



Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa

Christmas Newsletter

December 2025

Dive Into the Magic of The Little Mermaid at Draíocht!

Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa is proud to present its 2026 school musical, **Disney's The Little Mermaid**, taking place at **Draíocht Theatre, Blanchardstown** from **Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th February**, with evening shows at **7:30pm** and a **Saturday matinee at 2pm**.

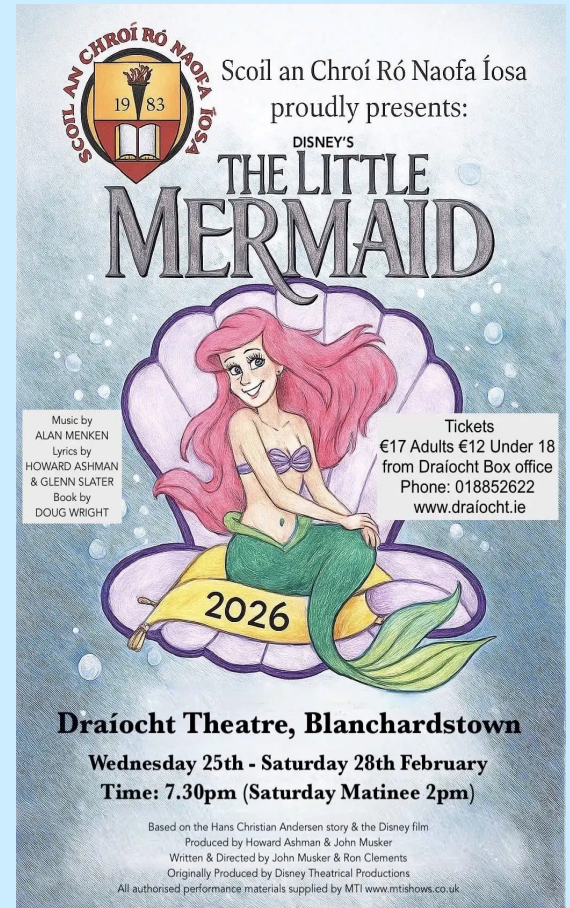
Under the direction of Ms. Hudson, with musical direction by Ms. Donohoe and choreography by Ms. Lee, this beloved underwater adventure is set to be a spectacular production filled with colour, energy and heart.

Behind the scenes, staff members have been working incredibly hard, building an enchanting under-the-sea set, designing vibrant costumes and creating imaginative props that will help bring Ariel's world to life on stage. Their dedication is shaping what promises to be a truly magical experience.

Our talented students are equally busy, rehearsing their lines, perfecting their songs and practising their dance routines with great enthusiasm. Their commitment and excitement shine through at every rehearsal and we can't wait for audiences to see their hard work pay off.

Tickets are available from the **Draíocht Box Office**
€17 Adults | €12 Under 18
Phone: **018852622**

Website: <https://www.draiocht.ie/whats-on/the-little-mermaid>



Join us "under the sea" for an unforgettable performance that celebrates creativity, teamwork and the joy of musical theatre. This is a show not to be missed!

Time Capsule

In December 1999 many pupils of Sacred Heart of Jesus National School, Huntstown, Dublin 15 completed letters and/or drawings and placed them in a Time Capsule in January 2000 to mark the Millennium. The Millennium Time Capsule has now been opened! There was great excitement at assemblies last month as our current pupils learned about the Time Capsule! They look forward to reading what pupils of our school wrote 25 years ago! The children suggested we continue the story and have been busy writing their own letters over the last few weeks to be placed in the Time Capsule until 2050, describing their lives now and their hopes and dreams about their lives

in 2050! If any members of the community wish to write a letter to be placed in the 2050 Time Capsule they are welcome to drop it into the office in January. We would like to share again the link below to the online form that can be completed if you or a family member attended our school in 1999/2000 and would like to check if you have a letter in the Time Capsule. Please pass the link on to any past pupils who you know attended our school in 1999/2000.

We will check if there is a corresponding letter/drawing in the Time Capsule from the pupils detailed on the online form. We will then send email invitations to past pupils and families to collect their letter from the school at an event in January. If past pupils or a member of their family cannot attend the event, we will send them a scanned copy of their letter after the event when provided with their email address.

