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 ar aon.

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.

**WELCOMES/FAREWELLS**

Welcome back to Ms. Whelan after her maternity leave & much credit goes to Ms. Byrne as she hands over a 3rd class which has benefitted from her tireless dedication. The teachers have had a number of meetings to make the transition as seamless as possible for the children.

It’s not quite goodbye to Ms. Byrne as she was back the next day covering Junior Infants.

**SPORT**

Lunchtime 4th-6th class **GAA football leagues** continue. Thanks to Mr. Wallace for co-ordinating this. We’re approaching the end of the league section and the finals are in sight. 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. If it has slipped your mind could you please make the contribution before March 6th. This would be much appreciated.

Our **epayments** facility will take a few weeks to be put in place but will be an option for future school payments.

**RELIGION MATTERS**

2nd-6th Classes celebrated the beginning of Lent by attending Mass on **Ash Wednesday**.

**SCHOOL AND/IN THE COMMUNITY**

We’re delighted to announce that the 5th class has been asked to take part in **Féile Heaney** again this year. In its inaugural year the children worked together with one of Ireland’s top composers Elaine Agnew & Ireland’s best renowned Haiku poet Gabriel Rosenstock. They gave an inspirational performance of their own brand new composition with chimes in Nun’s Cross Church. The format of this year’s project is to be agreed but it’s going to be great.

4th Class held a **Biscuit Sale**. This was so successful extra rations had to be shipped in to school the following day to satisfy the demand. Proceeds were sent on to the Irish Dyslexia Association.

**World Book Day** Each year we hold a sale of books with proceeds going towards St. Michael’s House. Thanks to Ms. Cahill for co-ordinating this

**Dental Nurse** Dental Nurse Mary Byrne has been visiting the school for many years. Mary talked with 3rd & 5th Classes before a brief visit to Senior Infant classes to discuss the Mighty Mouth programme. She will return to the Infant classes shortly to see how they are getting on.

**CURRICULUM**

**Gaeilge** We will be enjoying many of activities for 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.

**SPHE** Chef Paul Smith visited the school on Wednesday. Paul cooked in a fantastic restaurant in Dingle in the Kerry Gaeltacht. The children enjoyed a workshop *‘as gaeilge*’. Thanks to parents who helped.

This Sunday some children will help out at the Parents Associations **Cake Sale** as ‘siopadóirí’. Customers will be rewarded if an effort is made to complete a ‘sale’ as gaeilge.

While the children will perform at their own ceolchoirm they will also watching a traditional ‘seisúin’ on Friday. The Albeiz Trio of Laoise Kelly, Tola Custy & Cormac Breathnach will perform. Thanks to Ms. Daly for pulling this ‘seisúin’ together – it’ll be a fantastic experience for the children of 4th – 6th.

**GREEN SCHOOLS**

Last Friday the school received some very welcome news from Ally Menary (Travel Co-ordinator, An Taisce). The School has been awarded its **4th Green Flag**. A huge thank you to the committee, pupils, teachers & parents who’ve supported the Travel programme so enthusiastically. It’s great to see so many walking, cycling, scooting & using the Park ‘n’ Stride locations. A big thank you also to Avoca & the GAA for facilitating this.

Our new Bike Shed is full again thanks to the Green Schools Committee. The committee has put in a great month’s work pushing our **‘Scoot to School’** month. 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.

We’d like to think that the facilities have been put in place & the children have been educated by the various initiatives over the past year which allow for this to happen in more safety. The committee will be holding a **Slogan Competition** over the course of this month to keep the whole initiative fresh.

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 this year.

**PRIMARY ON-LINE SCHOOLS DATABASE**

Some **POD forms** are still outstanding. Could these be returned to the school as soon as possible as we have a Department of Education deadline to meet the time inputting this data is considerable. Your cooperation with this project is appreciated.

The Board of Management have decided to bring in **two junior Infant classes** next year. The Parents of incoming infants have been notified and have returned their acceptance slips. If we’ve missed anybody please make contact with the school.

**Punctuality** levels are improving but we’ve still a bit to do to get back to previous very high standards. We find that any child entering a class late takes a long time to settle and the classes learning is affected.

**HEALTH & SAFETY** Our **Set down area** is in operation and feedback from Parents and children is very positive. We undertake random surveys and at last tally over 70 cars went through in 12 minutes. The children are using the safe zone paths to get to the path and as there now is no need for reversing the driver has them in view at all times. The bus zones have been relocated and the practice of children alighting onto a main road in the morning is finished. Speed levels on the road outside the school have decreased considerably. The pedestrian lights facilitate a safe crossing for those who need it. The extremely dangerous practice of uturns is prevented where there are bollards on the centre median. The system still needs tweaking & there’s no guarantee that the facilities will stay. The council are coming to the end of their month-long monitoring period and all will be reviewed. It’s vital that drivers maintain best practice if we’re to hold onto the set down area and the other facilities when this review is undertaken. Please remember that the Safety of our 370 children overrides any other concerns. We did have a child knocked down last year & a serious crash on the road as a car was rear-ended while in the process of performing a uturn. If this accident had happened 5 minutes later there would have undoubtedly been injuries as the parents were beginning to congregate.

**DIALANN NA MÍOSA**

**4ú Paul Smith Cookery**

**5ú World Book Day Sale**

**St. Michael’s House Book Sale**

**5ú & 6ú Hearing & Vision Screening**

**6ú Heritage Centre @12.45pm**

**8ú Parents Association Cake Sale**

**9ú-13ú National Scoot to School Week. 11ú National Scoot to School Day**

**10ú 1st Confessions**

**13ú Green Day Non-Uniform**

**\*16u & 17ú \*School Closed St. Patricks Day**

**22ú World Water Day**

**25ú Copper Day**

**27ú Easter Holidays Easter Bonnet Parade**

**\****Please note the asterisked date as it’s a correction to the school calendar which was sent out with Booklists*