



Storm Emma — Snow in Huntstown

The arrival of Storm Emma at the end of February blanketed Huntstown in crisp, beautiful snow. An accumulation of snow of this level has not been witnessed in Ireland for a very long time. Although it was an incredible and picturesque site to behold, it unfortunately caused the closure of our school for three days. School lessons were replaced by home lessons, with life-long memories being created by the children as they enjoyed playing in the snow. Thank you to the team of parents, grandparents, pupils and staff whose hard work clearing the snow on Sunday 4th March ensured that we were able to safely return to school on Monday 5th March.

Celebrating Grandparents



We were delighted to welcome our Grandparents to the school on January 31st. It was wonderful to see so many excited and energised grandparents visiting classrooms where they were treated to some wonderful displays of talent by our boys and girls. Many of our grandparents shared stories about their lives and their experiences in school. We learn a great deal when we listen attentively to the wisdom of our senior family members and we are so grateful to have them in our lives. Afterwards there were refreshments in the Atrium and a short performance by the school choir. Well done to everyone involved, in particular the organising team of Ms. Donovan, Ms. O'Connor, Ms. Donohoe and Ms. Murray and also to the school choir and Parents' Association.

World Book Day



World Book Day was celebrated in true Huntstown spirit from the snow covered landscape of our respective homes this year. Many of our students made snow creations that depicted characters from their favourite books. These images were posted to our school Twitter page.

We also enjoyed another successful Book Fair in the school in March. Thank you to Ms. Mullany and the Parents' Association for organising this event and to all of the pupils, parents and guardians who supported the Book Fair; your support of the Fair enables us to purchase new literacy resources for the school.

Food Dudes



We re-introduced the Food Dudes healthy eating programme in the school this year. The programme offers our students an opportunity to increase their intake of fresh fruits and vegetables. Each day during the programme a delivery of fresh fruit and veg arrived at the school and the Student Council, under the instruction of Ms. Fagan, counted, sorted and distributed the produce to each class. Thank you to the Student Council and Ms. Fagan for their incredible efforts which ensured that the programme was a great success.

School Sports

The sporting calendar in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa is in full swing at the moment. There is a busy calendar of fixtures for our three Gaelic Football teams (Girls, Junior Boys and Senior Boys), our two soccer teams (Girls and Boys) and also our mixed hurling and athletics teams. Well done to all participants and we wish them the very best of luck in their upcoming fixtures.

Recently a group of our Gaelic footballers had the fantastic experience of playing an exhibition match in Croke Park at half time of a Dublin Allianz League match and we also participated in girls' and boys' 5-a-side soccer blitzes. After Easter we look forward to defending our title as "Dublin's Fittest School"!!!

Sincere thanks to the incredible team of staff members who give up their free time to voluntarily train all of the school teams. Their commitment to our teams gives great benefits to our students; physically, mentally and socially. Beir bua agus go raibh míle maith agaibh.

A Message from our Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been another very busy term in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa as you will see from all of the activities detailed in this newsletter!

The term began with the opening all of the new rooms in the school extension. Ms. Shallow's Senior Infants moved in to their new classroom just before the Christmas holidays and the six new resource rooms in the extension have been in use since January. Thank you to our school community for their patience and understanding during the building works.

Thank you also for your patience and understanding when the school re-opened after Storm Emma. The school's spirit really shone through when we only had two school access doors available to us and everyone worked co-operatively to ensure the safety of all.

In line with new *Children First Act* requirements the Board of Management of Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa has updated the school's child safety procedures. The school's ***Child Safety Statement*** and ***Child Safety Policy*** are available to view in the school reception and have also been published on our school website, in the *Policies* section. It is important to note that where a member of school personnel receives an allegation or has a suspicion that a child may have been abused, harmed or neglected, is being abused, harmed or neglected, or is at risk of abuse, harm or neglect, he or she **must** report the matter to the school's principal and / or deputy principal and also to *Tusla, The Child and Family Agency*.

Preparations for the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation continue in earnest in the school at present. Congratulations to the 2nd class children and three children from our Coiscéim classes who received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on the 13th of March and to the 6th class children who celebrated their Ceremony of Light on the 20th of March. The Confirmation ceremony will take place on the 20th of April and the First Communion ceremony will take place on the 19th of May.

Thank you to the Parents' Association who continue to do sterling work on behalf of our school community. They are not resting on the laurels of the great success of their Christmas raffle fundraiser and last week's Book Fair, but are now busily organising refreshments for the sacrament ceremonies, events to coincide with our upcoming Active Schools Week in April and also a cake sale in June.

As I am sure you are aware from media reports there is unfortunately a lack of substitute teachers available to primary schools at present. Due to constraints placed on schools by the Department of Education and Skills, not all occurrences of leave by teachers qualify for substitute cover; and in the present environment it is not possible to source a substitute teacher for all leave that qualifies for cover. I thank the efforts of the school's Resource and Language Unit teachers in trying to limit the impact of this shortage of substitute teachers on our pupils; however there are times when classes will have to be split up, even when teachers are on substitutable leave. Thank you for your patience and support on this matter.

