

# School Newsletter

Welcome to our Hallowe'en Newsletter, bumper full of all going on in Scoil Lachtaín this half-term. Thanks for all your co-operation and positivity over the last eight weeks.

Scoil Lachtaín Naofa



Achadh Úr

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## Dates to remember:

- ❖ Midterm 30<sup>th</sup> Oct - 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. incl.
- ❖ Parent Teacher Meetings Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- ❖ Team Hope Shoebox Appeal Deadline Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Confirmation 5<sup>th</sup>&6<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- ❖ First Communion 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023



## Anti-Bullying Week

Our school's Anti-Bullying Week 2023 will run from Monday 6<sup>th</sup>-Fri 10<sup>th</sup> November. Cyber-bullying/Internet Safety workshop with Ger Brick 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes, **and for Parents/Guardians on Monday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in School Hall.** Please find the time for one member of the family to attend. I guarantee it will be well worth it.

Anti-bullying workshops with Pat Forde for all classes on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

***Our Anti-Bullying policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2023.***

(Available on our website. Hard copies of this and other policies can be obtained through the school office.)

## Child Protection

The Department of Education has updated Guidelines and Procedures for all schools in relation to Child Protection & Welfare, which promote the welfare of all children.

***The Board at Scoil Lachtaín has adopted these 2023 guidelines as school policy as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.***

If there is a matter of concern in relation to the abuse of children, we are obliged to report this to the HSE. They will assess the case and provide the necessary support for the child concerned.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the school Principal, Mr. Brendan Tynan, and the Deputy DLP is the Mrs. Róisín Bolger.

**We are preparing for Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal again. The deadline this year is November 10<sup>th</sup>. Please call to the office if you require any extra leaflets. Thank you for your generosity.**

A new Primary Maths Curriculum is underway with this year being an exploratory year in which the school will familiarise itself with it. Please see our website for details. <https://freshfordns.weebly.com/new-primary-curriculum-matters.html>

Parent Teacher Meetings will be held in **dual** format again this year. Parents may opt for either a **face-to-face meeting with teacher or by phone.** Details will follow after the break.

Our work on DEIS planning continues. We aim to share our draft plans with you over the next half term. The children are enjoying our free hot meals provided. Feedback is very good. If you've any feedback, please feel free to contact me.

***Have a good midterm break and enjoy Hallowe'en.  
Keep safe and well.***

# Hallowe'en 2023

# Our News



## Junior Infants.

We have settled very well into 'big school'. We have been very busy learning all our sounds, learning new Irish songs and words. Now, we are learning about patterns in maths. We can't believe how many we have learnt so far.

The new walkway is fantastic, so we decided to go on a lovely wellness walk for World Mental Health Day. It was fun going for a long walk with our friends from the older classes. Our theme this week is Halloween and we get to make potions and cast spells on people. We especially love casting spells on Ms Harrison. We are looking forward to dressing up for Hallowe'en and even more excited about our Hallowe'en holidays!



## Rang 4

It has been a really busy first term and all the children are looking forward to a well-earned break for Hallowe'en.

We spent the last month focusing on Ancient Rome and Italy in our SESE and learnt lots of interesting facts about the influence Rome had on our world. In Science we looked a lot at gravity and had great fun making our own parachutes from different materials.

In Maths we spent a lot of time on shape and data and completed a very competitive table quiz for 'Maths Week'! In literacy the class have really enjoyed studying the novel 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Murpugo.

It hasn't been all work though the class have had great fun at our coached GAA sessions with Philly Campion. A large number of the boys and girls in our class are involved on the school football teams with both sides having advanced now to the championship part of their competitions.

Outside of school some people in our class have exciting plans for the midterm; Sam is very excited about doing a tour of Stamford Bridge in London while Cera is off to lovely Edinburgh in Scotland! Kaylum, Lily and Ella all have had new baby cousins recently so big excitement for all those new arrivals.

