

## NUACHTLITIR NA GAELSCOILE (3)

30/11/2017

1. **CRUINNITHE TUISMITHEOIRÍ/MÚINTEOIRÍ**: Míle buíochas to all the parents (Naíonáin Mhóra – Rang 6) who attended the recent **Parent/Teacher Meetings** and to all the múinteoirí for all the work involved in preparing for these meetings. It was lovely to see so many parents so obviously proud of their children's achievements on all fronts – socially, academically and emotionally. Please support your child in any areas which their múinteoir may have suggested for improvement and encourage them to continue doing their best. Maith sibh go léir, a bhuaichillí agus a chailíní!
2. **LÁ GEANSAÍ**: The recent GOAL Jersey Day was very well supported as always with a total of €839 collected for this great cause. Míle buíochas le gach duine.
3. **TEAM HOPE**: A total of **170 shoe boxes** were donated by Gaelscoil families, each filled with lots of carefully chosen gifts which will make many less well-off children very happy this Christmas. Comhghairdeas le gach duine a chabhraigh, maith sibh go léir!
4. **SEACHTAIN na hEOLAÍOCHTA**: Many of our senior classes were invited to take part in fascinating workshops in Carlow I.T. as part of National Science Week recently. Opportunities such as this are hugely valuable as they can often influence career choices in later years and we encourage all our pupils to take part in such activities from an early age.
5. **AONACH NA LEABHAR**: The School Book Fair ran very smoothly as always, due in no small part to **An M. Mícheál** who co-ordinated it and the wonderful help from **Cairde** volunteers who helped out as 'siopadóirí'. A total of €4,441.69 was spent during the week of the Fair, giving the school free books to the value of €2665, a welcome addition to class libraries. As always, the range and quality of the books was excellent. The gift of reading is truly a gift for life and we encourage the children of all age groups to set aside a little time each day to read. Before bedtime is a really good time to do this as it allows the brain to unwind (away from screens) and helps to ensure a better night's sleep.
6. **DUAISEANNA TIMPEALLACHTA**: Comhghairdeas le gach duine who helps to keep our school surroundings looking so well at all times, especially Tony, our hardworking caretaker, and the members of our Coiste Glas agus Coiste Garraíodóireachta (Green School and Gardening Committees). We were recently awarded the top prize in the schools category of the county Pride of Place Awards, as well as taking 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the Tidy Towns awards. Maith sibh go léir, leanaigí leis an dea-obair!
7. **PEACE PROMS**: We are very pleased to have the opportunity to take part again this year in this wonderful choral collaboration. Páistí from both **Rang 3** classes will be representing An Gaelscoil. Special thanks to **An M. Lísa**, who has already begun working with the páistí on the lovely repertoire involved. This work will culminate in joining with a host of other schools (over 1,500 children in total) to perform with the **Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland** along with many talented soloists, in a concert which will take place at the **Cillín Hill, Kilkenny** on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, at 2 pm. A very special event for all, especially the páistí and their families.
8. **CUAIRTEOIR SPEISIALTA**: We were delighted to have the children's author, **Áine Ní Ghlinn**, return to us in the Gaelscoil where she recently did excellent workshops with our senior classes. Áine discussed her own work, read from her books and gave the páistí lots of tips and guidance on their personal writing styles and techniques. As Áine is an author of many books of fiction and poetry 'as Gaeilge', this visit was particularly beneficial to our buaichillí agus cailíní.
9. **M.S. READATHON**: Many children in all classes wisely used the M.S. Readathon to set a little time aside each day for reading. As well as the thousands of books which gave great enjoyment to those children during that time, sponsorship raised for the M.S. Society is still coming in, money which is

greatly appreciated and which will be put to great use. Míle buíochas to all the buachaillí agus cailíní for their great efforts and to all their families and friends who encouraged and sponsored them.

