



Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais. It was great to have some beautiful weather on our return. We are delighted to welcome everyone back for another year. Pride and place goes to our new arrivals into Junior Infants and 'The Weir.' A selection of photos below.

Muhammad, Rayna, Bella, Ronan, Harley, Logan, Seán, Axel,



Kyrah, Violet, Páraic Rían, Elena, Sara, Auguste, Alex, Tali, Tadhg,



Jacob, Edie, Gega, Damon, Holly, Michael, Tegan, Harley, Alannah & Joe



have now all completed a full school week. Ms. O' Riordan, Ms. Boyce & Ms. Russell are delighted with how the classes have settled.

We also welcome Alime, Eric, Bill, Alejandro, Armandas, James, Nazar, Kate & Emma who have transferred into other classes across the school.

We shouldn't forget our staff. Throughout August the staffing crisis in schools was in the media. The issues schools are having sourcing staff is very real and have not gone away. We have been very lucky to have attracted some great teachers in Ms Russell, Ms Stephenson, Ms Byrne, Mr Grant Ms. Hogan & Ms. Roche. Ms Cuddihy has boosted our ever-evolving SNA team to four.

Mairead is now well settled into the office admin position. Mairead's efficiency in managing the serious office admin workload is clear to all. Just on this as the office is open on extended hours it will not be attended from 12.20 – 12.50pm to facilitate a well-earned lunchbreak. Please make arrangements before this window and if possible, organise any collections/drop-offs before or after the window.

We also welcome Ms. Boyce onto our In School Management Team. The group is very busy at this time of the year setting up the school and Ms. Boyce has taken to her new responsibilities admirably.

While we are short a number of staff, we're managing to plug gaps in the short term while looking for the longer term fixes.

Overall, we have done really well to be in the position we're in.

### Sláns

Our outgoing 6<sup>th</sup> class is in our thoughts as they settle into life in Second Level as are any other children who may have transferred out to other schools.

Both our Ms. Walshe's, Shauna & Yvonne, and Ms. Grennan have moved to schools closer to home. 'Go neirí leo!' in their new positions.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Class



The early signs are that this class are well ready to lead the school. Our first fortnightly 'Powwow' meeting is due at which Staff and children will discuss their role and responsibilities as leaders in the school. The importance of showing good example and being helpful and kind to younger children can't be overstated. We're looking forward to making good progress not just in our work in readying each child for Second Level but also creating lots of positive memories and



leaving a positive legacy when they finish next year.

The class is already showing great example in the wearing of either the Uniform and Tracksuit on the relevant days. Not only do they have their stationery for the day but a back-up stock at home/in school to replace breakages etc. The bin levels are down so the management of lunch wrappings is having an effect.

### Happy Birthday!!!



The 'Feast of the Holy Rosary' will be with us in a couple of weeks. It is particularly significant this year as it is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the school. This is memorialised on the plaque on the old school wall. The more maths minded of you will have noticed a discrepancy around the dates here. We will offer an explanation on this & much more detail shortly. Mr. O' Malley, Ms. McWatt and Ms. Byrne will collate events.

### Book Scheme

With regards to Books, the new Book Scheme looks to be working well. Reminder that many items do not come in under this scheme so please make sure your child has all they require. The logistics of introducing this scheme were huge. Thanks to Ms. Russell, Mairead & Lauren for their work throughout the Summer.

### The 'Weir'



This introduction of 'The Weir' was a huge success last year. The unit is all but full this year and has outgrown its room in the lower school. Teacher Ms. Russell, SNA's Sandra & Aisling & children are enjoying the state-of-the-art modular building erected in June. It's to our children's credit that at our assemblies they took it upon themselves to raise awareness around the fact that this fantastic space is at probably the busiest bottleneck around the school. They are now aware that this is

something an autistic child will be comfortable with. All agreed that we've to make as special effort to maintain calmness at this bottleneck. The children have responded an extra effort is being made in the vicinity of the class and all children seem very happy. The staff should be complimented for the massive time & work it continues to put into creating an environment in which these children can thrive.

