Nollaig 2025

Agus muid ag druidim le deireadh 2025, (rud atá deacair a chreidiúint!) ba mhaith linn am a thógáil chun machnamh a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn iontach atá déanta ag ár bpobal scoile i dtréimhse an-ghairid. Tháinig forbairtí móra ar thailte na scoile i rith an tsamhraidh, agus i gcúlra na hoibre tá pleanáil agus fís fhadtéarmach ár bhfoirgnimh bhuain ag teacht le chéile de réir a chéile.

As we approach the end of 2025 (hard to believe!) we would like to take a moment to reflect on just how far our school community has come in such a short span of time. This summer brought significant development to our school grounds, and behind the scenes, exciting plans and long-term visions continue to take shape for our permanent building

Bhain muid sprioc mhór amach i mbliana agus muid os cionn an chéid, le 123 dalta cláraithe, léiriú álainn ar an muinín atá á cur i nGaelscoil na Mara agus ar fhás bríomhar an phobail. Tá ár bhfoireann beagnach dúblaithe don bhliain acadúil seo, rud atá le brath go laethúil sa chomhluadar fíor-cháirdiúil sa seomra foirne agus sa réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim atá ar fáil dár ndaltaí anois.

This year, we reached a wonderful milestone, surpassing the 100 mark with 123 pupils enrolled — a testament to the trust placed in Gaelscoil na Mara and the vibrant growth of our community. Our staff has almost doubled for the 2025–2026 academic year, something that is felt daily in the warm atmosphere of the staffroom and in the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities now available to our students.

Ag breathnú siar, táimid fíorbhródúil as an mbliain iontach a bhí againn in 2025, agus táimid ar bís agus muid ag súil le 2026 a bheidh lán le rath. Ar ndóigh, bíonn mí na Nollag an-ghnóthach, ach tugann sí draíocht ar leith dúinn freisin, draíocht atá ina phribhléid a roinnt lenár bpáistí bliain i ndiaidh bliana. Le turais, laethanta spraíúla agus iontais na Nollag le brath, tá go leor le súil leis sna seachtainí amach romhainn agus muid ag druidim i dtreo bhriseadh na Nollag. Táimid ar bís agus ag tnúth go mór leis an mí speisialta seo a cheiliúradh le chéile i nGaelscoil na Mara.

We look back with pride and gratitude on a fantastic 2025 and eagerly look ahead to what promises to be a busy and exciting 2026. Of course, December brings not only a flurry of activity, but also a sense of magic that we are privileged to share with our children year after year. With trips, fun days, and festive surprises on the horizon, the coming weeks are set to be full of joy as we edge closer to the Christmas break. We're really looking forward to celebrating this special month together in Gaelscoil na Mara.

Cúrsaí Scoile

Glacfaidh ár bpobal scoile ar fad páirt arís i mbliana inár tradisiúin álainn, Kris Kindle. Gheobhaidh gach páiste agus ball foirne ainm a Kris Kindle an tseachtain seo, agus beidh an cúram speisialta orthu cárta Nollag a chruthú don duine sin. I rith na laethanta deireanacha den téarma, beidh deis ag gach duine a gcárta a thabhairt dá Kris Kindle agus *Nollaig Shona* a ghuí orthu. Cabhraíonn an traidisiún simplí seo cineáltas na Nollag a scaipeadh le linn an Aidbhéant. I rith mí na Nollag, bainfimid taitneamh as roinnt gníomhaíochtaí idir-ranga atá dírithe ar chairdeas a neartú agus cineáltas a chothú, tríd léitheoireacht beirte idir R3/4 agus N1, seisiúin súgartha idir ranganna, agus b'fhéidir fiú tráth na gceist Nollag leis naíonáin agus ranganna níos sine measctha le chéile. Mar is gnách, leanfaimid le chur chun cinn ár bpolasaí Bí Cineálta agus cuirfimid leis an obair thábhachtach atá déanta againn ar chairdeas, caidrimh dhearfacha agus ar conas a bheith i do chara maith.