**Happy Hallowe'en everybody!**

## Senior Infants.

*We have been working extremely hard in Senior Infants since we started back in September! We have done lots of interesting things.*

*In science we learned about living and non-living things and went on a scavenger hunt outside to find living and non-living things.*

*We did lots of work on sounds and even made an instrument called a kazoo! In science at the moment we are learning lots of interesting facts about spiders.*

*We did our first painting lesson recently in art and painted beautiful autumn trees. We drew a scarecrow following step-by-step instructions. These turned out so well and we are so proud of them! If you are down around the school soon these are hanging on our classroom windows – come have a look!*

*We have read some lovely picture books and really enjoyed them! We especially loved 'The Scarecrows' Wedding' and 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson and 'The Witch with an Itch' by Helen Baugh.*

*In PE in September we were working on fundamental movement skills of walking and running. At the moment we are working on ball handling skills namely catching and throwing. We play lots of games and always love our PE lessons!*

*We are putting in lots of effort every morning into our fine motor skills. We complete different activities first thing each day to try and build on our hand strength.*

*We are loving our learning through play time each day. In September we turned a corner of our room into 'The School Office'. Now in October we have 'The Witches' Den' in our classroom. We are having great fun casting spells and making potions!*

*In November we will be learning all about 'The Café and all that goes with preparing and serving food to customers.*

*We have been working hard in all other subjects too! It has been a busy and quick half term since September. We definitely need a well-deserved rest during our Halloween break!!*



## Rang 2

We've had a great couple of months here in second class. Welcome to Freddie who has joined the ranks. We are having a spooky few weeks here in Rang a Dó learning about Halloween.

In Science the class took part in Space Week wherein they conducted a study of the Solar System. The class drew and painted the solar system, we also learned a song all about the planets and space.

We got inspired by author Helen Rutter during our zoom workshop. This was run by Bookville. In other news, the class has really enjoyed partaking in Music and Recorder class with Margaret. They are working well on reaching their targets in the Accelerated Reading Programme and everyone is enjoying group work with the benefit of our support teachers and myself.

Hurling with Philly has been a great source of excitement for all the students. They look forward to continuing their training after Halloween.

We enjoyed Green Day during the month as we followed the success of the Irish rugby team. We proudly dressed up in our Black and Amber for Freshford's county final. Well done to Threecastles on winning their county final a few weeks ago.

We wish all the class and parents/minders a very well deserved Halloween Break!

## Maths Week 2023

We've had another fun filled Maths Week this year. All classes participated in fun maths activities. Ruby and Jessica or transition year students assisted with this year's Halloween Maths trails around the school. Our focus was on Measurement which is part of our DEIS Numeracy Plan. We shall update you regarding this after the midterm break.

## Rang 6

We have been very busy since returning to school after the summer holidays and we are definitely looking forward to a break. We spent the last two months learning about outstanding animals – researching our own outstanding animals and giving a presentation to our classmates. In SESE we learned about all the planets in our solar system for space week and even made posters of each planet during art lessons. We learned some crazy facts about the planets during our research! We have also explored pointillism and we are currently creating Halloween art to make our classroom extra spooky. Last week was maths week and we really enjoyed playing maths games online and taking part in a maths quiz with Rang 5. Swimming has been a lot of fun and we have also enjoyed the return to music lessons with Margaret. We are excited to be making our Confirmation this year and we have already started preparing for it. We are really looking forward to the rest of the school year but for now.

**Happy Halloween from Rang 6!**

## Preschool 1

It has been a busy and exciting start to the term for Pre-School 1 and we have welcomed two new friends to the group, Mike and David. We're all settling in really well.

We have enjoyed collecting leaves on our daily walks and looking for the signs of Autumn. We made some lovely Autumn Tree crafts using painted sunflower seeds. We also did some leaf rubbings and sponge painting with autumnal colours.

The children are working hard to develop a range of skills including following their visual timetables, and engaging in different activities around the classroom. We have been having great fun at Hello Group - singing songs, saying nursery rhymes and getting to know each other's names as we "Pass the Jar"! Some of our favourite songs so far are "Five Little Ducks" and "Knock, Knock, Trick or Treat!"

We have all been enjoying story time together. Some of our favourites are "Ten in the Bed", "Room on the Broom" and "Spookly the Square Pumpkin".

As part of our group activities we have been exploring Halloween and have been making play-doh pumpkins, spiders and witches hats. We've enjoyed some sensory play on the tuff tray while searching for Halloween themed objects like spiders, skeletons and bats!

