

NUACHTLITIR NA GAELSCOILE (1) 2015

09/09/'15

- CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE ROIMH CHÁCH!** All are very welcome back to school after the holidays! We hope that everyone had a most enjoyable and restful summer break and that everyone is ready and enthusiastic about the new school year! We are delighted to give a special **fáilte mhór** to our three new classes of **Naíonáin Bheaga**, as well as to **Alex Mac Thoirealaigh**, who has joined Rang 5 and also **Shane Mac Gothraidh** who has joined Rang 1. We hope that they will be **sona sásta** as part of Gaelscoil Cheatharlach and that everyone will have a happy and healthy school year ahead.
- MÚINTEOIRÍ NUA:** We are delighted to welcome **An M. Mairéad** back from her recent career break and to have **An M. Andréa** with us again for this school year, replacing **An M. Emer** who is on career break for this school year. Fáilte roimh **Múinteoirí Lísá agus Emily** who are replacing **Múinteoirí Áine agus Clár** for the remainder of their Maternity Leaves.
- COMHBHRÓN:** As we begin a new school year, we are very mindful of **Clann Uí Inglis Uí Éideáin** who recently suffered the great loss of the lovely and talented **Dónal**. Dónal spent eight years with us as part of the Gaelscoil and we were all extremely saddened to hear of his tragic death. As with all our páistí, Dónal made his mark in the Gaelscoil, not only as a fine young man but as a talented hurler and athlete in particular. We extend our deepest sympathy and support to his family – parents Matt agus Noeleen, and siblings Deirdre, Maria, Clár, Maitiú, Séamus agus Moling, all of whom attended the Gaelscoil. Ar dheis Dé go raibh anam dílis Dhónaill.
- AM OSCAILTE NA SCOILE:** A reminder that official school times are from **9:20 – 2:00** for Naíonáin Bheaga agus Mhóra, with all other classes finishing at **3pm**. Please ensure that children are in time for school each morning and collected promptly at going home time, unless participating in afterschool activities, as the school does not take responsibility for them outside of these times. As we are obliged to report school absences to the **National Education Welfare Board**, it is very important to inform your child's teacher why your child was absent or late for school, either by note or by contacting Paula at Oifig na Gaelscoile. If an occasion arises that your child is unavoidably late for school, for whatever reason, please send them in for the remainder of the day if possible so that a full day is not missed.
- FÓD SPRAOI:** Returning to school last week was helped greatly when the páistí realised that the **Astro Turf Fairies** had been busy over the holidays! Our new double sized pitch is a wonderful and most welcome addition to the many facilities already available to the páistí and it is in use at every possible opportunity. A great amount of credit is due to the **Gaelscoil tuismitheoirí/** parents and **Cairde** group who fundraised tirelessly to make this dream a reality, and also to the school's **Bord Bainistíochta/** Board of Management, who supported this great work. Comhghairdeas libh go léir!
- CLAÍ NUA:** The safety of the páistí in our care has always, and continues to be, extremely important to us in Gaelscoil Cheatharlach. You have probably noticed the new fencing around the car park at the front of the school. It was necessary to do this, at considerable cost, as quite a number of people continued to use the car park as a walk through, often bringing small children with them. This was happening in spite of continuous reminders that pathways were to be used at all times. We need 100% co-operation from everyone in order to ensure safety for the children. We have also introduced a Reverse Parking System. The car park is strictly for staff parking only and is never to be used as a walk through, even if unaccompanied by children. The example we all give them is of great importance. Please ensure that minders, family members or friends who may be dropping or collecting your children are aware of this policy also. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.
- PÁIRCEAIL:** Your co-operation regarding using the **unofficial one way system** is hugely appreciated. A reminder that residents' **driveways are never to be blocked**, even for a minute or two. Please avoid parking on **footpaths or on grassed areas** in our local housing area also. With such a large volume of children being dropped and collected each day, a little patience from all helps to ensure safety for everyone. Bus bays are **strictly for buses only** in the mornings and again at

3p.m. and are never to be used, even for a ‘**quick drop-off**’. With 10 buses bringing children to the Gaelscoil, it is absolutely vital that this area is reserved exclusively for them. **Please inform child minders or others who may be dropping/collecting your child of this.**