### Policy update

The issue of mobile phones in school has been in the media recently. We're very happy with our policy on this as we have not had any real issues. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation on this in keeping our children safe.



Children should not have **mobile phones or any recording devices** in school. They will be collected and returned to a Parent only. Some children have been granted special permission as there is a specific translation app we use.



### Policy Development

In 2022-23 the Board of Management and staff undertook a huge review of all policies & plans. Some of these need annual reviewing and we will issue any updates as they arise. All are available on the website and in the office should you wish to view them.



A development from the reviews of our curricular plans has been the introduction of a Teaching & Learning Committee. Ms. Earls has been exploring this area intensely as part of a higher degree course and early signs are that this will revolutionise all teaching and learning around the school over the next three years. The staff have explored our own values and school culture. We have asked the question 'What are the blockages to our teaching & the children learning to the highest level?' While many of the obstacles are outside the teacher and/or child's control others are very manageable. These have been identified and the BoM have invested an enormous amount of funds to creating the best teaching & learning environment. We don't think that anyone can argue that the environment has improved in the past 6 months. We would think this whole area is way ahead of schedule.

Ms. Earls & Ms. Russell are leading this. Enormous work went into putting all last year's planning reviews into a comprehensive folder which leave no ambiguity on what needs to be done, who needs to do it, when & how.

It's not all heavy going. One of the first 'teaching & learning' decisions was that that given the heatwave we enjoyed in early September that all would benefit from delaying the introduction of Homework. This went down very well across the board and the inclass teaching and learning thrived.

Going forward the value of homework is something we are constantly monitoring. It is often a battle but we would say that now is a good time to work with the teachers in embedding best homework practices. Organisation and Handwriting is a large part of this.

### Pupil's Voice groups

More on this to follow but safe to say the children have never had as big a say in the running of the school. Green Schools & Student Council have been around for a while. Digital Leaders and Active Schools are more recent additions.

Beatha Teanga

An Coiste  
Gaeilge



Ms. Ralston has worked with Ms. McDermott forming a Coiste Gaeilge to promote day to day Comhrá Gaeilge amongst the staff and children. Ms. Whelan & Ms. Hogan complete the group.

The students of all these groups have always been fantastic ambassadors for our school. In developing policy this the students' council is becoming increasingly important as the 'Pupils Voice'. Elections to this committee are based on personal manifestos each candidate puts together. Congratulations go out from Ms. Sugrue & Mr. Ffrench to this year's group and are looking forward to working with them.

### Green Schools

With all the new committees our Green Schools Committee will hold back until the new year when a fresh application is to go in. That's not to say that all the usual initiatives won't be taking place. Each class has been assigned an initiative which it will take on and promote at Assemblies.



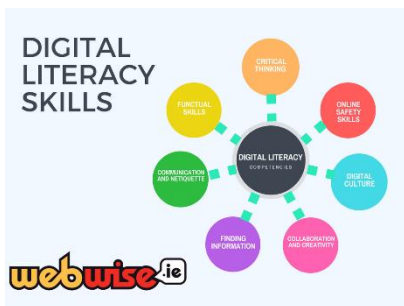
### Active Schools

The Staff Active Schools Team of Ms. Brown, Ms. A Russell & Ms. Stephenson are planning the run in on our application to attain an



Active Schools Flag. We will begin with some lunchtime cross country running & Interschool blitzes. Ms. A. Russell & Mary already reported some serious talent on display by our girls at their 5th & 6<sup>th</sup> class blitz.

**Digital Literacy**



Thanks to Mr. Sheekey for putting hard work and no little skill into setting this up. Also, to this year’s team of Ms. Byrne, Mr. Grant & Ms. Byrne who will work alongside three digital leaders in each class to keep developing all things I.C.T. To see teams of children right down to the infant classes busily fetching the ipads, setting them up independently, enjoying highly structured programmes to assist their learning before returning them to the charging docks for the next class is fantastic on a lot of levels. It was all very different 70 years ago.

**Outside facilitators**

If we’re being honest, we’re finding it hard to identify appropriate outside facilitators to enhance our T & L. Post Covid many of our old favourites have moved to remote-presenting.