10. **ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN:** December 14<sup>th</sup> is a very special day for Rang 6 (S. 16) as they have received an official invitation from Uachtarán na hÉireann, Mícheál D. Ó hUigín, to join him in the Áras for the unveiling on Dearcán na nDaoine, the large bronze sculpture which he commissioned as part of the 1916 commemorations. Five classes of children from around the country, as well as other community representatives, were invited to put their dreams and wishes for the future in writing and this work has been placed in a time capsule within the gigantic bronze acorn, created by renowned artist, Rachel Joynt. As we are the only Gaelscoil in the country invited to take part in this project, it is indeed a great privilege for us as a school community to have been included and especially for the páistí to have been involved.
11. **CÚRSAÍ SPÓIRT:** Sporting activities continue to play a large part in the Gaelscoil. Our Infant classes have begun **hurling** sessions with Leo Mc Gough of Setanta Hurling Club and they are thoroughly enjoying them. Apart from having great fun, the children are developing many new skills - we look forward to having them on the Gaelscoil teams in the not-too-distant future. Comhghairdeas mór le **Rachel Ní Chearra** who was recently selected for the Irish High Performance Pony Squad, as well as **Callum Mac Crábhágáin** and his sister **Julia**, both members of the Irish Karate Team and both of whom have won many national and international medals. We were all very proud to see **Ross Ó Fearghail** (Rang 4) on the Aviva Stadium pitch as a flag bearer at the recent Ireland/Denmark game. Involvement in sport of any nature is of great benefit, physically as well as psychologically, and we encourage everyone to take part in regular activity whether it be a team or individual sport.
12. **ÉIDE SPÓIRT:** A reminder that the school Éide Spóirt/Sports Uniform is to worn on days designated for P.E. classes only. **Plain black tracksuit bottoms (not leggings)** without logos, to avoid pressure of expensive or inappropriate alternatives please. Plain white polo shirts are to be worn with the Gaelscoil sports top and footwear is to be suitable for sporting activities.
13. **AIFREANN SPEISIALTA:** Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, is a holy day of obligation (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) and **An tAth. Conn** will say a **special Mass** here in the Gaelscoil at 12 noon. We invite parents, grandparents and extended families to join us. There will be a special blessing of the Infant Jesus from family cribs during the Mass and children are invited to bring their crib figures of Jesus to school on that day for this purpose. Preferably not priceless versions and depending on the child's age to be responsible for them! Please label clearly with your family name to avoid confusion when returning same to the children.
14. **GEAMAIREACHT:** Christmas beckons with our annual pantomime in the Gaelscoil this week! The West Midlands Touring Children's Theatre enthralled everyone with their version of **Dick Whittington** and created a great buzz in Halla na Gaelscoile. Annual treats such as this are funded by the Parents' Voluntary Contribution – buíochas ó chroí to all who support this.
15. **CLÚDACH ROTHAR:** Our newly installed Bicycle Cover is a welcome addition to our school's facilities and we hope that it will encourage lots of children to cycle to school. Bought from funds raised through the various Cairde events, its purchase and installation were arranged by parents Louise and Stephen Murphy of Cyclok. A lovely addition to this cover will be a variety of children's artwork which will adorn the clear perspex on the domed roof. Many classes are already working on individual and group pieces, depicting many aspects of bicycles and cycle safety. Some children have opted to work on an individual piece at home and we encourage them to continue with this. Entries on paper A4 size by 14<sup>th</sup> December.
16. **BUIDÉIL NA MBONN:** Our more senior classes have requested, through the members of **Aontas na Mac Léinn** (Students' Council), that goalposts be provided if possible for our lovely **Fód Spraoi/Astro Pitch**. As you may remember, our school was recently awarded a One For All Voucher to the value of €500 at the recent St. Laurence O' Toole Athletics Day, for the school showing the best team spirit and participation, money which we had ring fenced for sporting facilities in the school. To supplement this fund to buy the goal posts, the páistí have organised a **Copper Collection**. They will

visit all the classrooms each Friday morning to collect any unwanted coppers (coins other than coppers will be gratefully received also!!) and transfer all the coins to two large plastic bottles, one for upstairs and the other for downstairs classrooms., hence the name **Buidéil na mBonn** (Coin Bottles). It is so encouraging to see our pupils taking ownership of this project, they would really appreciate support from the school community. Please encourage family members and friends to keep any unwanted coppers for this fund also. As the old Irish saying tells us – “**Is mór iad na beaga i dteannta a chéile!**” (Little things become great things when put together). Míle buíochas libh go léir.

