



Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa

Summer Newsletter

June 2023

National Children's Choir Concert

The National Children's Choir regional concert took place in Tallaght on April 21st 2023. Our school was one of the many schools that were participating that week. On the night of the concert there were loads of very bright lights shining on to us. We were very lucky to have a lot of help to take care of the singers on the night. The conductor was Orla Gillan, she is one of the directors of the National Children's Choir and we had fantastic teachers to teach us all the songs.

At the National Concert Hall on May 27th, Orla Gillan was once again our conductor and Mary Kennedy was our amazing compère for us that night. A surprise visit from House 33 Bodhrán Band and the presence of President Micheal D. Higgins & and his wife Mrs Higgins added to a magical night. Guilherme and myself were honoured to meet and be able to give the President and his wife a lovely gift. Mrs Higgins was given a beautiful bouquet of flowers and President Higgins was given a small ornament on behalf of the NCC.



This experience will live long in the memory of those who attended the show. It was an honour to meet the President and perform in the National Concert Hall. It was so much fun and we all had an amazing time at the Concert Hall. Thank you very much to all the teachers and staff members involved in the making of National Children's Choir and in particular to Ms Lee, Ms Fagan, Ms Murray & Ms Shallow, we couldn't have learned the songs without the guidance from these amazing teachers. It was an experience I will never forget.

By Ava (Rang a 5, Ms Murray)

Army Band Visit - Hooah!

Thank you to Sgt Justin and the Army Band for being so wonderful with all of the boys and girls. The clapping, singing and swaying suggested that everyone had a brilliant time throughout their visit. You are welcome back anytime !



Active School's Week 2023

During Active School's Week, we had multiple activities and exercises to get the children moving and having fun! Activities such as fitness workouts, tug-o-war tournaments, exercise routines and everyone's favourite, Sports Day!!

Both the junior and senior Sports Days took a lot of planning and preparation, that all the staff and children thoroughly enjoyed. A big thank you to Ms Higgins and Mr Kestell for all their hard work in organising a brilliant week. By Aidan (Rang a 6, Mr Shelly)

Gardening Buds



With great enthusiasm, we planted seeds in trays in February. We planted onions, carrots, corn, courgettes, broad beans, radishes, potatoes and lettuce. We gave them plenty of water and sunlight and cared for them indoors where it was nice and warm. We fertilized

the soil and planted the seedlings in neat drills outdoors and covered them.

We harvested the vegetables in June and enjoyed our crop. We had a great time entering the 'Woodies Budding Gardeners completion'. It has been a successful project for us all.



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

Log on to our website:

www.sacredheart huntstown.weebly.com

Follow us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/sacredheartns>



A Message from our Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had another amazing year in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa and our first full year free of Covid-19 restrictions since 2018/19. We really did make the most of this and so many of our favourite activities resumed.

The year began with the opening of two fantastic additions to our school environment - our new school playground (organised by Ms. Donohoe and Mr. Thynne) and our new occupational therapy room (designed by Ms. O'Gorman, organised by Ms. Morris and generously funded by Amazon). Mr. Doyle organised our soccer blitz in September and was assisted by Mr. Harraghy and Mr. Kestell. Elections for Student Council were held early in the year and the Student Council of 2022-2023, under the supervision of Mr. O'Callaghan, Ms. Fagan and Ms. J. Gillan, was extremely active throughout the year, including helping us to launch The Lunch Bag lunch delivery service in our school. Ms. Fagan and the Student Council also coordinated the fantastic Food Dudes programme in our school this year.

Also in September, auditions were held for our school musical, *'School of Rock'*. Over 150 children showed up to audition and the teachers involved had the unenviable task of choosing a cast of just 70. Rehearsals continued throughout the winter and the hard work and commitment of the cast and production team really paid off when Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa's production of *'School of Rock'* lit up the stage and rocked the house in Draíocht for 5 sold out shows in February!

The first term also saw the return of the National Children's Choir programme in the school and 5th class children and teachers worked incredibly hard on a very challenging repertoire for over 7 months, culminating in an incredibly moving and entertaining performance in the National Basketball Arena in April. No less than 26 of our 5th class pupils then had the honour of being chosen to perform the repertoire again in a 'one night only' performance in the National Concert Hall in May.