Our whole school community will take part in our annual Kris Kindle tradition this December. Every child and staff member will receive the name of their Kris Kindle this week, and their special task will be to create a thoughtful Christmas card for that person. In the final days of term, everyone will have the chance to present their card and wish their Kris Kindle a warm Nollaig Shona. This simple tradition helps us spread Christmas kindness throughout Advent. Throughout December, we will also enjoy a range of cross-class activities designed to build friendships and nurture kindness, including paired reading between R3/4 and N1, shared free-play sessions, and perhaps even a whole-school Christmas quiz with mixed-age teams. As always, we will continue to promote our Bí Cineálta policy and build on the important work we have been doing around friendships, positive relationships, and being a good friend.

Oiliúna ar Nósanna Imeachta um Chosaint Leanaí

Dúnadh Gaelscoil na Mara Déardaoin 28ú Samhain, chun deis a thabhairt do gach ball foirne páirt a ghlacadh in oiliúint uile-scoile ar na Nósanna Imeachta Nua um Chosaint Leanaí ón Roinn Oideachais. Nósanna imeachta maidir le cosaint leanaí do scoileanna Cinntíonn an oiliúint seo go bhfuil gach duine atá i dteagmháil laethúil leis na páistí ar an eolas faoi na dlíthe, na freagrachtaí agus na nósanna imeachta maidir le cosaint agus le leas leanaí.

Gaelscoil na Mara was closed on Friday, 28th November, to allow all staff members to take part in whole-school training in the new Child Safeguarding Procedures, as outlined by the Department of Education. Child protection procedures in schools
This training ensures that every adult working with the children daily is fully aware of the laws, responsibilities, and procedures involved in child protection and child safeguarding.

Is cuid lárnach den chur i bhfeidhm ná go mbeadh gach ball foirne, gach páiste agus gach tuismitheoir ar an eolas cé hé an Duine Idirchaidreamh Ainmnithe (DIA) sa scoil. I nGaelscoil na Mara is í Orflaith an DIA agus muna bhfuil an DIA ar scoil, is í Sinéad an Leas-DIA. Tá dualgas dlíthiúil ar gach ball foirne aon imní atá acu a thuairisciú, go rúnda, don DIA nó an LDIA, a dhéanfaidh ansin cinneadh an bhfuil gá comhairle a lorg ó TUSLA nó tuairisc fhoirmiúil a dhéanamh. Ag gach cruinniú den Bhord Bainistíochta, caithfear go dleathach líon na n-uaireanta ar lorgaíodh comhairle ó TUSLA agus líon na dtuairiscí, más ann dóibh, a tugadh, a chur ar taifead. Tá Ráiteas um Chumhdach Leanaí na scoile ar crochadh i gcónaí ag príomhdhoras na hoifige,

mar atá leagtha síos, agus tá sé ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na scoile. https://gaelscoilnamara.ie/polasaithe/

A key part of implementing these procedures is ensuring that every staff member, every child, and every parent knows who the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is in the school. In Gaelscoil na Mara, the DLP is Orflaith, and in her absence, the Deputy DLP is Sinéad. All staff members are legally required to report any concerns, in confidence, to the DLP or DDLP, who will then decide whether to seek advice from TUSLA or to make a formal report for further investigation. At each Board of Management meeting, the school must legally state the number of times advice was sought from TUSLA and the number of reports, if any, that were made. The school's Child Safeguarding Statement is also displayed at all times at the main office door, as required, and is available on the school website.https://gaelscoilnamara.ie/polasaithe/

Is riail nua é go gcaithfear póstaer le grianghraf agus ról an DIA a chur ar taispeáint sa scoil chun go mbeidh sé soiléir do na páistí cé leis ar féidir leo labhairt go rúnda. Déanfaidh muid an póstaer seo a dhearadh agus a phlé leis na páistí roimh an Nollaig, agus beidh sé le feiceáil ag gach bealach isteach agus amach roimh i bhfad. Ba mhaith linn aird a tharraingt ar na dúshláin atá roimh scoileanna sa lá atá inniu ann maidir le gníomhaíocht ar líne a tharlaíonn sa bhaile. Tá an-ádh linn go bhfuil polasaí maidir le fóin chliste againn do pháistí agus iad i nGaelscoil na Mara, rud atá fíorthábhachtach dúinn.
Mar sin féin, feicimid go minic go mbíonn rochtain ag páistí scoile ar an idirlíon trí táibléid agus gléasanna eile. Tá neart cúiseanna le bheith airdeallach ar úsáid idirlín ag páistí, anois agus amach anseo. Tá acmhainní ó Webwise ceangailte againn agus molaimid go láidir do thuismitheoirí am a ghlacadh chun breathnú orthu agus machnamh a dhéanamh ar bhuntáistí agus ar rioscaí úsáide scáileáin ina dteaghlaigh sna seachtainí amach romhainn. Iarraimid ar gach teaghlach am a thógáil chun plé agus athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar chleachtais shábháilte ar líne ar mhaithe le leas ár bpáistí go léir. Webwise - Tuismitheoirí

