

# School Newsletter

Scoil Lachtaín Naofa



Achadh Úr

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## Dates to remember:

- **Easter Holidays:**  
Closing Fri. 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Re-opening Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> April
- **First Communion**  
Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 11 a.m.
- **First Confession**  
Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> May in school
- **Autism and Neurodiversity**  
Awareness and acceptance  
Month – April

- **Check out our new-look website.**

<https://freshfordns.weebly.com/>



Spring '23

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

The school has been extremely busy this term, both in class and in using the shared areas and outside spaces also. We are just finishing our special week on the importance of **Friendship and Positive Mental Health**. To date this year, we have tried to give the children as many and as varied experiences as possible, with lots of guest workshops and projects, class visits to local businesses, visits to museums and workshops, local history tours, and participation in sporting events. Over the next term, we have lots more planned. We are using our **DEIS** funding to help with the costs involved so that you don't have to continuously put your hand in your pocket.

## **New School Development Plan 2022-25**

We have completed our new school development plan. Thank you for your feedback and suggestions. I will be in touch in the coming weeks with a summary of our planned work for this period, including our **DEIS Plans** under the seven themes.

## **Enrolment for 2023/24**

Enrolment for the next school year is underway. **If you are enrolling a child for September, and haven't already done so, can you please pick up an enrolment pack and return it to the office as soon as possible.**

## **Child Protection**

Our **Child Safety Statement and Risk Assessment** was reviewed and ratified on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Our Risk Assessment is a working document and will be updated as required.

Thanks to children, parents and staff for all your input. Hard copies are available on request from the school office, and are published on our school website.

## **First Confessions and First Communion**

Preparations are underway with My Faith.ie programme and the children are very excited.

## **Farewell to Olwyn and Vanessa in Preschool Lachtaín.**

Thank you for all your hard work and care for the children. Vanessa will continue in EAL teaching. We wish Olwyn all the very best in her future.

## **Internet Safety**

Safe internet Day was held on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Alongside our own class programmes, we participated in some excellent virtual workshops. We ask that you the parents continue to monitor your child's activities online to ensure that they are behaving in a responsible and safe manner. See our website for support on safety measures.

**Thank you for your continued support. It's much appreciated.**

**Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!**

## Happy Easter Everyone!

### Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh! Rang 5

5<sup>th</sup> class have had a very busy term. In class we have been doing project work on *The Burren* and researched areas of flora and fauna there as well as learning about the story of limestone and how it influenced the formation of the Ailwee Caves. We have also spent some time researching Harriet Tubman in history and working very hard on our decimals and fractions in maths. We recently enjoyed our in-class zoom on aquaculture and got to see how fish farms run which was very interesting.

Evelyn White has been teaching us how to dance 'The Bridge of Athlone' and the 'hurl dance' which has been lots of fun. Seachtain na Gaeilge was a great week also. We all made great effort speaking Irish especially during lunch to try earn as many tickets as possible for the end of week prize. The Irish quiz was good fun too.

For World Book Day we focused our attention on the story 'After the Fall'. We really enjoyed reading it and completing all the activities throughout the day. Our visit from author Olive Mooney was very interesting too...she read some chapters from her most recent books and gave us some helpful tips for our own creative writing.

Engineers week (STEM) was a couple of weeks ago and we decided to make some robots in class. We spent a good while constructing them from recycled materials and trying to get them to move.

Our visit to the local cheese factory was lots of fun too. We gained some interesting insights into how the cheese is processed, importance of hygiene, what happens in each area of the factory etc. We even got to sample some and enjoyed it with a hot chocolate!

The boys and girls played some matches recently. The boys had successful games against Conahy and Muckalee while the girls played excellent games against St. Canice's and Urlingford. We look forward to playing more matches after the Easter holidays.

This week is Positive Mental Health and Friendship week. We are looking forward to taking part in some lovely activities that are planned for the week. We are especially excited about our pilates lesson and our mindfulness lesson.



