



Scoil Áine Naofa, Loch Cútra

Gort Inse Guaire, Co na Gaillimhe

Uimhir Scoile 17475S

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MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well. We have had a very busy few weeks with no signs of slowing down in the next few weeks ahead! Please see below some points of information to note:

Cooler Park Outing:

Junior room pupils and the ASD pupils will visit Cooler Park tomorrow **4th March** for their annual nature walk visit. Please return your child's permission slip and €5.00 charge for the bus if you have not already done so.



Thursday 6th March is World Book Day:

Children can bring in their favourite book to discuss with their class and dress up as their **favourite book character** to celebrate this day. We will do a parade after lunch to show off our costumes! Pupils will receive a Book Token to the value of €1.50 and will be valid until 23rd March.

Volleyball:

Well done to all pupils in 5th and 6th class who participated in the Spikeball competitions this year in Limerick. We received word on Friday evening that our girls Volleyball team gained a place in the **All-Ireland Volleyball Competitions**, which will take place on this **Friday 7th March** in UL. Thank you to Ms Gill for training the teams. Best of luck to the girls.

Open/Information Evening for new Junior Infants will take place on Wednesday 12th March from 6:00-7:00pm in the school. Open Evening is for parents only, as we will invite new entrants to school in June for an induction day, where they can meet their new class and teacher. We look forward to meeting parents on the night.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 10th to 14th March:

We will be celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge from 10th-14th March. Children will be participating in art, dancing, comhrá Gaeilge and tráth na gcéist as Gaeilge. We will have a scheduled half hour 'buddy reading' as Gaeilge every day, where older classes will read and listen to reading with younger classes as Gaeilge.

We will celebrate **Lá Glas and St Patrick's Day on Friday 14th March**. Pupils will be asked to wear something green to celebrate our national day.

On Friday, pupils will also participate in traditional music, Irish Dancing and songs. Children will be encouraged to be ag caint 'as gaeilge' throughout the week. We will have an extra 'Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine' award for each class on Friday.

Reminder - Closing half day on 14th March at 12:00 to facilitate staff training on the new Bí Céineáltás/Anti Bullying Policy as per Circular 0055/2024.

School Closures: School will close as per schedule on Monday 17th March - Lá Fhéile Pádraig and Tuesday 18th March. We will reopen on Wednesday 19th March.

St. Patrick's Day Colouring Competition:

Well done to all entries for the Gort Credit Union St Patrick's Day poster and the Comhaltas Music Annual poster. We had some very talented entries.

Confirmation for 5th & 6th Class pupils takes place on 30th April in St. Anne's Church, Shanaglish. Pupils are busy preparing for this Sacrament. A separate letter is attached for pupil/parents to complete and return to the class teacher by **Thursday 6th March**, outlining duties on the day.

BOM and our extension building:

We are currently in the process of submitting a costings report to the Department of Education as part of our Stage 2a report. On approval, we will apply for planning permission for a new school building comprising of two classrooms at the back of our existing building. Internal upgrades will also be carried out under the same works, expanding our current 4 mainstream classrooms into 2 larger rooms and building an additional SET (special education) classroom at the side of the school.

School Attendance:

Attendance for the month of February was 92.2%. Please write a note on Aladdin if your child is unable to attend school.

FAI Soccer Blitz Boys & Girls:

Pupils had a very enjoyable day out for the Girls and Boys who competed in the Soccer Blitzes in Devon Park last week. Well done to the players involved. Sincere thanks to Barry McCarry his help and encouragement.

Garda 7 a side Camogie :

We will take part in our first Garda 7's Camogie Competition on Thursday 20th March in Ballindereen GAA Pitch. We will be travelling by bus to the event.

Assembly:

Well done and congratulations to all our Kindness Awards, Brilliant Effort and Gaeilgeoir na Míosa recipients in our Assembly earlier this month. Children were complimented on their efforts over the previous few weeks, both in speaking Gaeilge throughout the day and in their effort to be kind to one another and include everyone in play activities. They discussed their part in our new Bí Cineálta Policy.

Bingo Night Fundraiser has been rescheduled and will now take place on **Friday 28th March** in Sullivan's Hotel. Thank you to the parents who have returned tickets and please return any

unsold tickets to the school by Wednesday 26th March. As this will be our last large fundraiser of the year, we are excited for it! Thank you to everyone who has made an effort to sell tickets and brought in bottles for our orange bottle returns bin.

School Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan:

We have purchased lovely Gaeilge comhrá signs for our yard as part of our efforts to “bí ag caint Gaeilge sa chlos!” These will give the pupils some lovely phrases to ask each other easy questions at break time or while they are lining up!

We are also placing a large focus on wellbeing, Digital technology and bí cineálta as part of our SIP (School Improvement Plan).

School Meals:

5th and 6th class got an opportunity to test out school meals today as part of the government funded scheme. Feedback was well received!

Religious Visit:

We recently had a visit from our Dioceses officer, who came to chat to the children about their religion curriculum. The pupils received very positive feedback about their manners and respect shown to one another throughout the day and their engagement in the conversations. Well done to all pupils.



We look forward to a busy Seachtaine na Gaeilge next week!

Kind regards

Amy Mulkerrins
Principal.