



Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa

Christmas Newsletter

December 2023

Maths Week 2023

Maths Week 2023 at Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa witnessed a remarkable week of interesting maths throughout the school. This year saw a substantial investment in resources and the introduction of novel initiatives by our dedicated staff. Mr. Thynne and Ms. O. Barry, the driving forces behind the weeklong event, spearheaded a broad effort to provide the children with an amazing learning experience. The introduction of new resources, highlighted the school's dedication to nurturing a positive attitude towards maths.

Throughout the week, the children enjoyed all the educational activities, including maths trails, tangrams, explorations of symmetry, and much more. These initiatives not only served to reinforce mathematical principles but also aimed to make the subject more accessible and enjoyable for the young learners. The collective effort of Mr. Thynne and Mr. O Barry in organising the week's events led to a love for maths among the children, leaving a lasting impact on us. I really enjoyed the week and I think everyone else had fun too.

Nicoleta (Rang 5, Mr Thynne)



Who let the dogs out?

As part of the 6th class Oral Language Curriculum, we learned all about An Garda Síochána. Our teachers organised for a dog handler from the Garda dog unit to come and speak to us. Garda Alan Higgins came with 3 different Garda dogs. Some are trained for public order, some are trained to detect drugs and some are even used to detect explosives.

Garda Alan hid some cash in a crack in the wall. The dog was able to detect the cash with ease by giving a bark! We watched the dogs perform tasks and follow simple steps.

We learned that the Garda dogs are highly trained and live with their handler. They are trained in 8 different scents. Sometimes a dog doesn't pass the test. It takes about 16 weeks to train a Garda dog. We really enjoyed the visit!

(Amarachi, Rang 6 Ms. Murray)



Shoebox Appeal!

Team Hope is an organisation to help children in need. These children are less fortunate than we are. We can spend money on video games, sweets and toys, while they have no money to

spend on clothes or food. Some of the children don't even have access to clean water.

Every year our school teams up with Team Hope to support children around the world. We have the power to give an incredible gift to children in need. We take part in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal and we usually fill shoeboxes with items to wash with, write with, wear and some wow items - like toys for them to play with. These are called the 4 Ws.

The children from Ms. Murray's class organised posters, presentations and collected and checked all the boxes. We donated over 120 shoeboxes to some of the world's poorest children. Watching videos online also helped us to realise how lucky we are, for more information please visit www.teamhope.ie.
Layla (Rang 6, Ms Murray)

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A Message from Mr. Lyons

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We certainly had an extremely busy and exciting first term here in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa! We began the year by welcoming our new Junior Infant and Coiscéim pupils and we are very proud of how well they have settled in and how brilliantly they are doing in their new school!

Our annual soccer blitz organised by Mr. Doyle was a source of great excitement in September and October. Well done to all the children involved and sincere thanks to Mr. Doyle for giving so much of his time organising the blitz and refereeing matches. We were thrilled to then run a FAI 'Future Stars' programme for girls aged 9 – 12 in the school in partnership with our fantastic local club Hartstown-Huntstown FC and thank you to parent Charlotte Tucker for arranging this partnership between the school and the club. Staying on a sporting theme, we are delighted to continue swimming lessons in the National Aquatic Centre this year. 6th classes have completed their set of six lessons, with 3rd, 4th and 5th classes all due to have swimming lessons across terms 2 and 3.

Our new Student Council was elected for this academic year and they have been busy organising events and fundraisers in the school. Thank you to the Student Council for all their hard work and to the teachers, Mr. O'Callaghan, Ms. Gillan and Ms. Fagan for guiding them. The Student Council's first fundraiser of the year was our Halloween dress up day, which was a great event in the school and we saw some fabulously creative and imaginative costume designs.

6th class children were treated to a very interesting and informative visit from the Garda Dog Unit, where they learned how the dogs are trained and the important work they carry out and they also got to see the dogs demonstrating some of their detective skills. Thank you to Ms. Murray for arranging the visit. 6th classes also went on a wonderful trip to the Phoenix Park Visitors' Centre and Farmleigh House where they learned so much about these great facilities and the history of this wonderful amenity in our locality.

