

NUACHTLITIR NA GAELSCOILE (1) 2016

08/09/2016

1. **CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE ROIMH CHÁCH!** We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school after the summer holidays! We hope that everyone had a good rest with lots of fun and that everyone is now ready to greet the new school year with enthusiasm and energy! We are delighted to give a special **fáilte mhór** to our three new classes of **Naíonáin Bheaga**, as well as to **brothers Finn agus Oisín Díring who have joined Naíonáin Mhóra and Rang a hAon**. We hope that they will be **sona sásta** as part of Gaelscoil Cheatharlach and that all will have a happy and successful school year ahead.
 2. **MÚINTEOIRÍ NUA:** We are delighted to welcome the múinteoirí nua who have joined our team this year- Múinteoirí Lísa (Naíonáin Mhóra) agus Múinteoir Brian (Rang 1) and also Múinteoir Sinéad who is currently working with Rang 5, Seomra 14. Múinteoir Rós, who was to be with this class for the year, was just recently offered a job near her home, therefore this position has been re-advertised and should be filled by the end of the month.
 3. **CLÓS SÚGARThA NUA:** There has been great excitement since we returned to school regarding our beautiful new playground in **Clós na Naíonán /Junior Yard!** All classes have thoroughly enjoyed spending time on it with their friends, even our senior classes, proving that one never outgrows that lovely sense of play! This is a great addition to the excellent facilities already existing here in the Gaelscoil and it will provide endless opportunities to develop social skills such as playing together and turn-taking as well as developing motor skills, spatial awareness etc. The finishing touch to the Clós Súgartha will be a permanent fence and gate, which we are hoping to have installed over the next few weeks. In the interests of Health and Safety, this facility has to be restricted to our school pupils, and only under the supervision of a múinteoir. Great tribute is deserved by our Cairde group who work tirelessly, organising events to raise funds for such extras as this and indeed to the entire cohort of parents and the broader Gaelscoil community who continuously support these events. Since we moved to our beautiful new school, less than ten years ago, the following dreams have been made a reality because of this wonderful support and co-operation between the parent body, Board of Management and staff of the school:
 - Leabharlann Scoile/State of the art School Library
 - Córas Fuaime agus Stáitse/Sound System and Stage for our Halla
 - Dallóga/New Window Blinds throughout the school
 - Falla Spóirt/ Double-Sided Hurling Wall
 - Ríomhairí/Suite of Laptops for the senior classes
 - Fód Spraoi/Astro-Turf Pitch
 - Clós Súgartha/ New Playground
- This list does not include the many opportunities available to our páistí through special guest speakers and workshops, visiting drama and pantomime groups, sports and classroom equipment, hiring of buses etc., all of which add to the broad and holistic education we strive to provide for Gaelscoil pupils. As the old Irish saying tells us, **Ní Neart go Cur le Chéile!** (Strength in Unity and Co-operation).
4. **CEOLCHOIRM CHEILIÚRThA:** As we begin the 35th school year since the Gaelscoil was founded in September 1982, a special concert will take place on **Friday, 21st October**. Featuring a host Gaelscoil past pupils and friends, many of whom are widely recognised as talented musicians, singers and performers, this concert promises to musical extravaganza and a celebration of Gaelscoil talent! Further details be made available over the next few weeks but in the meantime – **Save the Date!**
 5. **LÁ INSEIRBHÍSE:** All local schools will be taking part in a training workshop for the new Primary School Religion Programme ‘**Grow in Love**’ on Tuesday September 20th. All classes will be free at 12 noon on that day.

6. **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.
7. **PÁIRCEÁIL:** 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 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 kept 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. Several new sets of books have been added to the system this year, replacing some which had become somewhat shabby from use. 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 book bills 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 wellbeing 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 magnificent display of skill with **Tiobraid Árann** overcoming **Cill Chainnigh** in **Craobh Iomána na hÉireann**/All Ireland Hurling Final and **Maigh Eo** taking on the **Dubs** in **Craobh Peile na hÉireann**/All Ireland Football Final on September 16th. We look forward to another exciting and skilful game on that occasion. 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 (Ciarraí agus An Ghaillimh). This Sunday sees our own county of **Ceatharlach** competing in **Craobh Chamógióchta Shóisear na hÉireann**/All Ireland Junior Camogie Final for the first time ever and we would like to show them our support by wearing the Carlow colours tomorrow, Friday. 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.Andréa**) 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, 28th 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 14th** 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. **CLÁRÚ/ENROLMENTS:** Please ensure that we have names of little brothers and sisters who have yet to come to school, especially for **September 2017** as we want to ensure that places are reserved for them.
16. **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.
17. **CRUINNITHE:** Our Annual Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on November 22nd and 23rd 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** with An M. Clár for Rang 2 upwards on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3-4pm. Please contact Clár through Oifig na Gaelscoile.
- b) **Fiddle, Banjo and Guitar Classes** with Eric de Buitléir for children from Rang 1 – upwards will take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm – 4pm. Classes with Eric will begin on Thursday, September 22nd and he can be contacted directly at **086 8531233** to book places.

- c) **Ealaín/Art Classes** will take place on Mondays 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 (**15th**) 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 3– 4pm, beginning next week with **Eddie Horkan**. Please contact Eddie directly at 087-9104800.
- g) **Fraicís agus Gearmánais**: 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 2016

RANGANNA GAEILGE: Irish Classes for adults will begin the week of 26st Sept. Classes from 7-9pm in County Council Offices, Athy Rd. Mondays (beginners) and Tuesdays (intermediate) x10 weeks. Fee €180. Register on www.gaelchultur.com Ph 085 1340047, 087 2857048.

COMHRÁ GAEILGE: Informal Irish conversation groups for adults. No charge. Every Wednesday morning in **Carlow Museum** 10.30 -11.30am.
Also 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.

NAÍONRA: Naíonra Preschool ‘as Gaeilge’ is based in Graiguecullen Swimming Centre. Booking now for September 2017. Free ECCE Scheme (x2 years). Ph Lorraine 085 7377041.

AIFREANN: Mass in Irish in Carlow Cathedral at 6.15pm on the 1st & 2nd Saturdays of each month commencing in October. All ages welcome to the choir (1st & 8th Oct).

SEAN-NÓS: Sean-Nós dancing classes for children and adults in Carlow Hurling Club commencing Tuesday, 4 Oct for 8 weeks. Beginners at 6pm and improvers at 7pm. Cost €5 per class. Teacher is Irene Cunningham. Phone 087 2857048 or just go along.

Ag guí scoilbhliain shona ar gach duine mar chuid de Ghaelscoil Cheatharlach. Wishing everyone a very happy and successful year as part of Gaelscoil Cheatharlach.

Slán go fóill,

Aíngeal Uí Dhálaigh

An M. Aíngeal (Príomhoide)

