

School Newsletter

Scoil Lachtaín Naofa



Achadh Úr

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Dates to remember:

- **Easter Holidays** :
Closing Fri. 8th April **12 noon**.
Re-opening Mon. 25th April
- **First Communion**
Sat. 28th May 2019 at 11a.m.
- **Confirmation**
Sat. 14th May at 11am
- **Autism and Neurodiversity**
Awareness and acceptance
Month – April
- **School closed Mon 30th May**
Additional closing due to new
Bank Holiday



Spring '22

Happy Easter Everyone!

Welcome to our spring newsletter. The school has been very busy as always. While we welcome the easing of restrictions as it allows us to do more mixed activities and work with other classes, we remain cautious and continue to uphold our high standards of hygiene etiquette in the school. We thank you the parents for your continued support over the past two years in this regard. We wish you and your family a well-deserved rest over the Easter holidays.

New School Development Plan

We have begun the process of reviewing our most recent school development plan. We look forward to getting your feedback and suggestions. The student council will be responsible for the student voice. I will be in touch in the coming weeks with a summary of our planned work for year one.

Enrolment for 2022/23

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 14th. 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

2nd class will be making their First Confession on Wednesday 25th of May in school. Preparations are underway and the children are very excited.

Fire Safety Programme

Fire Officers from our local fire station will visit classes 3rd, 4th and 5th on May 5th and educate the children on all aspects of fire safety.

Internet Safety

Internet Safety Day was during the week of February 7th. 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.

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh! Rang 5

It was so interesting to learn all about neurodiversity this week. We watched videos and shared stories on how brains can work differently and celebrated how these differences are a beautiful thing.

Rang 5 have been working hard on our confirmation preparation. Creating symbolic flames for the Holy Spirit, learning about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and reflecting on how we experience the Holy Spirit.

In art we've created and displayed our lovely pieces. We explored mosaics, volcanoes inspired by Hokusai, and an acrylic painting of a leprechaun.

Procedural Writing has been going really well. We really enjoy putting steps together to explain how to do something.

SESE has been jam packed this term. We have been taking a deep dive into Irish history and looking at the 15th and 16th century. This has given us a better understanding of Irish culture and the hardships Irish went through during that time. Electricity has been so interesting this term. We made basic circuits with lightbulbs and buzzers. A Marine Biologist visited us this month to tell us all about the changes happening in the ocean. We are currently carrying out an experiment to see how the rise in acidic levels in the ocean is affecting the flora and fauna in the sea. We will be plotting a graph to see how our shells are doing in a petri dish of vinegar.

We are delighted to be starting rugby this month. We got some funny nicknames and played great games. Learning a new sport is fun.

Maths has been challenging us with percentages, mixed numbers, improper fractions and time. We did really well on our maths assessment and have been revising anything we find difficult.

Táimid ag obair ar na briathra rialto, go háirithe an aimsir fháistineach. Tá na briathra cuíosach deacair ach tá 'cheat sheet' againn chun chabhrú linn.

Unfortunately, Peace Proms was cancelled due to the venue being used for other purposes but we have been coming up with ideas for making a video to show the work we have put into it. We will become directors and videographers for this and especially understanding how to work as a team.

We have been working as a class to improve our reading. We are so proud of all the quizzes we have completed and finally reached our cumulative target of 1500 points. Now we get to have a party of our choice on the Friday before Easter.

Thank you for reading our Easter newsletter. We hope you enjoyed it.

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 6th 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!

Preschool 1



Hello everyone. We have been busy little bees here in Preschool 1 in the last few weeks. We enjoyed the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We learned about the life cycle of the butterfly and we painted some lovely caterpillars and colourful butterflies. 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 had a nice surprise waiting for us out in the garden this week. We got a fantastic big new slide, we couldn't wait to all have a go! We are very excited for the arrival of the Easter bunny next week.

We would like to thank Mary Pierce and Fionn's mammy, Mags, for the donation of yummy Easter eggs for all the children in the preschool classes.

We hope you all have a very Happy Easter!
From Claire, Paula, Laura and all the children in PSL1



Rang 6

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of our penultimate term in 6th Class and in Scoil Lachtaín! We look forward to our last few months here and continue our preparations for our impending transition to secondary school!

We have been taking part in some interesting projects over the last few months. Through the Incredible Edibles programme we explored food origin, tracing food from farm to fork, focused on Irish produce and even planted our own potatoes, strawberries, carrots, turnips, salad leaves and spinach. We are keeping a keen eye on our growing shoots and look forward to planting them out in the garden after the Easter break.

We also engaged with a series of webinars hosted by NUI Galway called 'Meet the Scientist'. We heard about the work of a Data Scientist, Psychologist and Neuroscientist. It was really interesting and gave us a further glimpse into the many possibilities in the science field.

We've been busy working on our IT skills also and we all created some super slideshows about our favourite authors for World Book Day. We also had the pleasure of visiting the Junior and Senior Infant classrooms to read with the children for World Book Day. It was great fun and a welcome return to some normality mixing with other classes!