Maths Week was a great opportunity for the children to practise their maths skills outside the classroom during a week of fun, maths-themed activities throughout the school. The scavenger hunt was a particular hit and well done to all our pupils for their efforts. Thank you to Mr. Thynne and Ms. O. Barry for organising this exciting event.

The community of Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa gave generously to the Shoebox Appeal again this year. Thank you to everyone who supported this very worthy cause and to Ms. Murray for organising.

3rd – 6th classes had internet safety workshops in their classrooms and we hosted a parents' talk about internet safety delivered by Zeeko. On the same night we hosted our Parents' Association AGM and an election of two parents as nominees on the school's Board of Management. Thank you to outgoing parent nominee Jennifer Horrigan for her wonderful contributions to our Board of Management over the past four years, thank you to Luke Stynes for continuing his great work as a parent nominee on the Board and best wishes and thank you to Julie Burke as she begins her term as a new parent nominee on the Board.

We hosted class level assemblies throughout the first term and there has been a strong focus on our new *Class of the Month* competition. The *Class of the Month* competition focuses on positive behaviour, with seasonal goals also being identified at each class level. This has been a fantastic new initiative in the school and we look forward to it continuing in the new year.

Our 3rd and 6th class children benefitted from a three week course in Irish Sign Language (ISL), given by staff from CHIME, the national charity for deafness and hearing loss. Our children did us proud with the effort they put in to learning ISL and we hope they will continue to nurture this valuable skill in their lives.

Our pupil and staff choirs wowed a delighted audience at our '*Carols for the Community*' concert last week. Huntstown Church was full to capacity and the congregation joined in the singing with great gusto! Sincere thanks to Ms. Fagan and Ms. Murray for organising this event and for their tireless work rehearsing with the children over the past few months. Congratulations to our talented choir members from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes, especially our soloists and well done also to our very talented staff choir and musicians.

Staff and pupils were overjoyed to open our doors to parents/guardians for school concerts and Nativities this Christmas. Many classes performed Christmas-themed shows to delighted audiences. The Junior Infants' performance in the church, the Senior Infants' performances in their classrooms and the 1st classes' performance in the school atrium certainly filled all in attendance with the Christmas spirit! Parents have also been treated to class performance videos being sent home by some of the senior classes. My thanks to staff for their efforts and to parents/guardians for their attendance and well done to all our talented stars!

Students and staff from Coiscéim classes enjoyed a visit to Santa's Grotto this week and I have been assured by Santa that of course all of the children are on the nice list! Thank you to Ms. Lyons for organising Coiscéim's trip and to the staff of Coiscéim 1, 2 and 3 for their care and commitment to the children.

As we near the end of the year I would like to thank all members of our wonderful school community for their tireless work in supporting our fantastic pupils; thank you to the Board of Management, Deputy Principal Ms. Donohoe, our teachers, our SNAs, our cleaning staff, our Bean an Tí Tina, our lollipop ladies Vera and Lilian, our secretary Carmel, our caretaker Adrian and our Parents' Association for all of their efforts throughout the year. I would also like to thank parents and guardians for your support in 2023. Finally, I would like to wish everyone in our school community a happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in the New Year. *Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.*

Kieran Lyons, Principal.

School Calendar 2023/24 – Terms 2

February Public Holiday: Monday 5th February 2024

February Mid-Term Break: Thursday 15th & Friday 16th February 2024

Referendum: We expect the referendum on 8th March 2024

St Patrick's Day Public Holiday: Monday 18th March 2024

Easter Holidays: Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April 2024 (2 weeks)

School will close for the Easter holidays at 12 noon on Friday 22nd March 2024



Coiscéim visit to Santa!

All three of our amazing Coiscéim classes visited Santa's Grotto in Blanchardstown Shopping Centre this festive season. Mr. Lyons kindly spoke to Santa's helpers who agreed that Santa would have his porridge earlier on Wednesday morning so he could meet all our wonderful children!

We would like to give a special mention of thanks to all the staff working in our Coiscéim classes, on behalf of the children, for all their hard work and dedication to the children in 2023 and wish them a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Santa and his helpers were so welcoming and gave the children the VIP treatment. It was such a lovely experience for everyone involved and one that will live long in the memory.

Great fun was had by all!

I.S.L - Irish Sign Language

Children from 3rd and 6th classes were very fortunate to participate in a 5-week Irish Sign Language course. We learned all about the origins of ISL and we learned that ISL has a French influence. We were taught by two ISL instructors, Jenny and Síoca.