8. **ÉADAÍ SCOILE:** Your child will know by now which days s/he will be doing sport in school. These are the only days on which the sports uniform is permitted. A reminder that **plain** black tracksuits are to be worn, thus avoiding competition regarding logos/stripes of some more expensive styles, as well as runners which are safe for sports class. On other days, the full brown uniform is to be worn, including school tie and **dark footwear**. Please ensure that all school jumpers/coats etc. are clearly labelled with the child’s name (**as Gaeilge**) and **Seomra** number. We already have some lost unlabelled items since the children have returned to school. We are very aware of the cost involved with school uniforms and hope that replacements will not be required – please encourage your child to be responsible for their school jumpers etc. and to check that they have all items going home every evening. **Míle buíochas** to the members of the Cairde Committee who again arranged a very successful sale of unwanted uniforms before the holidays. We still have a number of good quality brown and sports jumpers and we would be delighted if they were of use to any family. Please ask Paula if you feel you might use them. We hope to have a sale of unwanted uniforms again at the end of this school year – please keep any good quality uniforms if your child has outgrown them and if they are of no further use to you. It is an excellent part of our Scoil Ghlas/Green School initiative and avoids unnecessary expense of buying new uniforms in many cases. A reminder also that hairstyles and hair colour are to be **appropriate for primary school and to be natural** – this avoids distraction and pressure on others to compete with the latest fashion.
9. **LEABHAIR SCOILE:** As always, we are continuing with our book rental scheme, helping to keep the cost of book bills to a minimum. Most books have already been supplied to the children, with the remainder being made available during the year as required. With such an enormous volume of books in the system for almost 500 children, it is possible that one or two no longer fit for use may have slipped through. If your child has received one of these, please feel free to return it and a better copy will be supplied. Please encourage your child to take good care of the books during the school year – the success of our Book Rental Scheme depends on the books being kept in good condition and fit to be passed on for another child’s use. **Lost or damaged books are to be replaced.** **Buíochas mór** to all who have paid their bookbills by now, and to those who continue to pay in instalments, as arranged. Co-operation by all ensures that we can continue with this very worthwhile system, helping to reduce the bills significantly, especially in the senior classes.
10. **BAINNE AGUS LÓN:** The School Milk Scheme will begin in October for those children interested. Children will get order forms for this next week. A reminder of our Healthy Lunch Policy – drinks of milk, water or diluted juice and healthy options such as sandwiches, rolls, wraps, fruit or yogurt (provided that the child can manage independently). Lots of suggestions for school lunches can be found as an appendix to our Healthy Lunch Policy, available on our school website. Any items including chocolate and popcorn are to be avoided please. The children will bring home any uneaten lunch as well as wrappers in their Bosca Lóin – then you will know what exactly has been eaten. As we now have quite a number of children with nut allergies, we will continue with a **complete ban on nuts, foods with nut traces and nut based products such as peanut butter and Nutella.** Another of our pupils has Cystic Fibrosis and can be at risk if exposed to many common illnesses. Please let us know if your child has contracted a virus such as flu so that this child can be protected as much as possible. Some pupils who suffer from asthma need access to inhalers while in school. Please ensure that these are kept in date, with a spare in the oifig if possible. Your co-operation in this matter is hugely appreciated – the health and well being of all the children remains our priority.
11. **CÚRSAÍ SPÓIRT:** The Cumann na mBunscol football competitions will begin very shortly, with our buachaillí agus cailíní competing against local schools. Last weekend provided a feast of our traditional games with Cill Chainnigh retaining their senior title in **Iománaíocht** and the Dubs defeating Maigh Eo to ensure their place in **Craobh na hÉireann sa Pheil** against Ciarraí on September 20th. We look forward to another exciting and skilful game on that occasion. May the best team win – and may it be Ciarraí!!! As is tradition here in the Gaelscoil, children may wear colours to support their counties of choice on the Friday prior to the final, showing support for their chosen

team in either the senior or minor games. Official jerseys are not necessary to enter into the spirit – any clothes with the chosen colours will be fine.

12. **SNÁMH:** Children in Rang 2 (M.Majella) and Rang 4 (M.Ruairí) have started swimming lessons since Monday and will continue for eight Mondays. This is heavily subsidised by the Parents' Voluntary Contribution, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn to swim while in school with us.
13. **LÁ LÚTHCHLEASAÍOCHTA:** Local St Laurence O'Toole Athletics Club will host their annual School Athletics Day for **Rang 4, 5 agus 6** on Wednesday, 23rd September. All pupils are invited to participate and we expect that many medals will return with the children as usual.
14. **LÁ NA nGEANSAITHE/GOAL JERSEY DAY:** Friday, **October 9th** is **GOAL Jersey Day**. As always, we encourage the children to wear whichever sports jersey they choose and to make a contribution to GOAL, the very worthwhile charity which does so much good work in poorer countries. If your child does not own a football jersey or is not in a position to borrow one, the school tracksuit will do fine on the day. A donation of €2 is suggested but whatever suits your circumstances will be welcome. Please put in an envelope marked **GOAL** – there is no need to include the child's name as it is an anonymous contribution. **Go raibh maith agaibh.**
15. **GÉARCHÉIM TEIFEACH SAN EORAIP:** As we are all aware, the current refugee crisis in Europe is critical, with many thousands of people needing help. Calais Refugee Solidarity Group is organizing a convoy to Calais from Cork at the end of September (30th) and need donations of good heavy winter coats, tents, sleeping bags, shoes, medical and personal hygiene supplies, among other things. (More information is available on their Facebook page entitled 'Ireland Calais Refugee Solidarity'). We will be happy to use the Gaelscoil as a collection point from Monday to Wednesday (28th – 30th) and encourage you and your families/friends to help those in urgent need at this time. **Míle buíochas.**
16. **CLÁRÚ/ENROLMENTS:** Please ensure that we have names of little brothers and sisters who have yet to come to school, especially for **September 2016**, as we want to ensure that places are reserved for them.
17. **FOIRMEACHA EOLAIS:** All contact numbers etc. need to be kept **up to date** for school records. This is especially vital if a child should be ill or have an accident. In the case where family circumstances may have changed, please let us know in confidence, as such situations can affect children hugely and we would like to help and support them where possible.
18. **CRUINNITHE:** Our Annual Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on November 24th and 25th for most classes with the exception of Junior Infants, which will take place during the Spring term. In the meantime, should you have any concern regarding any aspect of your child's progress, please feel free to speak to your child's teacher or to me, if appropriate. It is necessary to arrange a suitable appointment through Oifig na Gaelscoile for such appointments. Likewise, the teacher may feel it appropriate to meet with you before the November meetings – the vast majority of issues are easily resolved with good communication between school and home.