17. **SEIRBHÍS CHARÚL NA NOLLAG:** We will be gathering in **Askea Church on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December**, at 7.30 for our traditional carol service. Rang 4, Seomra 12, will dramatize the story of the First Christmas and all classes from Rang 1 – Rang 6 will add to the occasion with various Christmas carols. Páistí from the infant classes and their families will be most welcome to attend this special event as always. Fáilte speisialta roimh sheanhuistí – grandparents are especially welcome for this lovely Christmas celebration.
18. **MION AONACH NA NOLLAG:** We will again hold a **Mini Christmas Fair**, a very special day in the Gaelscoil and a day filled with Christmas cheer, goodwill and lots of fun! We are inviting all the páistí (as well as múinteoirí and family members!) to wear their Christmas jumpers and hats for the day to add to the atmosphere. The main event will take place on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> in Halla na Gaelscoile**, which will be transformed into a **Winter Wonderland** for the day, courtesy of the elves who will have been very busy during the previous night! A special **Santa’s Grotto** will have been built and all classes will have group photographs taken for display on the main corridor afterwards. The two **Rang 6** classes will spend the previous day (Monday) working with Kate Ní Bhriain, Gaelscoil past pupil and Home Economics teacher in the Gaelcholáiste, and they will bake hundreds of delicious cookies for the occasion. All classes will be invited to come along to join in the fun, decorate their cookies, buy some candy canes and raffle tickets for wonderful prizes, including a television, very generously donated again this year by Michael Curran (míle buíochas leat arís Michael). A rota of the time allocated to each class will be on display beforehand on the outdoor noticeboard. We would love to be joined by parents, family members and grandparents, either to help out or simply to enjoy the seasonal fun along with the páistí. **Fáilte roimh chách!** Any money raised will go towards the purchase of technology (iPads) for our junior classes. Tickets for the raffle will go on sale from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> at 50c each and candy canes can be bought for 20c. (limit to 5 per person). €2 will cover the cost of the Cookie Decorating Workshop (and the joy of eating the results!). Buíochas mór to the **Cairde group** and their band of Christmas helpers for organising these lovely activities, creating special memories for all.
19. **BUSCÁIL:** Our annual busking for the local branch of **St. Vincent de Paul** will take place on **Tuesday and Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December**, from 4 – 5:30 p.m. Our location has changed this year to **Carlow Shopping Centre**. School musicians of all ages will be welcome to come along and join in. Parents and other family members may also wish to join in, even to rattle a tambourine and add to the atmosphere!
20. **FAOISTIN NA NOLLAG:** Christmas Confessions for páistí from Rang 3 - Rang 6 will take place in the Gaelscoil during the week before the Christmas break.
21. **CÁRTAÍ NOLLAG:** As always, we ask that children **do not** exchange ‘bought’ Christmas cards – this is an unnecessary expense, puts pressure on others to do likewise and is unfair on children who may not receive any.
22. **FÉASTAÍ NOLLAG:** All classes will have Christmas Class Parties on Thursday, **21<sup>st</sup> December**. The páistí may bring in a small lón deas/treat lunch on that day. No food containing nuts or nut traces, no fizzy drinks or chewing gum please!
23. **LÁ OILIÚNA:** A reminder that **all classes are free on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**, as the staff have a second training day for the new Primary Language Curriculum.
24. **GRUAIG:** Míle buíochas to all the families who co-operated with the recent request to check hair for head lice and who treated over the allocated weekend. One of the scourges of all schools, the only way to deal with the problem is regular fine combing and treatment if necessary. We are introducing a

special addition to the **Obair Bhaile** for every Monday night, asking all parents to fine comb your child's hair, whether or not you suspect that they may have been infested. The word **Gruaig** will be in your child's Dialann, this will be a reminder to get the fine comb out. Tying up longer hair can also be a great help. Co-operation from all would be greatly appreciated and will help to cut down on the risk of infestation.

**25. BAINIS:** Míle comhghairdeas to **An Múinteoir Conchobhar** who will be getting married during the Christmas break. We wish him and Jerry many years of happiness and good health! Comhghairdeas freisin leis **An Múinteoir Emer** who is currently on career break and who recently got married also, guímid gath rath uirthi féin agus Michael.

A reminder that school holidays begin on **Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, with all classes free at 12 noon. The school reopens on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January**.

**Tá súil agam go mbeidh Nollaig shona, shíochánta ag gach duine. Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.**

**Slán go fóill**

*Aingeal*

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**An Múinteoir Aingeal**

