

School Newsletter

OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER

REMEMBER TO KEEP SAFE.

Scoil Lachtaín Naofa



Achadh Úr

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Dates to remember:

- **Parent Teacher Meetings:**
Posting interim report due to Covid 19 restrictions.
- **Christmas Holidays**
Tuesday December 22nd
at 12 noon



Oct. / Nov. '20

Hello everyone and welcome to a snapshot of what has been happening in our school over the past few weeks. It continues to be an extremely strange and worrying time for all of us in our community and in our homes as we try to keep everybody safe and well. It's a time when people need to be supportive of one another even though we need to keep our distance. It would do your hearts good, and lift your spirits also, to see how well your sons and daughters are coping in school. There exists calmness together with a sense of joy and purpose within the classrooms. The boys and girls, especially in the middle and senior classes, are demonstrating a real maturity and understanding of the current situation. They're all a credit to you, their parents, and to our school community. From the class reports that follow, you'll see that school life continues, albeit in a slightly different manner.

I'd like to thank our staff for their continuing hard work to make school life as happy and as safe as possible. Many, many extra hours are going into planning and preparation, and into cleaning and keeping everyone as safe as possible. Thank you also for keeping to the 9.10am arrival time.

Halloween Fancy Dress

We celebrated Halloween Fancy Dress this year with a parade in the outdoors, and it was a happy and fun event as always. You can see our little slideshow here on the homepage.

Visitors to the School

Please continue to **wear a mask** if visiting the school grounds and remember, if at all possible, to phone or email the office to make an appointment or give a message. **No visitors are permitted to try to enter the school building through any door other than by appointment through the new administration/reception area in the new building. This is the new Front of School entrance. Entry should be through the gates at this building. Please don't use the front yard.**

ePayments

Thank you for your patience as we set up our online payments system through Elavon. I hope you find it easy to use and feedback has been very positive. Please complete the three 'Beginning of Year' payments as soon as possible. These include **Book Rental** (where relevant), **Arts, Crafts and Photocopying** and **Allianz 24 hour Pupil Insurance**. We don't seek donations during the year and through the work of our Parent Association, grants and careful planning we have completed a huge amount of work on our school over the last four years, both internally and externally, without having to put extra cost on you, our parent body. This year our fundraising will be limited or even non-existent, and therefore your payment of the above and of other activities during the school year will be crucial.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, our meetings cannot go ahead in the usual format. We plan to send you out a written **Midyear Report** for your child on Friday 11th December. You should have it early the following week. In some cases a follow up phone call may be scheduled, if and where necessary.

Junior Infants

Our News

We in Junior Infants are settling into life in 'big school' very well. We are very busy and are doing lots of work. We love learning the letter sounds, learning new Irish words and songs, singing, learning how to write letters and numbers and lots more! We have 13 boys in our room and 15 girls. We love getting homework. We look forward to Fridays especially to see who have won the prizes. Kilkenny day was brilliant fun in our class; we loved showing Annette the best colours in the world!! The Black and Amber!



Senior Infants

Well done on completing your first half-term in Senior Infants! It's been so great to finally be back to school! The class have worked so hard and keenly since their return. We are continuing to revise and catch up on some of the work we missed out on during the school closure since March. The class impresses every day with their enthusiastic attitude towards learning, often excitedly asking, "What sound are we going to do today Ms.?" Etc.... It is heart-warming to see such energy in the class every day and I hope you all keep it up! We have been practising our sounds/tricky words and reading among other things in English. In Maths we have revised basic concepts of matching and sets as well as counting, adding, data and pattern. In Gaeilge we have learned about Mé Féin, An Scoil agus Oíche Shamhna. We have had lots of fun learning through play about The School Office and Halloween and we have really enjoyed comprehension activities based on our big storybooks. In SPHE we have learned about keeping clean and making decisions. It has been great to be back doing PE., singing our songs and learning about the world around us as well. As well as that we are all really enjoying playing with our class in the playground with all the fab new markings that arrived over the summer! We loved dressing up on the Friday of Halloween and had a fun day. We were thinking of casting a spell on Ms. Furney and turning her into a pumpkin over the Halloween break...maybe next year!!! ☺ He! He! He!