### Senior Infants

*We have been very busy in Senior Infants over the last few weeks. We have been learning all about gardening and we planted onion, radish, peas, sweetcorn and salad leaves. It was so exciting to care for our plants and watch them grow. We also learned about how apples grow from a seed into an apple tree.*

*We have loved all the good weather we have had recently and went on a walkabout to look for signs of spring. We found lots of flowers like daisies, buttercups and daffodils. The good weather also allowed us to have PE lessons outside which has been really fun.*

*We really enjoyed Bricks4Kidz and got to make 2D and 3D characters out of Lego. For world book day we read books with our buddies in 6<sup>th</sup> class and we ate pancakes on Pancake Tuesday which was a real treat!*

*We have also been busy decorating our classroom. We made leprechaun face masks for St. Patrick's Day, cards for Mother's Day and we are now busy decorating eggs for Easter.*

*We hope everyone has a lovely Easter break!*

Mr McGuire & all the children in Senior Infants

### Preschool 1



**Hello everyone! We have been busy bees here in Preschool 1 learning about all about spring. We have been observing signs of spring on our walks around the school. We painted some lovely Spring flowers and learned about the new baby animals born in springtime. We were so excited when the baby chicks from the Nore Valley incubator project finally hatched, the chicks were so cute! We enjoyed listening to the stories of 'A Hungry Caterpillar', 'Little Red Hen' and 'A Squash and a Squeeze'. 'A Hungry Caterpillar' was our favourite. We enjoyed using a lace, pretending it was a caterpillar eating through the holes of the foods in the book and we learned all about the life cycle of the butterfly. We are busy this week doing Easter themed activities and arts and crafts. We are very much looking forward to the Easter bunny's arrival on Easter Sunday! Happy Easter to all from Claire, Áine, Laura, Claire and all the boys and girls in Preschool 1**



## Rang 6

*We've had a busy penultimate term here in 6<sup>th</sup> Class. Some of us have recently completed our entrance exams for secondary school and we are all beginning to get our heads around the many changes and exciting new challenges we will face as we head into secondary school. We are looking forward to our final term here in Scoil Lachtaín and we plan to relish and enjoy the opportunities over the next few months.*

*We've recently read the novel Wonder by R.J. Palacio. It follows the story of a young boy, Auggie Pullman, with a condition known as Treacher-Collins Syndrome which causes him to have some facial deformities. The novel explores his transition to middle school and the difficulties he encounters. It focuses on the friendships he develops and how he navigates negative interactions with his new classmates. We also watched the movie adaptation which we really enjoyed.*

*We've been doing lots of work on our Irish Grammar and Oral Irish, culminating in a very successful Seachtain na Gaeilge where we made great efforts to speak 'cúpla focail' on yard. We have also been enjoying Irish dancing lessons with Evelyn White and had a chance to show off our newly acquired dancing skills during the Céilí on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We have learned the Hurley Dance and The Bridge of Athone (Droichead Átha Luain). While we were a little reluctant at first we've really enjoyed it and look forward to starting some new dances after Easter.*

*We recently paid a visit to the local Cheese Factory (BC Manufacturing) where we took a tour of the facility and asked lots of questions about the work and the systems used. It was fascinating to hear all about the packaging process and to see the machines in action. We even got to sample some of the cheese! It was a brilliant experience and we learned lots about the key role this local business has in keeping Irish and international shelves fully stocked with delicious Irish made cheeses!*

*For World Book Day, the whole school took part in the One Book One School initiative. We decided to make a movie trailer for the book 'After the Fall' by Dan Santat. We planned out our trailer, used mod-roc to make our own Humpty Dumpty and then recorded our trailer using Stopmotion. It was great fun to do and we are very proud of our work. You can check out the finished product on the school website! We've continued to explore Stopmotion software, making short movies with each class using Séimí our leprechaun and promoting the use of the Irish language in the process! Hopefully we can show you some more of our work before the end of the year!*

*We are having great fun this week taking part in Positive Mental Health and Friendship Week. We've had the chance to try out pilates and practice gratitude, mindfulness and resilience activities.*

## Rang 4.

It has been a really busy term in Rang 4 and everyone is looking forward to the break for Easter. We have for the most part been very good about keeping our Lenten promises and everyone is now looking forward to breaking them on Easter Sunday! We were lucky to have Ms. Gordon with us for the last month on her teaching practise and all the class were sorry to see her finish up last Friday. In class we were busy last month completing our projects on Ancient Rome which turned out really well. All the class really enjoyed learning about what an advanced but still bloodthirsty society they were. It was Engineers Week two weeks ago and to keep it topical for St. Patrick's day we built Leprechaun traps!! The projects were all based on the topic of forces particularly looking at the use of levers. We also covered long multiplication this term and after lots of practise the class seem to have a good grasp of it now. Outside the classroom there has been lots going on too. Lots of the girls in our class played at half-time in the Kilkenny v Cork camogie game in Nowlan Park, how exciting!! Katie Ryan will dance this weekend in the 'World Irish Dancing Competition' in Killarney and all the class wish her the very best of luck in that. The u-11 hurling team are going to play in the Go Games in Croke Park next Thursday and they are really excited about the trip. Also the u-13 boys are in the football league final next week so best of luck to them also.

