



Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc

Garrán na Fuinseoige, Ceatharlach, R93 PX92

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NUACHTLITIR NA GAELSCOILE (1) 2023

- DIA DAOIBH GO LÉIR!** A great welcome back to school to all after a lovely summer break and in particular a big Céad Míle Fáilte to our new Naíonáin Bheaga! Fáilte mhór freisin to a number of páistí who have joined various classes throughout the school. We are midway through our first full week of school and I trust everyone is settling in well at this stage. I would like to welcome our newest members of staff. Our new teachers are An M. Amy (Rang a 5), An M. Páraic (Rang a 1). Tá Fáilte is Fiche romhaibh chuig Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc - I know you will join me in welcoming them all to our wonderful school and wishing them all the best for the year ahead.
- AM OSCAILTE NA SCOILE:** A reminder about school opening and closing times. As normal, geataí na scoile will open at 8.40am to receive pupils and teaching will start at 8.50am.
 - **Naíonáin Mhóra – Rang a 6:** Naíonáin Mhóra to Rang a 6 can go directly to the clós in the morning where they can *leave their málaí scoile in their líne* and then will have a little time playing on the clós until the bell rings and they will be collected by their múinteoir. For now, Naíonáin Bheaga will continue to go straight into their classrooms. On wet mornings all children will go directly to their classrooms.
 - **Naíonáin Bheaga:** Our Naíonáin Bheaga are settling in very well. **Monday 11th** will be their first day finishing at the usual infant time of **1.30pm**.

Please ensure that children are in time for school each morning and collected promptly at going home time as delays can lead to upset. As we are obliged to report school absences to Túsla, the Child Protection Agency, it is very important to inform your child's teacher why your child was absent or late for school. The easiest and quickest way to do this is via the Aladdin Connect App under Attendance & Notes where you can enter an absence reason or send a note. Alternatively, you may send a note in with your child or phone the school office. 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.

- ÉIDE SCOILE:** By now your child will know which days s/he will be doing sport in school. We would remind you that the sports uniform should only be worn on these days. A gentle reminder that the éide spóirt are:
 - **plain** black tracksuit bottoms or dark shorts (this helps to avoid competition regarding logos/stripes of some more expensive styles). **Tight lycra leggings are not permitted.**
 - a plain white polo shirt
 - geansaí glas (green sports jumper available to purchase directly from the school office)
 - runners which are safe for sports class.

On other days, the full brown uniform should be worn which consists of:

- brown trousers/skirt/pinafore or cream/dark shorts in warmer weather
- cream shirt/blouse
- brown school jumper
- school tie
- dark footwear

Please ensure that all school jumpers/coats etc. are clearly labelled with the child's name (as Gaeilge) and their Seomra. We already have a number of uniform items looking for their owners - we are very

aware of the cost involved with school uniforms – please encourage your child to be responsible for their school jumpers etc. and to check that they have all items going home every evening.

4. **GEATAÍ SCOILE:** In the interest of safety, the pedestrian school gates will be closed but not locked during break times. Should you need to use the gates during these times, please ensure that you close them after you. We would also ask that you remind your children to always use the pedestrian gates rather than the gate at entrance to the carpark, this will help ensure everyone's safety.
5. **PÁIRCEÁIL:** Your co-operation regarding using the unofficial one way system (coming up to Ashgrove from O'Brien Road / Mount Leinster Park side and going down via Woodgrove back towards Éire Óg GAA) is hugely appreciated. A reminder that residents' driveways are never to be blocked, even for a minute or two. Please avoid parking on **footpaths or on grassed areas** in our local housing area also. With such a large volume of children being dropped and collected each day, a little patience from all helps to ensure safety for everyone. Bus bays are strictly for buses only and are never to be used, even for a **'quick drop-off'**. This also applies during the school day as we regularly have buses collecting and dropping children for sporting and other activities. With several buses bringing children to and from 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.** Parking a bit away from the school e.g. at Éire Óg and walking the short distance to the school, is an excellent way to help reduce traffic congestion at the school and an ideal way to get a little fresh air before the school day begins.
6. **LEABHAIR SCOILE:** The páistí should now have all the school books and stationary they need for school and this was funded by the Department's School Books Scheme. As always, we are continuing with our book rental scheme, helping to keep the cost of books to a minimum and also helping the environment, as part of our **Scoil Ghlas/ Green School**. 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.
7. **BILLE SCOILE:** **Buíochas mór** to all who have paid their bille scoile. This covers Art & crafts supplies, 24-hour personal pupil insurance, photocopying, school text service and testing. This can still be paid via the Aladdin Connect App and we ask you to do so at your earliest convenience.
8. **GRUAIG:** To avoid unnecessary problems associated with headlice, we are asking that you **check and fine comb** your child's hair every Monday as part of the Obair Bhaile. A reminder also that 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.
9. **LÓN:** 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. Any items including chocolate 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.** Lip balms and other such items are also not permitted as many contain coconut oil. Some of our pupils have **Cystic Fibrosis** and 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 these children 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. **SNÁMH:** Children in Rang 2 (M. Majella) and Rang 4 (M. Conchobhar) started swimming lessons this week and will continue for eight Mondays in total. 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.