A new requirement is that a poster displaying the role and photograph of the DLP must be visible in the school so that children clearly know who they may speak to in confidence. We will design and discuss this poster with the children before Christmas, and it will be displayed at all entrance and exit points throughout the school. We would also like to highlight the challenges facing schools today regarding online activity that takes place in the home. We are fortunate to have a no-smartphone agreement in place for all pupils while they attend Gaelscoil na Mara, something of great importance to us. However, we continue to see many children having access to online content through tablets and other devices. There are countless reasons to stay vigilant about children's online activity, now and as they grow older. We are attaching recommended Webwise resources and strongly encourage all parents to watch them and to reflect on the benefits and risks of their family's screen use in the coming weeks. We urge every household to take time to discuss and review safe online practices to ensure the wellbeing of all children in our school community. Parents -Webwise

Bhí an lá oiliúna an-tairbheach agus, cé go raibh an t-ábhar trom, chuir sé i gcuimhne dúinn an fhreagracht mhór atá orainn uile mar chaomhnóirí leanaí. D'fhágamar an oiliúint agus muid cinnte go leanann muid ár nósanna imeachta go díograiseach i nGaelscoil na Mara.

The training day was very informative and, although heavy, it underscored the seriousness of the responsibility we all share in safeguarding children. We left reassured that our procedures in Gaelscoil na Mara are robust and diligently followed.

Maoiniú ón DAA

I mbliana, chuireamar isteach ar mhaoiniú an DAA tríd an tionscadal Elevate 25. Gabhaimid buíochas mór le Múinteoir Sinéad, a chaith tráthnónta fada leis an bhfoirm iarratais mhionsonraithe a líonadh. Dhírigh ár moladh ar fheabhas a chur ar leabharlanna ranga agus ar ábhair léitheoireachta na scoile, chomh maith le seomra coitianta a fhorbairt a fheidhmeodh mar leabharlann scoile. Tá fís againn seirbhís leabharlainne a bhunú sa scoil, áit ar féidir le páistí leabhair a fháil ar iasacht, clubanna leabhar a bhunú, agus spás ciúin a bheith acu chun sos a thógáil ón ngluaiseacht sa seomra ranga.

This year, we applied for the DAA's funding through the Elevate 25 project. A huge thank you goes to Múinteoir Sinéad, who spent many long afternoons completing the detailed application form. Our proposal focused on enhancing the school's class libraries and reading materials, as well as developing a dedicated common room to serve as a school library. Our vision includes creating a library-style service where children can borrow books, join book clubs, and have a quiet space to relax away from busy classrooms.

Tá ríméad orainn a rá gur éirigh linn deontas a bhaint amach don tionscadal seo, le €15,000 i maoiniú ó Elevate 25. Is beag an méid é a rá go bhfuilimid sásta! Táimid ar bís faoin deis seo chun leabharlanna na scoile a phleanáil agus a fhorbairt thar an dá bhliain atá romhainn. Mar chuid den tionscadal seo, táimid ag súil le tuismitheoirí agus Cairde na Scoile a bheith páirteach i seirbhís leabharlainne sheachtainiúil nó dhá-sheachtainiúil, agus táimid ag tnúth le himeachtaí eile a eagrú bunaithe ar scaoileadh leabhar nua, Lá Domhanda na Leabhar agus Aonach Leabhar bliantúil.

Gabhaimid buíochas ó chroí leis an DAA as an maoiniú flaithiúil seo, agus is cinnte go gcuirfear i bhfeidhm é ar bhealach thar a bheith dearfach ar fud na scoile.

We are delighted to share that we were successful in securing a grant for this project, with Elevate 25 awarding us €15,000 in funding. To say we are pleased is an understatement. We are genuinely excited about planning and developing our school library facilities over the next two years. As part of this project, we hope to involve parents and Cairde na Scoile in running a weekly or bi-weekly library service, and we look forward to organising events linked to book releases, World Book Day, and our annual Book Fair.