## Junior Infants

Junior Infants have been very busy since returning to school after Christmas. We have been learning all our tricky words. We are so good at them. World Book day was great fun. Rang 2 visit our class on Fridays and we read some books and listen to stories.

PE is one of our favourite subjects. During PE, Evelyn is showing us some Irish dancing. We loved showing our dancing at the Céilí Mór.

Spring is here. The weather has been getting warmer. We are learning about things on the farm, growing and new life. Last week we made butter from cream, it was great fun, shaking the cream. We even tasted the butter on some crackers. We planted some sunflower seeds, herbs and peas. We have to water them and look after them.



### Rang 3

*What a quick term in 3rd class- everyone is growing so fast just like all the new flowers since spring arrived. We have been learning so much this term and can't believe that we are now heading into our last term in 3rd class. Since we came back after Christmas, we have been busy learning about materials in science and carried out a material survey. We also enjoyed our work for Engineer's Week where we designed and made pyramids using a wide base, support beams and reinforcers. They all look very impressive and you might be able to see some of them on the website soon. We were linking that with learning all about Ancient Egypt in history and geography. We are full of knowledge and can even write our names in hieroglyphics.*

*We had such fun on World Book Day where the whole school did 'One School One Book'. We did 'After the Fall' by Dan Santat It was all about resilience. We enjoyed doing character profiles and traits of Humpty Dumpty but the best part was assembly when we watched the movie made about the book by 6th class.*

*We danced 'The Bridge of Athlone' in the Ceilí Mór for St. Patrick's Day. We have been busy learning it with our dance teacher Evelyn over the last few weeks. Ms. Coogan has been helping Ms. Murphy out for the last few weeks and we have really enjoyed having her in our class. This week is Positive Mental Health and Friendship Week and we are having fun doing Pilates, mindfulness, co-operative games and other things also. We all feel so positive and happy going into our Easter Holidays.*

*3rd Class have been very lucky this year to be involved in the Junior Achievement Programme where we have spent the last six weeks working with Peter Bennet on the 'It's Our Planet Programme'. We had such fun learning about sustainability and climate change. We learned about the footprint of the food that we eat and also about how to conserve water and electricity in our homes. All of us enjoyed learning about our planet and playing lots of games while learning. Peter was great fun and showed such enthusiasm in all that he taught us...Thank you Peter.*

**Happy Easter Everybody!!**

#### **Science News –**

*Signs of spring. We've been pulling up the leftover carrots in the veg bed and taking cuttings from the willow tree. They have roots and are ready to be planted. The strawberry plants are showing signs of growth. Thanks to Oliver for bringing in some plants for the sensory garden, we look forward to planting in the coming weeks.*

*We had a visit from Helena Hennessy from Teagasc who did a lovely afternoon of science experiments with us including soil sampling and magic milk. 1st and 2nd class really enjoyed the hands-on experience of working like scientists.*

### Rang 1

First Class has had a jam packed term since Christmas!

Early on in the term we **looked after eggs** with the rest of the school until they hatched. It was great to see and hold the baby chicks. Lately we have been learning all about **Australia** and its animals, and we even made our own Australian Aboriginal style art.

For Science we had a visit from **Helena from Teagasc**. She came to teach us all about milk and where it comes from. We even did some experiments on milk to find fats in it. **For World Book Day**, we got to read some of our favourite books and every class shared the work they did on the book "After the Fall."

The whole school was really busy for Seachtain na Gaeilge! We were the junior winners of our comórtas **Gaeilge sa Chlós**. Sixth Class came to visit us and we helped them to make an animation with Séimí the leprechaun. We had a céilí and a "Lá Glas" to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge and St. Patrick's Day. Our **Irish dancing lessons** came in handy for that!

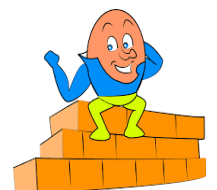
**We hope everyone has a fantastic Easter!**



### World Book Day 2023

All classes participated in **World Book Day** again this year. **As we are aiming to promote reading in the school, each class had many activities planned.** These included author's visit, buddy reading, cosy reading time, **One School, One Book- 'After the Fall'** by Dan Santat, stop motion animation and much more. See ***A Story of Bravery and Perseverance on our website.***

All children received a World Book Day voucher to buy. **Since September classes doing Accelerated Reading have read over 34,167,401 words taking 3,111 quizzes!!** What a great achievement!! Remember it is very important to read to children and that it is a lovely bonding experience especially with younger children.