RANGANNA IARSCOILE/AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES: An extensive range of afterschool activities is available, for those children interested.

- a) **Button Accordion, Concertina, Flute and Tin Whistle Classes** will resume with An M. Clár when she returns from Maternity Leave after Halloween.
- b) **Fiddle, Banjo and Guitar Classes** with Eric de Buitléar for children from Rang 1 – upwards will take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm – 4pm. Eric is a past pupil of the school and is an accomplished musician. All classes with Eric will begin before the end of the month and he can be contacted directly at **086 8531233** to book places.
- c) **Ealaín/Art Classes** will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays each week, from 2pm-3pm for the Infant classes and from 3pm-4pm for older children, beginning next week. Please contact **Jean Robertson** directly at **086-8686783** for details and to book places.
- d) **Rince Gaelach:** Irish Dancing lessons with **Adeleine Dargan** resume in Halla na Gaelscoile on **Thursday** next (10th) at 2:15 - 3pm for children in Infant Classes and from 3 - 4pm for older children. Contact Adeleine at **085-7259865**.
- e) **Speech and Drama:** Classes with **Keelin Mc Donald** will begin on Tuesday next from 3– 4 pm for children from **Rang 2 – Rang 6**. Contact Keelin at **087 2534265**.

f) **Ficheall / Chess** : Classes for Rang 2 upwards will take place on Friday evenings from 3pm – 4pm, beginning next week with **Eddie Horkan**. Please contact Eddie directly at 087-9104800.

g) **Yoga** : Children's Yoga classes with **An M. Aisling** will take place from 3pm – 4pm in Seomra 2 on Wednesdays from next week also. Aisling has recently qualified to teach yoga and will cater for children from Rang 1 upwards, depending on demand. Contact through Oifig na Gaelscoile.

h) **Self Discipline /Self Defence Classes** with Brian Whelan of Carlow Martial Arts Sanctuary on Wednesdays from 3pm – 4pm for Rang 2 upwards. 13 weeks of classes (this term) cost €65. Contact Brian directly on 087 2376903 for further details.

i) **Fraicís agus Gearmáin**: An introduction to French and/or German for **Rang 6** pupils, as a taster for choosing a language for secondary school. Fully qualified and experienced teachers, Caoimhe Uí Fhearail and Anna O' Brien, will be available for those interested for German lessons with Anna on Mondays and for French lessons with Caoimhe on Tuesdays (3 – 4pm). Please phone Anna (087 2900835) or Caoimhe (086 8570832) for further information.

GLÓR CHEATHARLACH NEWS ...Sept 2015

RANGANNA GAEILGE: Irish Classes for adults will begin the week of 21st Sept. Classes from 7-9pm in County Council Offices, Athy Rd. Mondays (beginners) and Tuesdays (intermediate) for 10 weeks. Fee €180. Register on www.gaelchultur.com Ph. 085 1340047.

COMHRÁ GAEILGE: Informal Irish conversation groups for adults. No charge.

Every Wednesday morning in **Carlow Museum** 10.30-11.30am.

In **Reddys**, Tullow St. on the first Thursday of each month at 9pm. In **Teach Bar**, Tullow St. on the last Thursday of each month at 9pm.

CIORCAIL CHOMHRÁ IARSCOILE: Afterschool Oral Irish for Junior & Senior Cycle Students begin week of 21st Sept. 4.30-5.30pm in New Oak Centre .1st- 3rd Years on Mondays. 4th- 6th Years on Tuesdays. €20 for the term.

SPRAOI PARENT/TODDLER GROUP: The bilingual Parent/Toddler Group **SPRAOI** meet on certain Saturday mornings in New Oak Community Centre from 11am – 12.00. Toddlers 0-5 years and their parents welcome. Next dates are 19th Sept and 3rd October. No charge.

NAÍONRA: Naíonra Preschool 'as Gaeilge' based in Graiguecullen Swimming Centre has a few free ECCE places available. Also fee paying places for younger children. 085 7377041.

AIFREANN: Mass in Irish in Carlow Cathedral at 6.15pm on the 1st & 2nd Saturdays of each month commencing in October. Singers welcome for Cór an Aifrinn. 087 2857048.

Tá súil againn go mbeidh scoilbhliain shona ag gach duine mar chuid de Ghaelscoil Cheatharlach. Wishing everyone a very happy and successful year as part of Gaelscoil Cheatharlach.

Slán go fóill,

An M. Aingeal (Príomhoide)