11. **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. You can update your details via the Aladdin Connect App or contact Paula in the school office to do so. 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.
12. **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.**
13. **CRUINNITHE TUISMITHEOIRÍ:** 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.
14. **CÚRSAÍ SPÓIRT:** We have a great history and tradition of sport sa Ghaelscoil. The Cumann na mBunscoil football competitions will begin later this term, with our buachaillí agus cailíní competing against local schools. We wish them all well. The majority of our school sporting teams involve pupils from **Rang 3 onwards** and transport to matches can prove extremely costly when using buses. Over the years, this expense has been kept to a minimum, thanks to the generosity of so many parents who have offered to provide lifts for the children. We would love to continue with this lovely tradition but are very mindful of the **Child Protection** issues which apply in such cases. To this end, and to ensure that everyone is protected, we are asking that any parent from Rang 3 onwards who may be willing to help out with lifts would fill out the **Garda Vetting Form** available from Paula in the oifig or from <https://www.kandle.ie/safeguarding/#collapse-11854> and return it to the school. Many people will already be familiar with the Garda Vetting system and will have previously been vetted through other sporting and voluntary organisations involving children. It is very straightforward and is seen as best practice but has to be done separately for each organisation. Your continued co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Our wish for our pupils is to provide as many sporting opportunities as possible, without avoidable expense. **Go raibh míle maith agaibh.**
15. **CLÁRÚ/ENROLMENTS:** In keeping with our Admissions Policy we will be positing our Annual Admissions Notice in conjunction with other schools in the diocese. This will give details of when Application Forms will be accepted, our Admission criteria and how many children will be accepted into Junior Infants next September. In the meantime, you can fill out the 'Expression of Interest' form available through our school website (<https://cgscoil.ie/en/parents/admissions-policy/>) and we will forward you an Application Form when we are permitted to accept them. **This must also be completed for siblings of current pupils.** *Please note that you will need to upload a picture of your child's birth certificate with this Expression of Interest form. If you wish to check that we have received your Expression of Interest form you may do so by contacting Paula in the office via phone or email (office@cgscoil.ie).
16. **RANGANNA IARSCOILE/AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES:** We are delighted to be able to facilitate a range of afterschool activities again. These are available for those children interested.
 - a. **Rang Ceoil Traidisiúnta:** Children from Rang a 4 to Rang a 6 can avail of traditional Irish music lessons after school from 2.30 to 3.30pm on Wednesdays. A nóta with further details will be sent home soon to those who are interested in taking part. Rang a 3 will start at a later date.
 - b. **Ficheall:** Chess Classes for Rang a 3 – Rang a 6 with Múinteoirí Danielle & Michaela will continue this year on Thursdays after school starting on the 28th September. A nóta with further

details will be sent home to those interested. For further information or to book a place please email ficheall22@gmail.com

- c. **Peil:** Football training for buachaillí and cailíní from Rang 3 onwards will resume towards the end of the month. Further details will be sent when details have been finalised.
- d. **Speech and Drama:** Classes with **Keelin Mc Donald** will begin on Tuesday next, 12th September from 2.30 – 3.30pm in the school halla for children from **Rang a 3 – Rang a 6**. For further information and to book a place, please contact **Keelin at 087 2534265**.
- e. **Rince Gaelach:** Irish Dancing lessons with **Adeleine Dargan** will be starting again in Halla na Gaelscoile on **Mondays, beginning on October 2nd** at 1.35 – 2.30pm for children in Infant Classes and from 2.30 – 3.30pm for older children. Contact Adeleine at **085-7259865**.
- f. **Gleacaíocht/Gymnastics:** Mona's Fit Kid Club will be starting again in Halla na Scoile from Thursday 14th September. All details and booking information is available from <https://mona-fit-kid-club-ltd.classforkids.io/>
- g. **Damhsa HIP HOP:** Hip Hop dance classes with Laura (Encore Dance Company) will be taking place again this year on Friday afternoons in Halla na Scoile. Please see attached flyer for booking and information or contact Laura on 085 2358122 or encoredancecompany1@gmail.com
- h. **MARTIAL ARTS:** Martial Arts Classes are taking place in Halla na Scoile twice a week with Brian Whelan of Carlow Martial Arts Sanctuary. If you would like to avail of these you can contact Brian directly on 087 2376903

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COMHRÁ GAEILGE: Irish Conversation in Lamberts Café, Dublin Street on Wednesdays from 12.00-1pm. Learners welcome too. Drop in any Wednesday for comhrá agus caifé.

AN FHÓMHAR: Lots being planned for the Autumn term with Féile an Fhómhair (29th Sept-9th Oct), Aifreann Gaeilge in the Cathedral, Club Gaeilge for 4th-6th Class Pupils, Ragnanna Gaeilge do oideachaiseoirí réamhcoile/Irish Classes for Pre-school Educators. Details to follow.

ÁRAS NA nÓG: There are a small number of places available in our sessional afterschool group for infant classes from 1.30-2.30pm each day. Contact Emma on 085 1340047 or arasnanog@gmail.com for details.

GLÓR CHEATHARLACH: Details on all Glór Cheatharlach events, courses and all things Irish in Carlow available from Bríde 087 2857048, Emma 085 1340047 or emma@glorcheatharlach.ie

Ag guí scoilbhliain shona ar gach duine mar chuid de Ghaelscoil Cheatharlach. Wishing everyone a very happy and successful school year as part of Gaelscoil Cheatharlach!

Slán go fóill,

Ruth Ní Chearbhalláin

(Príomhoide)