## Preschool Lachtaín 2

We had great fun the last few months in Preschool 2. We loved the stories 'Brown Bear', 'The Tiger who came to Tea' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We did lovely activities based on these stories. We loved making and eating pancakes on Pancake Tuesday.

We are enjoying learning about spring and did some lovely spring art.

We love our Friday walks to the shop and enjoy eating the treats that we buy.

We are really looking forward to the warm weather so we can play outside more.

We said goodbye to Vanessa and we want to thank her for all her hard work this year. On Friday, we will also say goodbye to Olwyn and we want to wish them both the very best of luck. We look forward to seeing Rachel after Easter. **Have a lovely Easter,**

**Mary, Catriona, Olwyn and all in Preschool Lachtaín 2.**



## Preschool 3

**We have been very busy in Preschool 3 these last few months. We have enjoyed lots of new nursery rhymes and songs, and listened to stories like 'The Very Greedy Bee', 'The Lazy Ladybird' and 'The little Raindrop' to name a few.**

**We enjoyed Art this term and have made lovely art for special events like Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Mother's Day. We are currently making Easter art and looking forward to eating some chocolate eggs.**

**We have celebrated two birthdays since our last newsletter, Evie turned 5 and Zoe turned 4. We have learnt all about our shapes, colours, practising holding pencils and cutting skills. We have made great improvements on asking questions, sharing and waiting for our turn. We are also learning how to put on our shoes and our coats.**

**We are hoping for the good weather to stay so we can have lots more fun in the garden and hopefully have an Easter egg hunt.**

**Hope everyone has a lovely Easter break.**

**Cian, Susan, Audrey and all the children in Preschool 3**

## Camogie

***Our camogie team have started some league matches. We have played 2 matches so far and doing very well. We defeated St. Canice's B team very well. Unfortunately, we lost to a very tough Urlingford team last week. It was a great match with both teams evenly matched. The weather recently has hampered our training sessions and matches.***

## Hurling

***We have made a bright start to this year's campaign with a big win in our first league game against Conahy. It was a really impressive performance especially considering we were missing two of our stronger 6th class players; Aaron Walsh and Nathan Walsh due to injury. Next up we played Coon- Muckalee on a really wet windy evening in Muckalee. After a sluggish start the lads really got motoring in the second half and ran out easy winners in the end. Our game against Lisdowney has been cancelled twice due to the weather and we will play them on the Wednesday we return to school (April 19th).***

## Other News

### Grúpa Cheoil

We've been practising every Friday and are building a decent repertoire. Some of our group were playing at events over the St. Patrick's Day weekend and will be competing in the County Fleadh. Well done all and keep up the practice! We're looking forward to the festivities during the County Fleadh in April.

**Choir** takes place most Thursdays at lunch time. It's open to anybody from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> who like to sing. We welcome new members.

**Engineer's Week** has been as busy as ever with all sorts of inventions and creations going on. The work is being showcased in the school hall.

**Forest school sessions** will take place with 1<sup>st</sup> class with Maura Brennan over 6 weeks starting in May. We're looking forward to learning more about the world of nature on our doorstep.

**Maths trails** with all classes took place this week. Students really enjoy getting a break from the classroom with the bonus of learning.

**The Easter Bunny** made an appearance today, we were all delighted to see it.

## *FAI 5aside Soccer Competition 2023*

We entered the FAI 5aside competition this year and the qualifying round took place in Thomastown on the 22nd March. Our boys were excellent beating Graiguenamanagh, Urlingford and The Project School.

Our final game was against Bennettsbridge with the winner of that game progressing to the county final the following week. It was a really close game but we scored just before halftime and ended up winning 3-0.

The county final was in Evergreen FC yesterday (30th March). Our first game was against the Model School and after a nervy start we got on top and ran out winners on a scoreline of 2-0.

A highly fancied Danesfort were up next. We rode our luck in the first half but Nathan Walsh scored a brilliant goal just before the break and we again ran out 2-0 winners.

It was all down to our game against St. Johns then to see who would go on to Leinster and represent Kilkenny. We again played brilliantly and struck the post twice but I suppose it was the mark of how good St. John's were that the only two tiny mistakes we made in the game they punished us to score twice and beat us 2-0.

The boys were excellent throughout and did themselves and their school proud!



*Happy Easter everyone!*

***Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!***