Thank you also to parents and guardians for addressing internet safety at home on Safer Internet Day. I will distribute a series of internet safety booklets to parents of children in 4th, 5th and 6th classes after Easter. I will send a website link to all other parents where you can download these booklets. I ask you to continue to be vigilant in ensuring that your children's use of the internet and communication platforms is safe and that their interactions are appropriate at all times. The effects of unsafe or inappropriate use of the internet or communication platforms can be very difficult for children to deal with and it is essential that you monitor usage at home. I also ask you to regularly discuss the topic of personal safety at home and what children should do if they are approached by a stranger or if they get lost.

We will continue to be busy in the final term when we return to school on April 9th and we look forward to upcoming sacrament ceremonies, sports fixtures, sports days, school tours, Active Schools Week, Literacy Week, horseriding in Coiscéim classes and visits to the school by story tellers and a travelling theatre company! Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa really is the place to be!

I thank parents and guardians for their continued support and thank staff for their energy, enthusiasm, professionalism and their commitment to delivering a quality educational experience to the children of Huntstown. I hope you all have a fantastic Easter break and look forward to seeing you again in April.

Kieran Lyons.

Final Term Calendar Update

School will reopen for the final term of the 2017 / 2018 academic year on **Monday 9th April.**

May Mid-Term Break 2018

School will be closed from Monday 7th May to Friday 11th May 2018 inclusive.
School will re-open on Monday 14th May 2018.

June Public Holiday 2018

School will be closed on Monday 4th June 2018.

School will close for the summer holidays at 12 noon on **Friday 29th June 2018.**

Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa School Holidays 2018 / 2019

The school will open for the 2018 / 2019 academic year on Thursday 30th August 2018.

October 2018 Mid-Term Break

School will be closed from Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November 2018 inclusive.
School will re-open on Monday 5th November 2018.

Christmas 2018

School will be closed from Monday 24th December 2018 to Friday 4th January 2019 inclusive.
School will re-open on Monday 7th January 2019.

February 2019 Mid-Term Break

School will be closed on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd February 2019.
School will re-open on Monday 25th February 2019.

St. Patrick's Holiday 2019

School will be closed from Friday 15th to Tuesday 19th March 2019 inclusive.
School will re-open on Wednesday 20th March 2019.

Easter 2019

School will be closed from Monday 15th April to Friday 26th April 2019 inclusive.
School will re-open on Monday 29th April 2019.

If changes are required to the Easter break as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures the school may remain open up to and including Wednesday 17th April 2019.

May Public Holiday 2019

School will be closed on Monday 6th May 2019.

June Mid-Term Break 2019

School will be closed from Friday 31st May to Tuesday 4th June 2019 inclusive.
School will re-open on Wednesday 5th June 2019.

Last day of term: Friday 28th June 2019.

There will be a one day closure to facilitate Language Curriculum in-service training for teachers during the 2018 / 2019 academic year. The date for this in-service training will be communicated to parents when it has been finalised.

Student Council



This year our Student Council has been busy contributing to the life of our school. Elected members from fifth and sixth class meet regularly under the guidance of Ms. Fagan. Their meetings cover a wide range of topics, but are always with one mission in mind: "How can we enhance the school for the students of Huntstown?" During Grandparents' Day the council members were on hand to welcome families and show them around the school. The Student Council has helped to coordinate the Food Dudes programme by collecting, delivering and monitoring the fruits and vegetables that came to our school each day. A number of years ago, the council purchased 'Wet Day Games' for each of the classes in the school.

This year the council is appraising the games, ensuring that they are suitable for all of the boys and girls and replacing any damaged or obsolete games. We are enormously proud of our council and thank the members for their sterling efforts.

Pancake Tuesday

We celebrated Pancake Tuesday this year in preparation for Lent. Several classes made their own pancakes with their teachers and adorned them with a rich array of tasty treats such as chocolate spread, jam, syrup and marshmallows. Pancake Tuesday, or Shrove Tuesday, is celebrated at the beginning of Lent to remind us all that we are gifted with so much and we should always try to consider others who are less fortunate.

Twitter



Our school Twitter account <https://twitter.com/sacredheartns> is live and can be accessed for updated information on our school. We encourage you all to keep a close eye on the Twitter feed, where you can access school news, upcoming events and also important reminders. During the recent snow storm, we posted images of the incredible snow creations that were created by the boys and girls. We hope that you will enjoy this useful resource.

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

Log on to our website:
www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com

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

School Gardening Project

The students in Mr. Hanley's Fifth class are continuing to support our school gardening project. They have erected a mini greenhouse in their classroom where they are attempting to grow a number of small plants and herbs. Outside they are tending to the beds at the back of the school where last year we successfully grew a whole range of vegetables including potatoes, peas and lettuce. Our gardening project is a great link to the Food Dudes programme because it reminds us that natural, healthy food can be easily produced here in Ireland and can be enjoyed by one and all.



Healthy minds begin with healthy bodies.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

I rith Seachtain na Gaeilge, bhíomar go léir ag labhairt Gaeilge comh líofa agus is féidir linn. We are proud of our heritage and use every effort to speak Irish in class and with our friends. This year there were plenty of opportunities to celebrate the language through quizzes, language games, dance and music. Beir bua gach duine.