Mathletics was introduced last year getting great feedback but unfortunately no facilitator this year. We will continue to explore alternatives. If any individual and/or business is in a position to sponsor/subside all or part of these activities please let us know.

**Out of hours**

As the school opens up again so do the after school activities. In an effort to minimise ‘pester power’ pressure on parents the BoM will list the activities for that term at the start of each term. Any additional applications will have to wait until the following term’s list. Currently there is interest in Aikido(adults), Brownies & Girl Guides. This list is now closed for this term. If anybody has been asking about use the schools’ facilities after hours for next term, please get them to contact the school. One possible new addition to after school activities is in the area of dyslexia. See below

**Classes for Struggling Readers and Students with Dyslexia**

- Qualified and experienced teacher with specialised training in supporting students with dyslexia
- Individualised lessons based on your child's unique ability, interests and learning style
- Develop comprehension, reading fluency, writing & typing skills.
- Focus on fun and building self esteem
- Small student to teacher ratio

Wednesdays 3-4pm  
at Scoil na Coróine Mhúire

Contact Hóilie on 086 4052194 for further information

**Assembly Notes**

We held our first assemblies of the year. Aside from various presentations and celebrations of birthdays, participations & achievements many other items were discussed across the various classes.

Not putting lunch wrappings in the bins has had an immediate effect on our waste management. Bin levels are decreasing weekly so it would be great if we can keep this up. Collectible cards should not come to school as they are precious to their owners and can go missing Our new Coiste Gaeilge compiled and performed simple ‘drámaí beaga’ to all classes. The theme here was meeting people on the street and the interaction that might happen.

Finally, this Board of Management has completed it’s 4-year term. This opens the door to healthy change as a number of



positions are open. Some of the 8 positions stay in place, some are elected, and as with the community reps some are approached and offered a role. Please keep an eye out for



Parents Association updates on when the Parents Reps elections will take place. At the time of writing the **AGM is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of September at 7.30pm**. Our understanding is the elections will take place on the Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of October but this is subject to change.

**Dialann  
NOVEMBER 2023**

- 6th: School Reopens
- 9th: Tráth na gCeist
- 9th: GAA Girls Blitz 5th & 6th
- 13th: World Kindness Day
- 13th: Science Week
- 15th: P/A Relay Marathon tbc
- 15/16th: Parent Teacher Meetings
- 16th: International Day of Tolerance
- 19th: International Men's Day
- 20th: European Week of Waste Reduction
- 21st: Hello Day
- 21st: Cross Country Trail Run
- 25th: Active Schools #FeelGoodFriday tbc
- 27th: Christmas Fair 2.30pm

**OCTOBER 2023**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Space Week
- 5<sup>th</sup> World Teachers' Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Holy Rosary Assemblies
- 16<sup>th</sup> Climate Action Week
- 16<sup>th</sup> Maths Week
- 19<sup>th</sup> Book Week
- 19th: Girls GAA Blitz 3rd/4th
- 23rd: SET Meetings with Parents

- 25<sup>th</sup> Cross Country Avondale
- 26<sup>th</sup> Boys GAA Blitz 3rd/4<sup>th</sup>
- 27<sup>th</sup> School Closes 3pm for October Break

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

- 13<sup>th</sup> Roald Dahl Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Masses begin
- 15<sup>th</sup> International Day of Democracy
- 21st Girls GAA Blitz 3rd/4th
- 22nd Culture Night
- 23<sup>rd</sup> European Week of Active Sports (Rescheduled)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Ashford Beekeepers Honey Festival Weekend
- 26<sup>th</sup> European Day of Languages
- 27<sup>th</sup> Cross Country Relays
- 29<sup>th</sup> Boys GAA Blitz 5th/6th

\*These dates are subject to change and will be updated on Website

The website is constantly being upgraded. Mr. Sheekey's blog has proven very popular in letting families know what is going on in class. Please take a few minutes to bookmark & browse [www.scoilnascoroinemhui.ie](http://www.scoilnascoroinemhui.ie)

