Dia daoibh! Tá **Seachtain na Gaeilge** linn. Is féile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge í an Seachtain. Tugann an fhéile deis go gach uile dhuine sult a bhaint as an nGaeilge, idir chainteoirí dúchais, fhoghlaimeoirí agus lucht an chúpla focal araon.

Greetings! Seachtain na Gaeilge is with us again. Everyone from fluent speakers to those with just a couple of words gets a chance to enjoy our native language.

We hope those of you who could get to the school enjoyed our Seachtain na Gaeilge Flash Mob at both of our pickup times. Needless to say this was logistically extremely difficult to pull together but Zoe used all of her skill & experience working with all classes separately from 3rd to 6th before they came together for limited practice to perform spectacularly. As mentioned many times before we love to bring classes together regardless of age. It’s mutually beneficial to Senior & Junior pupils cultivating a Whole School Culture of mutual respect.

For those not available on the day video of the event is on the homepage of our website.

**SPORT**

Lunchtime 4th- 6th class **GAA football leagues** are underway. Thanks to Mr. Wallace for co-ordinating this. All teams will play a final. The matches are refereed by the children themselves and all players, refs & helpers are showing mutual respect. We’re particularly happy that the children on the teams that mightn’t be winning are sticking at it. As always we’re gauging the success of these leagues by the numbers of children continuing to participate regardless of results.

**FINANCIAL**

**Voluntary Contribution** Míle Buíochas to the families who have made the contribution. A reminder regarding epayments email was sent out today for ease of payment. We are tweaking any issues which arise. Your feedback is vital to making this system as user friendly as possible so please let us know if you’re having any difficulties. All contributions are treated in the strictest confidence & much appreciated.

Our latest callout for email addresses has revealed that the amount of parents who are not habitual email users is in single figures so this is without doubt our most effective method of communication.

**Board of Management**

Our Board of Management have attended the first of their Training courses. Trends in school administration are constantly evolving. Our BoM’s representation far exceeded that of most local schools which shows the genuine interest our BoM has in ensuring we’re maintaining latest best practice.

**RELIGION MATTERS**

Ms. Feeney & Ms. O’ Riordan’s classes have celebrated their First Confessions in a lovely ceremony. Thanks to Fr. Eamonn and also to Fr. Tony & Fr. Francis who aided him on the night. The children were fantastic. Preparations continue for their Communions in April.

**SCHOOL AND/IN THE COMMUNITY**

5th Class held a **Biscuit Sale**. Last year’s was so successful that extra rations had to be shipped in to school the following day to satisfy the demand. Lesson learnt - ample biscuits were brought in this and all sold. Well done Ida & thanks to everyone who supported by buying or baking. Proceeds were sent on to the Dyslexia Ireland Association.

**World Book Day** Each year we hold a sale of books with proceeds going towards St. Michael’s House. Very successful and well organised. Thanks to Ms. Jones for co-ordinating this. Just look how happy these Infants children are discussing their new books.

So far this year the school has donated well over €1,000 to three charities.

**Dental Nurse**

Dental Nurse Mary Byrne has been visiting the school for many years. Mary visited Senior Infant classes to discuss the Mighty Mouth programme. Mary also talked with 3rd & 5th Classes

**CURRICULUM**

**Gaeilge** We have been enjoying many activities during this year’s Seachtain na Gaeilge. There will be raffle tickets for any children using Gaeilge spontaneously. The more tickets a child has the more chance of winning a prize. Individual children & classes are preparing for the annual Ceolchoirm of songs, music & drama. We’ve pulled back on some of our usual activities given the added pressures of the 1916 celebrations. We’ll continue with some of these after the Easter break and we’ll be sure to have a full schedule back next year.

Literacy Lift-off continues in Senior Infants. Such is the success of these initiatives we’re getting requests for visits from other schools. We’re very proud of how successful these initiatives are proving to be and the amount of collaborative work the Infants – 2nd teachers & Learning Support teachers have put into setting them up in so we’re only too happy to facilitate other schools. Thanks to Ms. Daly for welcoming and facilitating these visitors.