In March we welcomed Mr. Walsh into our class for his Teaching Practice. We did so many fun and interesting things with him. We read the novel '**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas**'. It's a really moving story about the friendship which develops between two young boys, Bruno and Shmuel. It's set during World War 2. Bruno is the son of a Nazi Army Commandant and Shmuel is a young Polish boy who is held captive in the concentration camp at Auschwitz. They develop an unlikely friendship and we see snippets of what life was like during WW2 through their eyes. We were gripped to the story and were just as eager to watch the movie adaptation when we had finished reading.

We worked lots on our Oral Irish and gave weather reports and personal profiles. We have gained so much confidence when it comes to speaking Irish over the last few months – hopefully we can continue working on this in the last term.

We designed and made our own musical instruments to create a cacophony of stormy weather sounds! We engineered some really cool parachutes for toy figurines and made some beautiful Easter baskets. It was lovely to have Mr. Walsh working with us and we wish him well in his future career.

We are in the midst of preparations for our upcoming Confirmation on May 14th. We have made some beautiful art to brighten up the church on the day. We look forward to welcoming our families to join us on the day and share in our celebration of the sacrament.

This week we hosted the annual school science fair. We really enjoyed working together to create some super displays and mind boggling investigations for the other classes to experience! Check out our photos and videos on the school website!



Rang 3 / 4.

It has been a very busy term and time has really flown since Christmas. We have covered lots of interesting topics and the children seemed to particularly enjoy the local history we covered over the past few weeks. We made our own kites in art and have just completed our clay boats which we will paint and finish after Easter. We had a really interesting visit from Benny last week who filled us in on all the damage being done to our oceans. We have had Ms. Rafter teaching in our room the past few weeks and the children have really enjoyed her help and guidance.

Outside the classroom there has been lots going on too. Olivia was very excited to move into her new house. Max was really lucky as he got to see the Belgium and Ireland soccer match in the Aviva. Divina and Fionn have got new puppies and Eimear's dog is going to have some next week! Some people in the class got to go on some lovely holidays too with Lochlann going to Lanzarote, Senan going to Centre Parcs in Longford and lucky Bill going to Disneyland! Mei Lan's granddad Jim inspired all the class with his kindness when he travelled to Ukraine to bring much needed aid to the poor people out there. Lastly Jack has got a ticket to see Ed Sheeran in Cork. Everyone in the class is very jealous!!

Junior Infants

Junior Infants have been very busy since returning to school after Christmas. During Aistear, we were focusing on Polar Regions. We were very excited when Aoibhinn's daddy offered to come and tell us all about his trip to the South Pole. He showed us some amazing pictures of his time there and the different penguins he saw. We have been learning all our tricky words. We are so good at them. We love them. World Book day was great fun. Rang a 6 visited our class and we read some books and listened to some stories. Bricks 4 Kidz was so much fun. We got to make some cool characters.

PE is one of our favourite subjects. During PE, Ms. Harrison showed us some gymnastic moves. We learned how to balance our bodies in different ways, different rolls like front roll, pencil roll. Spring is here. The weather has been getting warmer. We are learning about things growing and new life. We planted some pumpkin seeds and peas. We have to water them and look after them.



Rang 1

1st class has had an extremely busy term since we came back after Christmas. Everyone has been working so hard. We have focussed a lot on science over the last while as we were busy for Engineers Week and Science Week. All the Mammies and Daddies have been a great help in sending in all the equipment that was needed for the work that was being covered in class. We did experiments on materials using playdough and elastic bands which was good fun. We also looked at the absorbency of materials by pouring water on them and ranking them out of ten. The classroom got a little messy but it was all for a good cause!! I'm sure you have all seen our engineering skills as we designed and built Eiffel Towers and chairs for bears. After some trial and error all the Eiffel Towers and chairs stood upright and remained standing!!!

We have been so busy also learning about two different countries, Australia and Mexico. When you come into our classroom, it is an array of colour with our Mexican papier Mache sugar skulls hanging up as well as the Australian, Aboriginal and Mexican flags hanging on our windows.

We have been learning about some very famous people in History, particularly Tom Crean and Martin Luther King. It's amazing how much everyone has learnt in the last few weeks.

The children learned about neurodiversity and autism and we did a little quiz in the hall which showed that they have learnt a lot about this topic.

St. Patrick's weekend was great fun in our class. The children spent the week learning Ballaí Luimní (The Walls of Limerick) and even managed to perform it to music outside in the sunshine for some of the other classes and onlooking parents!!

The final enjoyable activity for the term was on Tuesday when all the children helped plant some acorns in The Millennium Park and played some games also. It was great to be out for an hour and still learn some valuable skills. We wish you all a lovely Easter break and don't eat too many Easter Eggs!!



