsible users.

We are looking forward to a music filled few weeks between now and Christmas as we plan for all our upcoming performances!

Sports All Stars

Mini 7s Girls:

The girls' mini 7s team was very **successful** this year. In the first round they won all three games beating Loreto Gorey, Ballyellis and a strong Gaelscoil team. They went on to the second round on Friday 6th October. They came up against a competitive Kilmuckridge side but kept their cool and battled hard to overcome them. The Scoil Ghormáin Naofa girls had all the play in the second half and were so unlucky not to have tallied a higher score. They then went on to play Ballyfad who had beaten Kilmuckridge. Ballyfad had a strong team out especially the mid-field but the Castletown girls didn't give them much space and were only a few points down at half time. However the home side found it difficult to get scores and the neighbours pulled away in the second half to win the game. **Well done** to Sarah McCabe, Ciara Byrne Kavanagh, Sophia Church, Cáit Gregan, Sophie Ivanoff, Louise Foley, Sofia Higgins, Sofia O' Connor, Mia O' Donnell, Julie Ivanoff, Aedin Condren and Usha Daly O' Toole.

Girls' Rackard League:

The girls have played three football matches in the Rackard League competition to date and have also had some great training sessions after school. With all three schools on board, we have a great panel of girls and lots of **talent** to choose from.

While we were unfortunate to lose our first two games against Craanford and Kilmuckridge, we showed great **teamwork and skill**.



We received a walkover from Gorey and won our final match which was played at home against Ballycanew. The girls really fought hard during the first half of this match against a very strong wind. We took advantage of the weather in the second half and got some great scores to secure the win. We wait to see what comes next and hope to organise training in the coming weeks.

Boys Mini 7s and Rackard League.

The Boys have been extremely busy from the very beginning of the year with both Rackard League and Mini 7s. The teams are very well represented and are **performing excellently** on the field of play. We are in the thick of things in Rackard league with just one group game left to play against Ferns. To date, we have played Bunclody, Kilmuckridge and Kilanerin where the boys came out on top with three hard fought wins while having just one narrow defeat to St. Joseph's CBS. A win over Ferns will place us in the A semi-finals which would be a great **achievement** for the team.

Class News contd.

Ms. Byrne's 6th Class

Welcome back to a new academic year everyone and what a busy start it has been! While we have been busy playing Rackard League and Mini 7s games, we have managed to fit some work in! In **maths**, we have studied data and just completed multiplication. We are looking forward to maths week and solving all the problems that we encounter. In **English**, we have started a class novel George Speaks by Dick King Smith. We attended Gorey library for a **writing workshop** by local author Caroline Busher. We were so enthused by her work and creativity that we have decided to purchase a class set of her novel The Ghosts of Mischievous Children. In order to allow this to happen, 6th class will be running a **bake sale on Thursday 26th October**. Our own English writing has improved through our use of adjectives, adverbs, similes and metaphors, all of which we have studied in this term. In September we celebrated **Roald Dahl Day** and we created our own characters and profiles.....these were very interesting!



In **Irish**, we have studied the themes of mé féin and an teach. Children made some very interesting grandparent profiles which were displayed in the corridor. We have examined the life of the Celts and the Normans in **History**. In **Geography**, we have learned the counties, rivers and lakes of Ireland. After Hallowe'en, we will broaden our studies to Europe. In art, we have made some wonderful pieces. We made some 3d autumn trees, leafy creatures, celtic designs and studied the work of Vincent Van Gogh, to mention but a few projects. Children have taken up the **tin whistle** again and our first tune is Spencil Hill. We hope everyone has a spooktacular Halloween break and we look forward to more adventures in November.

A word from our Parents' Association

The Parents Association would like to extend a very **warm welcome** to all its new members and to remind parents that they are welcome to all our meetings throughout the year. Our AGM took place on Tuesday 12th September and it was lovely to see some new faces the meeting was very successful and we are happy to announce that this year's Halloween Disco fundraiser is for The **Frances Ryan School of Dance** to visit our school with a 6 week block of dance for all classes, to begin after Midterm. We are also extremely excited to also add that this year the school will be getting a visit from the **Big Bear Planetariums** and this cost will be covered from our uniform funds. In conjunction with this visit, the Parents Association will be giving a small **donation** to the purchase of new equipment for our new sensory room within the school which will incorporate a similar theme to help develop senses through music, special objects, and lighting. We would like to sincerely thank all the parents for their continued **support** not only with the uniforms but also helping out with our fundraisers, however **many hands make light work** and we would really appreciate new parents to come on board to help to continue the good work for our school.

Many Thanks

The Parents' Association

Update from the Board of Management

Welcome back to school everyone, we hope you all had a safe and happy summer holiday. Over the summer break we carried out a number of small projects within the school and outside also. We have now replaced all damaged or old guttering with new. The gates and wall to the front of the school have been painted along with the front of school area and ball court area. We have also put a new drinking fountain at the back of the school. Our library and staff room have had blinds installed also.

We have now updated our classroom in the old part of the school, which this year is Miss Byrne's room. New cupboards and sink area were installed along with new carpet and linoleum. We hope to replace the door in Miss Byrne's room to complete this project over the coming months. We would like to thank all who supported our annual Golf classic and making this maintenance possible.

Thank you to all the parents who supported the voluntary subscription in any way possible. This money allowed us to help the children in so many ways, with new Aistear equipment, maths equipment, comprehension boxes, sensory needs and a reduction in our school tour price.

Finally we would like to thank the staff of our school who ran a homework club last year, which allowed for a new amplifier for school concerts etc. and along with the board purchased a new projector for the library.

We hope to have a great Hallowe'en Break and thank you in advance for supporting our Parent's Association fundraising Hallowe'en Disco.

Boys Mini 7s and Rackard League contd.

The Mini 7s side are certainly representing the school with **pride** and have qualified for the semi-finals in Monamolin where we will take on Monamolin and Gaelscoil Inis Córthaidh to battle it out for the final. The last day out the boys had three very tough games against Kilanerin, Ballyellis and Monaseed, however the back line held strong and we came away with three wins.



Best of luck to both teams in the rest of their games. Also a huge thank you to Michael Kavanagh for helping out with the teams and to the parents for their great support and for providing transport to the games. Thanks to Carmel for her coordination of all the logistics! It's very much appreciated.

Active School Flag



It is early days in the new school year and yet our school community is very active.

Teachers have had students out and exercising with great enthusiasm. We have rugby training weekly and 3rd/4th have been enjoying swimming lessons. In class, students take breaks daily for **mindfulness** which regularly involves gym like movements and dance.

Our football enthusiasts have been busy with **Mini 7s and Rackard League** matches.

Ms.D'Arcy was on a course recently called **'Move Well, Move Often'**. It aims to develop the fundamental movement skills of the child. The more confidence and knowledge a child has about his/her movement, the more they will want to move!

This is a new initiative by the Department of Education and skills and comes very much under the Active School Flag programme. We have the flag until 2019 and we want to hold onto it! We will also look at an Aquatics Water Safety programme called **'Land Paws'**. It teaches about water safety as part of the P.E aquatic programme and Personal Safety in the SPHE programme so that pupils develop confidence and competence IN, ON and NEAR water.

SCOOTERS at the READY!!!

We had a 'Bring your scooter to school,' day on **Friday 20th of October**. It was a great success and we hope to have more days like it!



Finally we are also looking forward to our annual **Hallowe'en school disco** and I hope everyone young and old will dance and get moving!