Rang 5

It's hard to believe we have been back for over three months now but it has been lovely to be back with our friends again! It has been a busy time getting used to all the new routines and safety practices as well as getting back into our schoolwork!! We have lots of new books this year and we are having great fun with all the new stories, picture books and ideas in the Over the Moon English series. We've also started a new spellings programme – Spellings for Me – which we are finding really good so far! Some of us got lots of reading in during lockdown and now that we are back using the Accelerated Reading Programme we are all back into the swing of things and enjoying the world of books again!

We've been doing lots of art since we came back and brightening up our classroom with the displays! Recently we have also been practising mindfulness, using the Mindful Moments for Children series of pod casts. It has been so enjoyable to switch off each afternoon and chill out after a busy day! It's also been a great way to help us to deal with any worries or concerns we have. You might see us trying out some of the techniques like Colour Breathing or Body Scan at home!!

We have been lucky with the weather so far since we came back, although this week things are looking a bit different!! It has allowed us to get outside for lots of PE, rounders, basketball, Olympic handball and some fundamental movement skills. It's great to be able to get outside for some fresh air as often as possible!! We really enjoyed taking part in the Heritage in Schools Programme online over the last few weeks. It's fun to take part in some online workshops and still get to experience lots of fun activities even with all the restrictions in place.

We are all doing our very best to keep each other safe, lots of hand washing, sanitising, cleaning and good cough and sneeze etiquette. Our teachers and SNAs are all wearing masks and being really careful also. Thanks to all our parents for helping us to keep safe, for remaining off school grounds and wearing masks when dropping and collecting us. All of us working together while staying apart is helping to keep us all safe and in school with our friends and teachers - learning and growing!

Anti-Bullying Policy Reviewed

Our Anti-Bullying Policy and annual checklist was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management on Monday 19th October. Copies are available on request and it can also be viewed on our website.

Anti-Bullying Week 2020
Our school's Anti-Bullying Week 2020 ran from Nov. 9th to 13th. Our theme was '*United against Bullying!*' The pupils finished the week off wonderfully with their poetry, songs, artwork, stories and drama on practical measures that we can all take as a school community to stamp out bullying and look out for one another.



Rang 6

This year is very different to us because we are not allowed to leave our classroom to do jobs. We have to sanitize, stick to our pods and we are getting used to spending more time cleaning. On the bright side we are back together as a class and we are enjoying being 6th class, and we are looking forward to our last year in primary school.

We had a lovely day for our Confirmation; it was smaller than usual but we all really enjoyed it. Since the start of October we have been saying a decade of the Rosary a day. Ms Doyle asked us to make our own rosary beads out of homemade materials, all our Rosary beads were great but the overall winner was Ciara who made her rosary beads out of acorns. A big thank you to Ms Doyle who challenged us.

Mr. Gleeson the principal of Johnstown visited us since we couldn't go to the school and the Pobail Scoil Zoom called us.

We dressed up in our black and amber for Kilkenny Day. Everyone was dressed brilliantly.

In art we did Optical Illusions and Pointillism by Georges Seurat which is dotted painting. Our art displays look really well!

Recently we did the Freshford Loop. We went into Brown's Woods and came out in Ballylarkin, and then we walked back to school on the road. On the way we collected some leaves to do a small project on trees in school. It took us an hour and a half to walk the seven kilometres. We wore wellies because it was very slippery in parts. After the walk Mrs. Bolger organised a Kahoot quiz to test how well we were listening.

We are also trying to run around Europe!! This entails running laps around the basketball court and counting how many we do, then we check where we got to. The farthest away challenge is Russia and we have reached Italy so far [we need 709km more to get to Russia].

Over the summer Caoimhe welcomed a baby brother and Cian, and Ellie and Teagan all had baby cousins.

We are very glad to be back at school.

Preschool 2

The last few months have been very exciting for us here in Preschool 2. We welcomed two new children to our class, Finn and Aleya, and they are settling in well. We all love relaxing in the sensory room and playing outside and in the hall.

We all loved the rhyme Humpty Dumpty and we were very busy sequencing pictures, colouring and making a wall for Humpty Dumpty out of playdough. We also loved putting Humpty Dumpty back together for art. We are all really enjoying the story Goldilocks and the three bears and are learning lots of language from the story. During Science Week, we loved doing a floating and sinking experiment.