As we prepare for Halloween next week we have had fun decorating our classroom, making ghost pictures and pumpkins using shredded paper. We can't wait for dress-up day on Friday!

We hope you all have a lovely mid-term break and look forward to lots more fun and learning in November!



### Rang 3

We can't believe our first term in 3rd class and the senior end of the school is over already!

We have really settled into 3rd class and are looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead.

We were delighted to welcome a new student to our class this year. Her name is Lucy and everyone is being kind to her and helping her to settle into our school.

We made the most of the lovely weather in September and took off around Freshford learning about the history and geography of the town. We learnt the meanings of the names of the streets and Mr. Tynan, who joined us, was full of information.

Ms. Jordan joined us for the first few weeks on her teaching practice. We did a lot of work on weather, making rain gauges and doing an experiment on making our own clouds which was good fun. We have had an active term with going swimming for the first time and also start hurling with Philly Campion.

Our classroom is looking very autumnal at the moment with leaf prints and colourful trees with the autumn colours.

At the end of September, we did some projects on The Stone Age which we loved working on in class and then presenting to our friends. In science we had to plan how we were going to make a bridge, design it and then we spent an afternoon making them in class. Everybody used Lego along with some original ideas to let their imaginations run wild. Lots of patience was needed but we all got there in the end and some of us fancy ourselves as engineers in the future.

Social News!!! Jake has a new baby brother called Tim which was lovely news to hear. Also, both Jayden and Amy had very special weddings in their families and we know that Amy looked very pretty and Jayden looked very handsome on their special days.

**Happy Halloween from all in 3rd Class.**



### Rang 5

Our teachers this year are Ms. Meehan and Ms. Roche and we've been working hard this term.

We have enjoyed learning about Medieval Kilkenny in history. It was invaded by the Normans.

In English we did debating and arguments. We spoke in front of the class and our teachers are proud of our growing confidence.

During space week we made Lego rockets. We also went to Brown's Wood on a nature walk and collected different leaves and seeds.

We enjoyed having Mr. Hyland helping to teach us over the last few weeks. He is a great musician and we had great fun when he did drumming with us and he played the guitar and bouzouki for us.

We went to Johnstown for the open day to experience being in secondary school, we loved trying out new subjects such as woodwork, metalwork and French. Loreto and Pobalscoil also came to speak with us.

The school boys' team and girls' are through to their respective quarter finals in Gaelic football. We wish them the best of luck!



### Music

**Choir and music group will resume after the mid-term break. Practice will take place on Fridays at lunchtime in the hall.**

**We look forward to visiting Prague house to sing Christmas carols.**



## Preschool 2

We had a great first term in Preschool 2 and welcomed 4 new children to our class. They have all settled in very well. We are all loving learning new songs at hello group every day and we loved 'The wheels on the bus and making our own buses. We loved the autumn song Orange, yellow, red and brown and we decorated lovely autumn trees using our finger prints to make the different coloured leaves. We also painted different colour leaves for our classroom tree.

The children are working hard to develop a range of skills including following their visual timetables, learning to share, sitting for group activities and engaging in different activities around the classroom.

We enjoyed our walk around the GAA pitch for mental health day and even stopped at the playground on our way around. The kids really enjoyed this.

The last few weeks, we have had lots of fun learning different halloween songs and engaging in different activities for halloween. Our favourite song is 5 little ghosts and we made ghosts and pumpkins for art. We also enjoyed playing with a spooky sensory table. We are looking forward to Halloween fancy dress on Friday.

We hope you all have an enjoyable Mid-Term break with your families and friends.