The Science Fair took place in our school this week with 6th class hosting. All classes including the preschool contribute to our SFI STEM Plaque of Excellence Award where we showcase our high standard in maths, engineering technology and science in our school. We had a very informative workshop with Benny Joyce where we learned about the negative effects of climate change and greenhouse gasses on our oceans. We learned about ph levels and how to test and change acidity levels.

Engineers Week: Thanks to all the teachers and students for the fantastic work for Engineers week from bridge design in junior infants, Eiffel towers in 1st class to marshmallow constructions in 5th class. Bricks for kids was a super success again.



Rang 2/3

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh ó Rang 2/3! Happy Easter from Rang a 2/3! We have been busy since our last newsletter. We have been working very well in Maths, where we have learned about Symmetry, Area, Multiplication, Division, Decimals, Estimation, Operations, Fractions and Rounding among others.

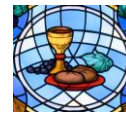
We have also enjoyed engaging in various art items including Printing, Quilling, Weaving and Graphic Art.

More recently we have been learning about Healthy eating in Geography and Circle Time, namely the Food Pyramid and Foods in Season. Continuing with this healthy theme we have been sharpening our ball skills in PE and have enjoyed daily wellness activities for mind and body within the class.

Our joined writing is really starting to impress, especially in our Procedural and Free Writing activities.

In addition, Rang 2 are currently preparing for their First Confession (School Hall, Wednesday 25th May) and First Holy Communion (Saturday 28th May), with the help of the Blessed Holy Communion Programme.

We are making really great progress. Well done to all and have a very happy and safe holiday!



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 ranged from, story reading, paired and shared reading, book cover designing, circle time, outdoor activities, buddy reading, and cosy reading time. All children received a World Book Day voucher to buy. Since January classes doing Accelerated Reading have read over 22 million words!! 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.



World
Book Day
2022

Preschool Lachtaín 2

We have been very busy in Preschool 2 the last few months. We loved the good weather and were happy playing outside in the garden and going for walks. We loved looking at the daffodils and made lovely daffodils for art.

We celebrated 3 birthdays since our last newsletter, Finn turned 5 and Betty and Jack turned 4. Saoirse will also turn 4 in a few days.

We enjoyed the stories The Enormous Turnip and The Little Red Hen and made lovely hens for art. We also loved singing nursery rhymes and learning about animals and their babies. We made lambs, bees and lots of lovely things for spring and loved trying to guess the different animals at hello group.

We are looking forward to Easter and are very busy doing some Easter art in school at the moment.

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.

Mary, Rachel, Catriona and all in Preschool 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 Handa's Surprise, Handa's Hen, Brown Bear and A Squash and a squeeze to name a few. We experimented tasting the fruits from Handa's Surprise and tasting pancakes for Pancake Tuesday. We got our hands dirty planting seeds at the beginning of spring.

We have been busy playing with lots of different sensory toys from the Library including a Magic Interactive table, sensory tiles, alphabet fishing magnets and a peanut roll. We have new outdoor equipment (slide, balance bikes and seesaw) and with the recent good weather, we have loved going outside to play with our friends and trying out our new toys.

We have been very busy with Art this term and have made lovely art for special events like Valentines, 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, Rían turned 5 and Evie turned 4. Baran will also turn 4 in a few days over the break. We have learnt all about our facial expressions and we can tell when others are happy, sad, angry or tired. We have made great improvements on asking questions in class, sharing and waiting for our turn. We are also learning how to put on our shoes all by ourselves. 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

Hurling

It has been great to see a return to schools games this spring. We have had two good wins over Lisdowney N.S. and Coon Muckalee N.S. in our two opening u-13 league games and play Goresbridge / Paulstown this evening.

The u-11 league starts up after Easter so lots of games to look forward to.

Camogie

The girls also got off to a positive start with a win in our first match against Urlingford. The second match was postponed so we have a couple of weeks before facing Danesfort, Tullaroan and Kilmanagh.

Kilkenny County Fleadh will take place in Freshford April 22nd-24th. Lots of ceol agus craic on the green as well as free workshops for children. Children have taken part in colouring competition.

Autism / Neurodiversity Fortnight March 28th-April 8th

We were delighted to celebrate Autism and Neurodiversity Awareness and Understanding Fortnight throughout our school over the last two weeks. Our team of SNAs led by Catriona planned and coordinated the events.

A library of books and visual display were set up in the School Hall for all classes to share, learn from and aid discussion. Art activities abounded with beautiful displays in windows and on walls throughout the school.

Catriona gave a really informative and enjoyable presentation to each of the senior classes.

The children dressed in their most colourful clothes on Wednesday 6th of April and raised approximately €380 for AsIAM. Thank you everyone!



One of our Preschool parents, Eleanor Geoghegan, has written and published a children's picture book which just launched this April for Autism Awareness Month. It was inspired by her two children, Ava and Jack and teaches the colours of the Rainbow. It's called 'Popper Monster's Magical Rainbow Lunch Adventure'.

Here is a link to the website:
www.poppermonster.com

This term, we also celebrated World Confidence Day and Green Day.