We learned so many things such as the alphabet, our feelings, basic greetings and how to say where are from.

We learned that there is a deaf village in Dublin 7 and that there are schools there for deaf children. We really enjoyed learning ISL and learned about the importance of communication. Ciara & Jack (Rang 6, Ms. Murray)



Carols for the Community



Carols for the Community took place in the church on 14th December 2023. Over 100 children from 3rd to 6th class joined together to sing Christmas carols. We learned all our songs in harmony. We were divided into altos and sopranos. Ms. Murray and Ms. Fagan took us during our lunch breaks to teach us the songs.

We started learning our songs after midterm break. It was a huge success. Hundreds of people turned out to hear our wonderful choir and our staff choir. The congregation joined in and sang 'Silent Night' with us.

There were lots of beautiful solos and wonderful readers telling us the story of Christmas. Our narrator introduced us to all the carols. Ms. Donohoe played the piano, Mr. Doyle played the guitar and Ms. Harraghy played the harp. It was a truly magical evening and one we will never forget!!

6th Class Phoenix Park Trip



On the 8th of November all the 6th classes went on a trip to the Phoenix Park. The Phoenix Park is one of Europe's largest urban parks. The park is over 350 years old and is surrounded by 11 kilometres of walls, which enclose 1750 acres of land. The name "Phoenix Park" comes from the Irish "Pairc an Fhionnuisce" which means "Park of the Clear Water".

The Papal Cross was our first stop. The cross was erected as a backdrop for an outdoor mass celebrated in the Phoenix Park by Pope John Paul II in 1979. Our next destination was Farnleigh House, which was bought by a man named Edward Cecil Guinness as a wedding present for his wife Adelaide Guinness. Lastly, we went to Ashtown Castle. The castle was found when Ashtown Lodge was being demolished and is the oldest building in the Phoenix Park. The castle was built in the 1430s. We had a

great day in the Phoenix Park and we would definitely recommend having a visit there!

Mysha, Ava & Bohdan (Rang 6, Ms Shallow)

Watch out Usain Bolt!

Well done to Chisom from Ms. Murray's 6th class for winning gold in the All-Ireland National Outdoor Children's Games (Under 12).



Chisom set a club record for fastest 60m sprint in 8.55 seconds. Chisom trains really hard and is one to watch out for in future

Olympics. Congratulations from everyone at Scoil an Chríó Ró Naofa Íosa and watch out Usain Bolt!

Ciara & Jack (Rang 6 Ms. Murray)

Football Tournament

The school blitz took place over a number of weeks, during break times and after school. At times there were really tough matches. There were eight teams, with two groups of four. Group A consisted of Holland, Italy, Spain, France and Group B was Brazil, Portugal, Ireland and Germany.



After weeks of exciting games and a knockout stage, Germany and Brazil played out a very entertaining final, in which Brazil ran out comfortable winners in the end. Well done to all involved and a special thank you to Mr. Doyle for all his hard work in organising the tournament again this year! Zayn (Rang 6, Ms Shallow)



FAI Girls Football

On the first day, we introduced ourselves to each other and practiced ways to kick and handle the ball. We brought our own football clothes and boots or runners. It was on after school in the PE hall in our school on Tuesdays. The coaches name was Oscar.

We played loads of games, the best of which was 'Pirates'. The idea behind this after-school club is to encourage more young girls to play football and sport in general. A big thank you to Mr Doyle for organising this programme with the FAI. It has been a very popular class and the girls are really enjoying the sessions. It is hoped that more girls will take up sport and that parents will encourage their young girls to take part as well.

Moya (Rang 5, Ms Lee)

5th class Junior Entrepreneur Programme

J.E.P (Junior Entrepreneur programme) is a programme which helps children discover new skills such as being a good listener, a good leader, or a good organiser and tonnes more.

This programme is about learning about other entrepreneurs and about other businesses but most importantly making a business with your class. For example, my class's business is personalised frames and our business is called "Picture Perfect". We even have a slogan "You name it we frame it!". Our class was split into four teams; marketing, accounts, design and two people who are spokespeople. Lara & Darragh (Rang 5, Ms Lee) .