## Reminder -

### National Education Welfare Board

*Once a pupil reaches 20 days' absence, an automatic notification is generated for the NEWB.*

*Parents are then notified of this by the school.*

*Sometimes this will be as a result of illness, and this will be indicated to the NEWB.*

*Action may be taken to communicate with parents for unexplained or avoidable absences.*

*Please also avoid taking children out of school during class time unnecessarily. Medical appointments and family emergencies etc. cannot be helped whereas doing so for reason of shopping expeditions and 'convenience' collections should be avoided at all costs.*



### Punctuality

**Well done to all who are punctual for school each morning. It's unsettling for all concerned when a child arrives late for school.**

**Thank you also for not entering the yard prior to 9.10am supervision commencing 9.20 am. Start**

## Boys Football u-13 Team

**We have had a mixed start to our football campaign this year. A really impressive win in our opening league game against Clogh-Mooneenroe was followed by a heavy defeat to a strong Piltown side in the 'Country Cup' competition. Up next was a fancied Lisdowney side who looked to be the strongest team in the group. It was a game of two halves with Lisdowney well ahead at halftime but then a massive comeback by the Freshford lads led by free scoring forward, Patrick O Connor, ensuring a tense finish to the game with Lisdowney edging out a deserved victory in the end.**

**That game seemed to drive on our boys and we have had two good wins in our last two games against Urlingford and Castlecomer. It will be on to championship after Halloween and hopefully our lads will give a good account of themselves.**

**We have yet to start a full team in any game this year through injury and other absences so let's hope we'll have everyone fit and rearing to go in November.**



### Science

**Space week took place on 4-10th October. Rang 6 displayed their projects on the solar system in the hall. Their eyes are now set on the science fair which will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. You are all invited to visit to see their work; more details to follow.**

### Girls Football.

Training for the girls' football team began at the beginning of September. It is great to see so many girls interested with big numbers at training. We have been training hard Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many thanks to Siún's dad, Kevin, and mam, Maggie, who came to help Ms Harrison with the trainings and matches.

Unfortunately the weather has hampered some of the trainings and matches. We have shown some great performances in our matches especially against Moneenroe and Urlingford. We met yesterday to the quarter final against Vs in Castlecomer



### Student Council News

In September, we had our first Student Council meeting of the year. It was full of enthusiasm and eagerness for the year ahead. The student council have many goals and plans for the coming weeks and months so keep an eye out.

With the permission of Mr Tynan, we started off the year by hosting a Green Day to help support the Irish Rugby team and Black and Amber Day to support the local St. Lachtain's team in the county final.

Their next upcoming event is a Dress Up competition for Halloween with goodie prizes for the winners.

### Board of Management Elections 2023

Work to form a new Board of Management is now underway. The current board is due to finish on November 30<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of all at Scoil Lachtaín, I'd like to thank all our members for their hard work and support over the past four years. On a personal note, I'd like to say that it has been a pleasure working with you all. Together, we have steered the school through a very difficult period since 2019. Your service to our school community was outstanding. THANK YOU.

### Preschool 3

We have been very busy in Preschool 3 these last few months. We have greeted and welcomed our three new students this year Ephraim, Roan and Oisín. We have settled into our schedule and routine and have enjoyed lots of new nursery rhymes and songs, 'Wheels on the bus', 'Incey Wincey Spider' and 'Five Little ghosts' to name a few.

We enjoyed listening to stories like 'The Five Little Pumpkins', 'Holly the Hedgehog' and 'Autumn leaves are falling Down'. We have decorated our room with autumn leaves, pumpkins, spooky ghosts and spiders for Halloween.

We have been very busy with Art this term and have made lovely art for Halloween. We are currently making Ghosts and Witches to tie in with our story, 'Room on the Broom'.

We have worked on our fine motor skills making jigsaws, tweezers and colouring many lovely pictures. We have made great improvements in the last few weeks on sharing and waiting for our turn.

James will be moving on after the Halloween break to a new school. We will miss him in our class and wish him all the best in the future.

We hope everyone has a nice Halloween break!

From everyone in Preschool 3



## Rang 1

First Class have had a fantastic start to the new school year and we can't believe how quickly Halloween has come around. The children have taken to their longer school days like ducks to water and are filling their extra time in school with all manner of fun activities.

During September, while learning our addresses, we decided to take a trip to the post office and send home some of our fantastic artwork. Some of us even tried writing out our addresses using our new cursive handwriting. Speaking of art work, for "Space Week " we created our own Galaxies and Moons that are on display around the school now. We also learned all about the astronaut Chris Hadfield.

We have had an exciting return to music with Margaret and have even begun learning the recorder. We are already learning our second piece.

We have had a fantastic start to the year and we can't wait to see what the next term has in store for us. We already have our first trip of the year planned!