**SPHE**

Food Dudes has taken on a life of its own. The children are showing particular interest in their teachers as they come to collect them from their lines in the morning laden down with day’s selection. You’ll have noticed them craning their necks to see what the fruit and veg of the day is. It all becomes worthwhile when they receive their Prizes and healthy eating becomes a habit. Ms. Feeney is co-ordinating this at possibly her busiest time of the year prepping Communions so thanks for that.

**GREEN SCHOOLS**

Green Schools Expo took place this year at the RDS. Parents Rep. Phyllis Armstrong joined Ryan Beale- Doyle, Ailbhe Barry & Seán Ryan on their trip with Ms. McDermott. By all accounts the event was very worthwhile. Highlight of the day was a meet & greet with President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins.

Aengus Kennedy of Nature Northwest held a magnificent all day Biodiversity Workshop with 5th Classes. They began in class before learning about aerial mapping. They then moved outdoors to map out our whole school’s vast array of Biodiversity. They then returned to class to create these large size aerial maps. Aengus proved to be one of the best facilitators we’ve ever had and such was the success of the day that we intend to send these classes around to the other classes presenting their findings. Ms. Murphy’s class are putting the final touches to their Powerpoint Presentation which will also be a fantastic resource for the school going into the future.

**Scoot to School**

Our Bike Shed is beginning to fill again thanks to the Green Schools Committee and an improvement in the weather. The committee put on **‘Scoot to School Week’**. As the weather improves we will continue to encourage sustainable ways of travelling to & from school, walking, cycling, scooting, car-pooling & park ‘n’ stride. Thanks again to Ms. McDermott. Please be mindful of safety around the school by walking with the scooter once on school grounds.

The levels of creativity displayed by the children for our inaugural **Easter Bonnet Parade Day** last year had to be seen to be believed. It would great if we could reach the same levels again tomorrow. In this unique calendar year Bonnet Day clashes with Green Day. While there is no pressure to dress up at all, the children have been given the option of one or the other. There are some children who say they’re going to push the bounds of creativity to new levels by incorporating both in the same outfit

**Tree Week**

Maedbh Daly of the ESB at Turlough Hill visited our school during Tree Week and planted 6 Rowan trees near the perimeter of our Garden Area. Pa worked with the 4th Classes in preparing the area for planting. With this preparatory work carried out the children had time to discuss Trees in general with Maedbh. Such is our very good relationship with An Taisce over the years Jim Callery sent in quite a selection of other trees which we will plant in trails around the school with identification charts.

**Proclamation/Flag Raising Day**

\*Today will live long in the memory of the children of Scoil na Coróine Mhuire. It was such a busy day we’ll put out a dedicated e-letter tomorrow.

As you can see it’s been an unbelievably busy month. Unfortunately the Parents Associations Annual Cake Sale was one of the casualties of the congested schedule at the moment. All we would ask is that you support future fundraisers next term.

**Punctuality**

Improved levels of **Punctuality** are bedding in not only in the morning but also at pickup time. We’ve also noticed that the children are much more punctual around the school e.g. lining up, completing tasks etc.

The Junior Infants have been brilliant this year & while we’ll give them a short period after Easter to re-acclimatise we’ll be looking to develop their independence by lining up independently while their Parent stands back. It is school policy that all children from 1st -6th should be dropped at school gate. This alleviates health & safety concerns in an already very congested area.

**DIALANN NA MÍOSA**

**Márta**

16ú Easter Holidays Half Day 12 noon

**Aibreán**

6ú Healthy Eating Course 6th Class 1/5

8ú  Accord RSE Course facilitators 4th-6th

16ú & 17ú Communion

23ú &24ú Communion

28ú Communion Photographs

\**REMINDER THAT OUR WEBSITE GROUP IS NOW UPDATING THE SITE REGULARLY. YOU CAN FIND THIS NUACHTLITIR AND ALL CURRENT EVENTS ON HOMEPAGE FOR A WHILE BEFORE MOVING ON TO APPROPRIATE PAGES.*