Chess club was set up by Ms. Murray and Ms. Fagan during the winter months and many children learned new skills and had great fun playing chess together at lunchtimes, whilst Ms. Connell put the quiz teams through their paces. Ms. Dooley, Ms. O. Barry and Ms. J. Gillan organised our invaluable Anti-Bullying and Friendship Week initiatives in the school and these were wonderfully complemented by our safer internet activities coordinated by Mr. O'Callaghan and Ms. Higgins and we were so proud to win a Highly Commended Award in Webwise's Safer Internet Awards.

Ms. Kelly, Ms. S. Byrne, Mr. Mackessy, Mr. Mullally, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Harraghy and Mr. Madden organised our Gaelic football, soccer and athletics teams and we were delighted that a full programme of sport thankfully returned to our school this year. Ms. Mullany organised the return of the Book Fair to our school, which also meant that our incredible Parents' Association members could once again lend their time and talents to the school to facilitate this literary endeavour.

We celebrated First Holy Communion and Confirmation with our sacrament classes and some of our Coiscéim pupils and our school choir enhanced the ceremonies with their beautiful singing. The children were so well prepared by their teachers and SNAs and it was wonderful to see the church full to capacity and families heading off to celebrate their special day free from Covid-19 restrictions. School tours took place in term 3 and our much-loved Sports Days went ahead on two lovely dry and warm days in June, whilst Mr. Shelly and Ms. Higgins organised Active School Week. Many of our sixth class pupils were treated to an exciting day of BMX biking in St. Catherine's Park in Lucan and a group of children visited the Lidl farm in Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

As you can see, we have had an incredibly busy year in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa! As I look back on the year, I am immensely proud of our pupils who have overcome a challenging few years in their education, but have shown wonderful resilience throughout despite disruptions to their learning, much uncertainty and constantly changing rules and restrictions as a result of the pandemic. These children have dived back into school life with renewed energy and enthusiasm and this year has been testament to their spirit. Well done to all our pupils on a really great year's work!

I would also like to commend the incomparable staff of Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa who have guided and supported our pupils through these uncertain times and who have also put so much hard work and commitment into their pupils' development this year. I am grateful for their dedication and am most appreciative of their immense talents and their wonderful caring nature.

Unfortunately, as with even the best of teams, changes must inevitably happen and we say cheerio and best of luck to some departing staff members. Farewell to Louise Kennedy, Mary Boyle, Lauren Mitchell, Aisling Dwyer, Laura Gillen, Ciara O' Sullivan, Garbhán Harraghy, Brian Busher, Ciarán Madden, Celine Carolan, Oran Mullally and Neilus Mackessy as they embark either on far-flung travels or the beginning of a new chapter in their lives in relocating to a different corner of Ireland. I thank these wonderful colleagues for their great service to our school and wish them every success and happiness for the future.

We must also say farewell and thank you to Parents' Association members Caroline Redican and Lorraine Kaylan, as well as our long serving and incredibly hardworking chairperson, Sinéad Joyce. Your work here in the school has benefitted every single pupil and we thank you most sincerely.

We also bid farewell to Michael Kestell, our caretaker, our colleague, the friendly face greeting us at the gate each morning, the man we call when we need a problem solved, something built, fixed, painted, the guardian of our building and the most skilled and obliging person you could hope to meet. Michael has worked tirelessly and selflessly for our school community for 30 years and, while we are so sad to see him leave, we wish him the happiest and healthiest of retirements, so richly deserved. *Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.*

Finally, to our graduating pupils from sixth class and Coiscéim, as your journey in our school comes to an end, we wish you the best of luck in your new schools. Go forward into your lives with confidence. Be proud of all that you have achieved and believe in what you have yet to achieve. We hope you will carry fond memories with you of your time in Sacred Heart. *Go n-éirí an bóthar libh.*

Kieran Lyons, Principal

Graduation and Awards Ceremony

The school year was completed with a graduation and awards ceremony for 6th class students on Wednesday 28th June. All children were commended for their special contribution to the school over the past eight years.



