

NUACHTLITIR NA GAELSCOILE (1) 2017

07/09/2017

- FÁILTE AR AIS AR SCOIL!** We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school after the summer break! A special **fáilte mhór** to our three new classes of **Naíonáin Bheaga**, as well as new Gaelscoil pupils, **James Ó Floinn** who has joined Rang 6, coming from Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada in Lucan and **Aoibhín, James and Archie Mac Dónaill** who have joined Rang 6, 4 agus 2 from Gaelscoil Phort Laoise. We hope that they all settle in well to school life in the Gaelscoil and that all will have a happy and successful year ahead. Our senior classes have had a very positive start to the school year and are showing great maturity and example to the more junior classes, continuing with the Gaelscoil ethos – maith sibh, a bhuachaillí agus a chailíní, leanaigí oraibh!
- MÚINTEOIRÍ:** Fáilte freisin roimh na múinteoirí go léir. **An Múinteoir Brian** has joined the team as a permanent staff member, with **Múinteoirí Lísá agus Mary Rose** being with us again for the coming year. **An Múinteoir Fiona** will be working as part of the Oideachas Speisialta/ Special Education team until the Halloween break, replacing **An Múinteoir Áine** for the remainder of her maternity leave and **An Múinteoir Mícheál** will be replaced by **An Múinteoir Charlotte** while he takes Parental Leave for 7 weeks, beginning on Monday next.
- 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 and in their líne 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.
- CLÓS NA MAIDINE:** With children heading to 18 different classrooms from the líne each morning, having a clear system in place ensures that everything works smoothly and that everyone has an easy start to the school day. We are asking that the area from the main door to the various class lines be kept clear to allow the múinteoirí come to their classes and for all classes to move safely to the school doors. Please avoid standing at the railing at the end of the class lines also as this area can become quite congested. A little awareness of these areas will certainly help the flow and your co-operation is greatly appreciated in this regard. Our Naíonáin Bheaga/ Junior Infant classes will be joining the other classes in the yard from Tuesday morning next and we would like to have things as organised and as relaxed as possible for them.
- FEARAS CLÓIS NUA:** Our beautiful playground has some new additions which are proving very popular with our Ranganna Naíonán/Infant Classes. The Double See Saw is in great demand, as are the Stepping Pads, Balance Beam and Spinner Bowl. Apart from providing lots of fun and turn taking opportunities for our younger pupils, all elements of the Clós Súgartha are designed to help develop physical skills and essential muscular strength and stability. A reminder that the Clós Súgartha is for class use only, while under the supervision of a múinteoir. Three picnic benches have been added to the Clós Mór for older classes, with the added benefit of Super-Sized Games attached on each one – Snakes and Ladders, Chess and Draughts. A new Bicycle Shelter is due to be installed in coming weeks and we hope that this will encourage many more of our pupils to cycle to school regularly, knowing that a dry saddle will be waiting for them at the end of the day! Buíochas mór to our Gaelscoil families and friends who continuously support fund raising initiatives, making wonderful facilities such as these possible for all our pupils.
- PÁIRCEÁIL:** Your co-operation regarding using the unofficial one way system is greatly appreciated. We are grateful to Carlow County Council for installing the new Pedestrian Crossing, providing extra safety for everyone. Please observe the No Parking limits on either side of the

crossing. A reminder that residents' **driveways are never to be blocked**, even for a minute or two. **Set Down Areas** are for pulling in and dropping off only and should not be used for parking if accompanying a child in to the school. Please avoid parking on **footpaths or on grassed areas** in our local housing area also. With almost 500 children being dropped now attending the Gaelscoil, a little consideration from all helps to ensure maximum safety. 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.**

7. **EADAÍ 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. In line with our Code of Behaviour, **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. A reminder also that **one pair of neat studs** is allowed for those who wear earrings. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated in these matters.
8. **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. Should you discover some books at home which belong to the school, please return them, even if they are long overdue. No questions will be asked!
9. **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. Chocolate, cereal bars 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**. We now have two Gaelscoil pupils with **Cystic Fibrosis**. These children 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.
10. **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 **An Ghaillimh** defeating poor **Port Láirge** in **Craobh Iomána na hÉireann/ All Ireland Hurling Final**. **Maigh Eo** will try again to overcome their long curse while taking on the **Dubs** in **Craobh Peile na hÉireann/All Ireland Football Final** on September 17th. 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 Doire** – hoping to see a few green and gold!!). Official jerseys are not necessary to enter into the spirit – any clothes with the chosen colours will be fine!