We also ask for past pupils to allow the school to retain the original or photocopy of the letter/drawing as an important physical piece of primary history of our wonderful school.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HNYFMD9>



A Message from Mr Lyons

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a wonderful first term we have had here in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa! We owe the success of our amazing school to all members of our school community who contribute to making this school the happy, harmonious and busy environment it is. We pay particular tribute to all of our new arrivals to the school this year, from junior infants to sixth class and our Coiscéim classes, who have been welcomed warmly and are settling in wonderfully to their new school.

The vibrant nature of our school was very much illustrated over the past couple of weeks in the many class Christmas performances and also at the wonderful *Carols for the Community* concert in the church last Thursday evening. The talent of our pupils, and indeed our teachers and SNAs, is incredible and watching the performances over the past couple of weeks has been awe inspiring and immensely enjoyable.

Since our return to school in August, the school has been a hive of activity. We began the year with great performances by our hurling team, who made it all the way to the Fingal League Final in Parnell Park, where they were unlucky to lose out by a single point. Swimming was also relaunched in the school and 4th - 6th class children and some of our Coiscéim pupils have had the opportunity to attend this term. Our Student Council for this year was elected and is working away busily under the tutelage of Mr. O'Callaghan, Ms. Fagan and Ms. Gillan. They are now planning fundraisers to support our exciting upcoming musical, *The Little Mermaid!*

We had very worthwhile and informative Internet Safety Workshops for our fifth and sixth class pupils as well as staff and parents in October. We also had a very busy Maths Week, along with Mr. Doyle's annual soccer blitz. Mr. Doyle saw success again this year in the FÍS awards, with a win for his class of 2024/2025; Ms. Kirby's current sixth class!

We celebrated a very important event in November when we opened our school's Time Capsule which was sealed in the year 2000. The children were very excited to discover letters written by children in this school 25 years ago and some children even recognised names of family members who contributed to the Time Capsule in 2000! We are very excited to celebrate with some past pupils from 25 years ago in January and children have already prepared their letters for the Time Capsule which will be sealed again for reopening in 2050!

We enjoyed meeting with so many parents and guardians from our school community during our parent-teacher evening in November and we look forward to welcoming the junior infant parents to their parent-teacher evening in February.

Some of our senior classes were welcomed to Blanchardstown Library and Draíocht in the first term along with a trip to Phoenix Park for our sixth class pupils as well as a visit to Hartstown Community School during Science Week. Some 5th and 6th class children also got to visit the National Sports Campus in Abbottstown.

The school's Parents' Association has also been very active in the school this term. To name but a few of their activities, they provided refreshments on the first day of term for parents of new pupils, ran the uniform pop-up shop, hosted their AGM and arranged the Magical Reindeer Food Shop also! The school struggles to operate within the constraints of Department of Education funding and your continued support of fundraising initiatives is very much appreciated and is crucial to the continued success of our school.

As we near the end of the year, I would like to say a huge well done to the pupils on a fantastic first term and thank parents and guardians for your support in 2025. I would also like to thank the Board of Management, Deputy Principal Ms Donohoe, our teachers, our SNAs, our bus escorts Monica, Pamela, Sandra and Rachael, Tina in the kitchen, our lunch ladies Monica, Joan and Rachael, our cleaning staff Christine, Eda, Louise, Rachael, Rita and Sandra, our lollipop lady Vera, our secretary Carmel, our caretaker Adrian and our Parents' Association for all of their wonderful efforts throughout the year. I wish all members of our school community a happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

Kieran Lyons, Principal

School Calendar 2025/26 – Terms 2 & 3

Term 2 Return to School: Monday 5th January 2026

Staff In-Service Training: Tuesday 27th January 2026

St. Brigid's Day Holiday : Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Mid-Term Break: Thursday 19th & Friday 20th February 2026

St Patrick's Day Holiday: Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th March 2026

Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026

Staff In-Service Training: Tuesday 28th April 2026

May Mid-Term Break: Monday 4th - Friday 8th May 2026

June Bank Holiday: Monday 1st June 2026

Last Day of School: Tuesday 30th June 2026

School Calendar



Carols for the Community

Our *Carols for the Community* concert took place on 11th December and was a truly special evening. Over 120 children from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class dedicated countless lunch breaks with Ms. Murray and Ms. Fagan to rehearse since October. Their hard work shone through as the choir performed more than 15 songs in beautiful three-part harmony.