The following awards were also presented :

ACADEMIC AWARDS

<i>Literary Student of the Year –</i>	Michelle Okwarji
<i>Gaeilgeoir na Bliana –</i>	Ciara Hickey
<i>Musician of the Year –</i>	Sarah Byrne
<i>Mathematician of the Year –</i>	Maaria Kareem
<i>John Lynch Award –</i>	Jacob Power
<i>Gradam na Scoile –</i>	Devansh Kolan

<i>Scientist of the Year –</i>	Royce Mudavassery
<i>Artist of the Year –</i>	Lea Golunska
<i>Innovator of the Year –</i>	Armin Aljukic

SPORTS AWARDS

<i>Boys' Soccer Player of the Year –</i>	Ciarán Fletcher
<i>Girls' GAA Player of the Year –</i>	Hannah O'Toole
<i>Sportsperson of the Year –</i>	Aiden Joyce

<i>Athlete of the Year –</i>	Ella O'Brien
<i>Boys' GAA Player of the Year –</i>	Ryan Brady

School Requisites 2023/24

We are delighted with the government's recent announcement that primary school children will receive free school-books for the 2023-2024 academic year. Further to this announcement,



we have received a grant of €96 per child, which will cover the cost of book rental, all textbooks, workbooks and copies required by the children from junior infants to sixth class and in Coiscéim classes.

Unfortunately, the grant is not sufficient to cover all requisites required for school and therefore the school requisites fee must be retained in school to provide for art and craft, photocopying, educational software licences etc.

Lucan BMX visit

Our 6th classes were invited to Lucan BMX this term. Each class got an hour session and picked up new skills on the day.

Everyone had a brilliant time learning how to ride the BMX track. By Devansh (Rang 6, Mr Shelly's)



Web Wise beyond our years!

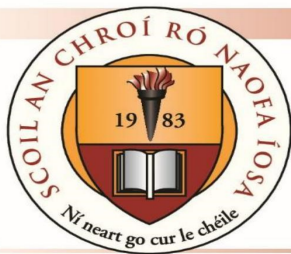
We are delighted to be recognised as part of the Webwise Safer Internet Day Awards, again this year. We received a highly commended award for our entry to the competition. Well done everyone.



So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, don't be a stranger!

Michael, our wonderful caretaker is sadly retiring. Michael has garnered the love and admiration of the entire school community. With an impressive 30 years of dedicated service, he has been a pillar of hard work and commitment to our school. Known for his unwavering dedication, he has been a huge help to all, lending his support and assistance whenever needed. This kind, caring, and thoughtful caretaker has touched the lives of countless students, staff, and parents, leaving a lasting impact. As he enters a well-deserved retirement, there is a profound sense of loss, as his presence will be sorely missed by everyone. The school community extends their warmest wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, grateful for the memories and the positive influence he has left behind.





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Uimhir Rolla: 19755L



Sacred Heart of Jesus NS 2023/2024 School Calendar

August 2023							September 2023							October 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
November 2023							December 2023							January 2024						
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			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
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26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													
February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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May 2024							June 2024							July 2024						
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													



First day of
school year



School holidays



12 noon closure

- The school will open for the 2023/2024 academic year on Wednesday, 30th August 2023.
- Where contingency arrangements are required to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures the length of the Easter break may be reduced by remaining open up to and including Wednesday, 27th March 2024.
- Primary Curriculum in-service training for teachers will take place during the 2023/2024 academic year. The dates for school closures to facilitate this in-service training will be communicated to parents/guardians when they have been finalised.
- School year will finish on Friday, 28th June 2024.

Príomhoide: Kieran Lyons
Leas Phríomhoide: Clara Donohoe

Useful links:

School requisites lists 2023/2024:

<https://tinyurl.com/2263fzap>

School calendar 2023/2024:

<https://tinyurl.com/y35f3r62>

Enrolment/admission information:

<https://tinyurl.com/yrysmx3p>

Classes, teachers and rooms 2023/2024:

<https://tinyurl.com/385tanbp>

School uniform policy and suppliers:

<https://tinyurl.com/y68cyrbu>

Healthy lunch policy:

<https://tinyurl.com/3s7psvyd>