11. **SNÁMH:** Children in Rang 2 (M.Majella) and Rang 4 (M. Clár) have started swimming lessons since Monday and will continue for eight Mondays. As the cost of hiring the swimming pool has increased for the first time in several years, we have had to increase the cost of the lessons from €22 to €24, covering the cost of the pool, 5 instructors and buses. 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.
12. **LÁ LÚTHCHLEASAÍOCHTA:** Local St Laurence O'Toole Athletics Club will host their annual School Athletics Day for **Rang 4, 5 agus 6** on **Wednesday, 27th September**. All pupils are invited to participate and we expect that many medals will return with the children as usual. This day has gone from strength to strength over the past few years, with hundreds of children from all over the county taking part. There is an added bonus of €500 for the school displaying the best Sportsmanship and Team Effort this year.
13. **SEÓ SCOILE:** Work has already begun on the musical version of '**The Lion King**' with Múinteoirí Jill, Clár agus Mairéad. We would very much appreciate help with costumes and stage set for anyone who is talented in these areas, it is not necessary for your child to be participating in the show. Míle buíochas.
14. **LÁ GEANSAÍ/GOAL JERSEY DAY:** Friday, **October 13th** 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 2018** 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 21st and 22nd** 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.
18. **NUACHTLITREACHA:** We encourage as many parents as possible to sign up to receive the newsletter via email. This ensure that you will receive it and be regularly updated on school information rather than finding it crumpled at the bottom of a mála scoile! It will also help cut down on photocopying expenses, in line with our Green School initiative. Please fill in the form at the end of this nuachtlitir and return to the school to be included for emails.

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

a) **Button Accordion, Concertina, Banjo, Fiddle, Flute and Tin Whistle Classes** with An M. Clár agus An M. Brian will continue this year. Details of these classes have already been circulated to the relevant classes.

b) **Fiddle, Banjo and Guitar Classes** with Eric de Buitléir for children from Rang 1 – upwards will take place every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3pm – 4pm. Classes with Eric will begin on Tuesday next, 12th 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 21st** 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) **Fraincís agus Gearmáinis:** 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 Fhearaí** and **Anna O’ Brien**, will be available for those interested for German lessons with Anna on Fridays and for French lessons with Caoimhe on Mondays (3 – 4pm), beginning the week after next, **September 18th for German and 22nd for French**. Please phone Anna (087 2900835) or Caoimhe (086 8570832) for further information.
- g) **Yoga:** For those interested from Rang 1 – 4, to take place at lunchtime on Tuesdays with **An M. Aisling, S.2**. Please contact Paula in Oifig na Gaelscoile if interested.
- h) **Peil Ghaelach:** After school football training for the buachaillí with **An M. Cian** will take place on Wednesdays from 3 – 4 for Rang 3 upwards and for the cailíní with **An M. Andréa** on Thursdays from 3 – 4 for Rang 4 upwards.
- i) **Scratch:** Classes with **An M. Cian** will resume after the Halloween break.

GLÓR CHEATHARLACH NEWS ... Sept 2017

ÁRAS NA nÓG:

We are delighted to announce that our Naíonra/Preschool & Afterschool Services have commenced at the Éire Óg complex. We hope the children and staff will be extremely happy in the lovely new premises kindly made possible by Éire Óg and generously funded by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs. A couple of slots are still available. For enquiries in relation to the Afterschools contact us on 085 1340047, **087 2857048**. Enquiries re Naíonra to Lorraine 085 7377041. There is a position for another member of staff for some of the afternoon slots, 3 – 6pm. Requirements are interest in working with children and a command of Gaeilge. Enquiries to 087 2857048/ 085 1340047.

COMHRÁ GAEILGE:

Weekly Irish conversation circle in Carlow Museum every Wednesday from 10.30-11.30am. Irish speakers and learners welcome for a cupán tae and informal chat as Gaeilge. No charge.

POP-UP GAELTACHT:

Tully’s Bar on Friday, 8th Sept will be the venue for the first ‘Pop Up Gaeltacht’ of the autumn. Whether a fluent speaker or just testing the waters with the cúpla focal from school, come along from 9pm for a social night ‘as Gaeilge’.

RANGANNA OÍCHE GAEILGE:

Irish language classes for adults will begin at the end of September. Elementary course on Monday nights with intermediate levels on Tuesdays. Classes from 7-9pm for 10 weeks. All welcome to an Information Meeting in Carlow County Council Building, Athy Rd on Monday 18th Sept at 7pm. Details on www.gaelchultur.com and also from Glór Cheatharlach on 085 1340047, 087 2857048 or email emma@glorcheatharlach.ie

SEAN-NÓS:

Sean-Nós dancing classes with Irene Cunningham will be held in Carlow Town Hurling Club, Oak Park on Tuesdays commencing 19th September. Beginners at 6pm and intermediate level at 7pm. Children and adults welcome. €5 per class. Details: 087 2857048.

AIFREANN:

Mass in Irish will be at 6.15pm in Carlow Cathedral on the 1st & 2nd Saturdays of each month commencing in October. Children and adults needed for the choir.

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,

Aingeal

An M. Aingeal (Príomhoide)

Nuachtlitir trí ríomhphost/ Newsletter via email

Páiste/í (Child/ Children): _____

Rang/anna (Class/es): _____

Seoladh (email address): _____

Tuismitheoir (Parent): _____