Our wonderful staff choir also took to the stage, adding to the festive spirit of the night. The concert was a joyful celebration of music, teamwork and community.

We are already looking forward to sharing another magical performance next year!
(Halle, Alisha & Amelia - Ms. Fagan's 4th Class)

Magical Reindeer Food Shop

The school community is hugely grateful for the fantastic work of the Parents' Association, who continually support the school through their time, energy and commitment.

The Reindeer Food Shop was another wonderful success, bringing great excitement to the children and raising valuable funds in a fun and festive way.



Student Council

In September, sixteen enthusiastic students from 5th and 6th class were proudly elected by their peers to represent them on our Student Council. The Council continues to place a strong focus on making our school an even better place for everyone.



Throughout the school year, members meet regularly with Ms. Fagan, Ms. Gillan and Mr. O'Callaghan to share ideas and explore ways to enhance learning and school life. Already, the Student Council has organised a hugely successful Halloween fundraiser and used the proceeds to purchase two beautiful Christmas trees that are now adding festive cheer to our school.

With their energy and imagination, we know the Student Council will continue to spark positive change throughout our school in 2026.

(Carly & Teddy - Ms. Dixon's 5th Class)

Science Week 2025

We enjoyed a week of curious investigations and fun explorations as part of Science Week 2025. Once again, students from across the school participated in a whole range of different science experiments. The students from senior infants to second class designed and built chain reactions, using dominoes, cereal boxes, books, marbles and other classroom materials. They had great fun trying to make the whole operation work in one continuous movement. Students in the senior classes looked at PH testing, designed pasta towers, created fizzing rockets and explored the bones that make up the human body.



The sixth class boys and girls were invited to visit Hartstown Community school, where they had a great time conducting experiments in the science laboratories. They were also lucky enough to try out some of the computer rooms too. It was a great experience for all involved. A special thank you to Mr. O'Callaghan for organising such a wonderful week.

Team Spirit and Fundraising



Fingal league hurling final

A huge congratulations to our boys' hurling team who made it all the way to the final of the Fingal Hurling League! The team played their final match against Mother of Divine Grace in the home of Dublin GAA, Parnell Park.

The boys showed incredible commitment throughout the season, training hard and giving their very best at every session and every match. They were extremely unlucky to lose out by just a single point in a thrilling final.

Trip to FAI Headquarters!

On the 19th of November 2025, fifty boys and girls from 5th and 6th class went to the FAI headquarters in Abbotstown.

First, we went to the changing rooms, got changed into our gear and went out to the 4G pitch (aka, the highest quality astro-turf pitch in the world). Next, we had a chat with the coaches. Then we went to the different stations, where we practised our skills and got some great tips. Finally, at the end we played two big matches, a boys' match and a girls' match. Overall we really enjoyed it and we would recommend it for any other schools who are interested in football!



Soccer Blitz



Mr Doyle organised another successful soccer blitz in October. Students from fifth and sixth class participated in the event. Teams each had a country name and the final match was played on the school soccer pitch in front of all of the senior boys and girls. The final saw

Germany play Holland, with Germany emerging as the victors. It was a brilliant display by all the players and illustrated the great sportsmanship and respect for which our school is known.

Camogie

The girls' camogie team competed in the Fingal League for the second year. Over 20 girls from 5th and 6th class represented the school, many of whom were playing camogie for the first time. They showed great progress and new skills in every match. Well done to all involved!



Fundraising Fun for 'The Little Mermaid'

As you know, we are raising funds for our school production of *The Little Mermaid*. Recently, we hosted two after-school movie evenings, featuring *The Little Mermaid* and *Home Alone*. The children had a fantastic time staying after class, bringing teddies, blankets and treats to enjoy while watching the movies on the big screen.