Mary, Rachel, Catriona and all the children in Preschool 2



Rang 4

While it has been quite an unusual return to school for everyone I feel everyone in Rang 4 has adapted to their new normal and are all doing their part to make sure everyone around them is safe. While most of the first few weeks were spent on revision work from last year we have made great strides the last while with the 4th class curriculum. The Romans seemed to be a particular favourite with everyone in History whilst people really enjoyed making their own rosary beads! Everyone is back in the swing of things with their AR programme and there were some really good results in our last assessment before the Halloween break. We were lucky enough to have a visit from county development coach Brían Ryan before lockdown which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. While school games aren't allowed at the moment we did have a few members of the victorious Freshford u-13 team in our class who won the county championship. Special mention for Nathan who scored a goal in the final! Hopefully the New Year will see a return to schools being allowed to participate in GAA games! Outside school we also had some big news with Caoimhe having a new baby in the house so congratulations to all her family. Abigail and Dylan both got moved up to new belts in their karate so two very dangerous people in our room! Lauren amazingly came in the top ten in Ireland in an online dancing competition hosted by 'Dancing with the Stars John Nolan'. Well done Lauren! Lauren also along with Nessa and James treated us to a lovely acoustic session a few weeks back. As we are not allowed singing or the recorder it was lovely to hear music in the room again!

Preschool 1

We are all very happy to be back at school here in Preschool 1. We welcomed three new children to our class in August; Jayden, Fionn and Callum. Everyone has settled in really well and are enjoying their new school.

We have been very busy since we started back to school. We were very excited to see our new **play frame out in the court yard** and we have lots of fun spinning in the egg cup and playing on the frame.

We had a very busy term with birthday parties. We had had 5 children; Elise, Fionn, Callum, Bella and Mason, all celebrating their birthday's between September and November. We will have to wait until May now for Jayden's birthday for our next birthday celebration but I'm sure we'll find an excuse between now and then to have a party or two.

We have enjoyed lots of stories. One of our favourites was the story of the Three Little pigs, and we used props and puppets to tell the story.

We did lots of art work including painting, Halloween decorations and we recently decorated a winter hat and mittens with colourful fabric. We all enjoyed dressing up for Halloween, we went out to yard and strutted our stuff in the Halloween parade for the whole school.

Two weeks ago for science week we played with magnets and checked different items to see if they 'stuck' to the magnet or not and we also took part in a zoom class which taught us how to make bubbles and interesting ways in which we could blow bubbles.

Time is flying and soon we will be getting ready for Christmas and although we won't have our usual Christmas carol performance for our parents we will still get in to the Christmas spirit, learn our Christmas songs and record it for our families at home. That's all from us.



From Claire, Paula, Laura and all the children in Preschool

Rang 2/3

Rang 2 and 3 have had a busy and exciting first term back. Everyone has settled back into the school routine very well and they were so happy to be back in school in September! Everyone was delighted to see their friends again some of which they hadn't seen for a long time.

Our class has been really enjoying PE and Art especially. We have enjoyed the good weather so far and getting to do PE outside. This class has been very creative in their art work doing different drawings, painting and Autumn Art.

We have been enjoying lots of reading too and our class has been enjoying writing our own stories and sharing with the class.

We had great fun dressing up on the Friday of the Halloween break. We paraded down the school yard and everyone was laughing and very happy.



Rang 1/2

It has been a very busy start to the new year. We are all getting to know each other again after such a long time away from school. We also have extra children in our class this year as we are 1st and 2nd class. It has been lovely getting to know more people and having more girls in the classroom!!! We have all been working so hard to try to catch up on work that we didn't finish last year and also to start this year's work. Teachers have been doing lots of exercise in class too and we love doing Go Noodle. We are now on level 3. Recently we went out for a lovely autumn walk with Ms. Roche and we had a lovely relaxing cosy blanket afternoon with Ms. Murphy after a hard week's work. In science we have been learning about different habitats and in art we made rosary beads with unusual materials. We also made some shadow art and it looked very spooky stuck up on the wall in the classroom. We learned a song called 'Have you seen the ghost of John?' and we were so good we even were able to sing it in a round. This is where the class is split into two groups and we sing the song at the same time but we start at different times. It sounded spooky!! We had a great time dressing up for Halloween and we enjoyed a nice week off to relax.