Happy Hallowe'en from First Class!

## Accelerated Reading Progress

This year we are continuing to use the Accelerated Reading programme and so far it has been a great success. The new interface has made it easier to follow our own progress; **book level**, **points earned** and **accuracy**. There has been a great number of students reaching all three targets this half - term. Second Class were very quick to pick up the skills required to navigate the AR platform and have really put it up to the older classes.

We do 25-30 minutes reading daily which is a great way to improve our comprehension skills. We do tests regularly when we finish our books and get points for passing the quiz. Different books have different levels of difficulty, which helps everyone to read at their own pace and level. Once we reach our target we are rewarded, retested and our targets are reset to try and reach again.

This is a great system as everyone has their own individualised level and target. Everyone gets involved and enjoys this fun way of getting better at reading. Each class now has a special book display area where we can recommend books to our classmates.

We're lucky to have plenty of Chromebooks to allow us to engage regularly with the AR programme.

## Scoil Lachtain Reads!



In this school year, students have read...

**1,573** Books

**8,241,790** Words

for **29** minutes/day!  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE

Accelerated Reader®

## Literacy and Numeracy Station Teaching

Literacy and numeracy station teaching is in full swing this term. Literacy and numeracy early intervention is in place in both infant classrooms. This takes the shape of Station Teaching in which the class is split into small groups. The class teacher assisted by SET teachers Ms Doyle, Ms. Bryan and Ms Byrne take each group and focus on one aspect of either literacy or numeracy. Each group works at its own level and rotates to the different stations/teachers every 10/15 minutes. The literacy stations focus on oral language, phonics, phonological awareness and pre-writing activities.

In 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes Literacy Power Hours are in operation. The children are split into small groups and work at their own level. Like with the infant classes they rotate to a different station/teacher every 12 minutes and focus on a different aspect of literacy at each station. In 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> class the stations are new reading, writing, phonics/grammar and picture book work. 2nd class do independent reading and have a chance to take quizzes on the Chromebooks. In the older classes (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) we are planning Numeracy Stations in a 6-8 week block twice a week. We will be focusing on measure which is an area which needs particular attention. The scores in measure in the Sigma-T are lower than other areas of maths. Time and money are something we will focus on. At home you can help by being more mindful of this. Draw the children's attention to the clock more regularly, include them in planning timings of activities, drop offs, collections, time online etc. Ask your child to pay in the shop. Try to use cash more, again include them in conversations about the price of items in the shop to help them develop a sense of how much money they might need for certain items, and roughly what change they might expect. This practical experience is invaluable to them.

### Spellings for me...

Spellings for Me is a great way for anyone to learn spellings! Whenever you get words wrong they go into something called 'your learning words'. Every time you get 48 spellings wrong you get locked out which basically means you can't do any more spelling tests. Then you have 4 weeks to learn those learning words which you will have placed in your Spellings for Me workbook. We take these home every night and learn four spellings each night. To help us to learn our spellings we use a number of strategies like mnemonics, word in a word etc. After we have spent 4 weeks learning our individualised learning words list we will log onto our accounts and take a test on those words. Any words you get right are added to your mastered words list and anything you get wrong stays as part of your new learning words list for the next learning period. We think it's a fun and helpful way to learn how to spell words that you don't know rather than just generic lists from the usual spellings books! Overall it's a great way for children to learn their spellings and helps us to identify what way suits us best to learn and remember words!

### Freckle and Mathletics

Freckle is a new online Maths programme which we hope to introduce in 6th Class this year. We each did a Math Assessment test online and it assessed our current level of ability in Maths. The teacher assigns work and challenges at an appropriate level that helps to improve our math skills and gives extra practice in areas we might need help with.

We each have our own account and get to make our own character and a password. Our teacher gives us assigned work to do also depending on the topic we are working on in class.

Freckle is useful during Maths stations to work on targeted areas and earn points for our character. Each week Freckle also sends our teacher a report with details of how each student has performed and what areas they might need help or extra practice in. Some of the activities are very challenging but overall we are enjoying it and it's a great way to help us improve in all areas of Maths. We're also looking forward to trying out Mathletics as a resource for maths practice in all classes.

*Happy Hallowe'en*