Fifth and sixth class children loved watching *Home Alone* in the school hall – it was a real highlight! These fun evenings not only brought smiles but also helped raise money for our musical. Thank you to all who supported this initiative. We're looking forward to more exciting fundraisers after Christmas!



Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Our school took part in the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal this year. We have supported this charity for over 15 years. We created 99 shoeboxes this year. We filled shoeboxes with the 4 W's – things to Wash with, Write with, Wear and things to make you think 'Wow!'. We watched videos of children opening their shoeboxes. It helps us to realise how lucky we are. Thank you to the boys and girls in Ms. Murray's 4th class who helped. They gave presentations to classes, made posters and checked every shoebox before it was collected by a volunteer!

St. Francis Hospice Coffee Morning

In September, our school came together to support the St. Francis Hospice Coffee Morning. Staff kindly donated, and everyone enjoyed a feast of delicious homemade cakes! A big shout-out to Ms. Murray's class for designing bright posters and bunting and helping to decorate the school – it really brought the event to life. Ms. Murray's class had a wonderful time enjoying tasty treats and warming up with hot chocolate. We feel very lucky to have such a fantastic local facility like St. Francis Hospice in Blanchardstown.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

Hello, Bonjour, Cześć! A Celebration of Languages

On 26th September we celebrated 'Day of Languages'. Some children took part in a parade around the school, lots of classes engaged in the language challenges in French, Romanian, Polish, Chinese, Irish, Lithuanian and some classes had the opportunity to visit our language notice board. It was lovely to try a new language and hear such a variety of languages spoken throughout the school.



The 5th and 6th classes are excited to learn some Spanish during the **Say Yes to Languages** programme in the new year.

Visit by WWII Enthusiast Jamie Dyer

On 28th November, past pupil Jamie Dyer visited our school to speak to 6th class about World War II. As we have been studying the war, his talk was both inspiring and informative and the hour flew by. Jamie spoke about key events such as D-Day, Stalingrad, Pearl Harbour and the surrender of Germany and Japan. He also brought along fascinating artefacts, including a decommissioned grenade, a helmet from the beaches of Normandy, a compass, photographs and a replica food and drink holder. We thoroughly enjoyed the visit and would have loved to hear even more.

(Donna Korzynska, Saoirse O Malley and Luke Gilmartin, Ms. Kirby's 6th class)

6th Class Trip to Draíocht to see Children's Author Dave Rudden

On the 22nd of October we got to meet Dave Rudden, who has written lots of children's books. His talk was entertaining, engaging and interactive. Some people even won prizes! I got to ask lots of questions. I asked him if Myklezozki had 2 eyes and actually killed people. We left Draíocht at about 12 o'clock and walked back to school with our friends. I knew it would be a fun day out!

(Shane Cunningham, Ms. Kirby's 6th class)

Library Visits

At the beginning of the school year all our third classes were given a tour of Blanchardstown Library. The children got to see all the wonderful facilities such as the 3D printing room, the computers and of course all the amazing books that they can borrow and enjoy reading. Some children signed up for a library card and had the privilege of borrowing a graphic novel on the day.

Ms. Fagan along with her class also got a chance to visit the exhibition of the Irish illustrator Margaret Anne Suggs.

Dave Rudden is one of Ireland's best known children's authors and the sixth classes went to visit him in Draíocht in October. During his show they heard all about monsters and magic. They got lots of writing advice, heard jokes and readings from his monstrous new bestseller **Conn of the Dead**.



6th Class Swimming

We got the year off to a great start with 6 weeks of swimming lessons in September and October. It was very fun. We had great coaches who did many activities with us such as, flips under water, handstands and more. Some of us got to dive into the big pool. This all occurred in the Aquatic Centre. We got there by bus and enjoyed sitting with our friends for the short journey. On the last day we got to play games. A lot of us played football underwater. Swimming lessons were very enjoyable!

(Finn Curran, Ms. Kirby's 6th class)

Farmleigh House and Estate

Sixth Class enjoyed a wonderful educational visit to Farmleigh House, located in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, exploring its beautiful grounds and learning about its rich history.



Keep up-to-date on everything that's going on in the school:

Log on to our website: www.shns.ie

Follow us on X/Twitter: <https://x.com/sacredheartns>