We extend our thanks to the DAA for this generous support, which will undoubtedly be put to extremely positive use across the school.

Turais na Nollag

Tá sceitimíní orainn a chur in iúl daoibh go bhfuil cúpla turas na Nollag eagraithe againn dos na páistí -
Beidh Na Turtuir, Na hOchtapais, Na Pionguin agus Na Portáin ag dul ar thuras chuig an Panto sa Lark, Dé Céadaoin 3ú Nollaig.

Beidh na Crosóg Mhara agus na Smugairle Róin ag dul ar thuras chuig an Ark, Déardaoin an 11ú Nollaig.

Beidh Na Pionguin agus Na Portáin ag dul ar thuras mistéireach Dé Céadaoin 17ú Nollaig.

Tá na nascanna íocaíochta dos na turais seo ar Aladdin anois. Táimid théis praghas na dturais a choinneáil comh íseal is gur féidir linn, leis an mBord Bainistíochta ag cur roinnt airgead i dtreo na dturais.

Ní bheidh aon athrú ar ghnáth-amchlár na bpáistí ar aon lá. Fágfaidh siad agus fillfidh siad laistigh d'uaireanta scoile. Tá súil againn go mbainfidh na páistí taitneamh as na laethanta seo agus go mbeidh píosa craic acu amuigh le chéile lena gcairde scoile!

We are delighted to let you know that we have a number of Christmas trips organised for the children.

Na Turtair, Na hOchtapais, Na Pionguin and Na Portáin will be going to the Christmas Panto in The Lark on Wednesday, 3rd December.

Na Crosóg Mhara and na Smugairle Róin will be going on a trip to The Ark, to see How To Catch A Star on Thursday, 11th December.

Na Pionguin and Na Portáin will also be heading off on a mystery tour on Wednesday, 17th December.

Payment links for these trips are now live on Aladdin. We have kept the cost of the trips as low as possible, with the Board of Management contributing funding towards them. There will be no changes to the children's usual timetable on any of these days. They will leave and return within school hours. We hope the children really enjoy these experiences and have great fun out and about with their classmates!

Lónta Scoile

Tá an-áthas orainn ár seirbhís lóin scoile a thosnú an tseachtain seo, le Glanmore Foods ag soláthar na lóin dúinn.

Níl na háiseanna cistine againn fós chun béilí te a ullmhú, mar sin beidh lóin fhuara á soláthar go sealadach. Beidh Glanmore Foods ag cur cistin bhreise isteach sa scoil sa bhliain nua, agus nuair a bheidh sí réidh beidh muid in ann lóin the a thabhairt do na páistí gach lá. Beidh an rogha againn freisin lóin fhuara a fháil ar laethanta turas scoile. Meabhrú - Caithfear orduithe do na seachtaine seo chugainn a dhéanamh roimh 2.00i.n. Déardaoin. Is féidir ordú athfhillteach a shocrú ionas nach mbeidh ort ordú a dhéanamh gach seachtain. Molaimid daoibh, áfach, triail a bhaint as roinnt roghanna éagsúla sna seachtainí atá romhainn. Má cheapann tú nach n-íosfaidh do pháiste bia nua nó bia nach bhfuil siad cleachta leis, molaimid roinnt bia breise a chur leo ar feadh tamaill.

Tógfaidh an córas nua seo am chun dul i dtaithí air agus beidh cúpla fadhb bheag ann, mar sin gabhaimid buíochas libh as bhur bhfoighne! Má tá aon deacracht agat

leis an aip a chlárú, cuir in iúl dúinn le do thoil. Maidir le ceisteanna faoi bhia, roghchláir nó na lóin féin, téigh i dteagmháil le Glanmore Foods ag glanmorefoods.ie. Táimid ag súil go mór leis an tionscnamh nua seo agus tá súil againn go mbainfidh na páistí agus na teaghlaigh tairbhe mhór as.

We are delighted with the introduction of our school lunch service this week, with Glanmore Foods providing lunches for our pupils.

As we do not yet have the kitchen facilities required to offer hot meals, we will be providing cold lunches for the time being. Glanmore Foods will be installing an additional kitchen in the new year, and once this is in place we will be able to offer hot lunches daily. We will also have the option to provide cold lunches on days when classes are on school tours or outings. ***Reminder: Orders for next week must be completed before 2pm on Thursday****. You can set up a recurring order so you don't have to enter it each week. However, we encourage families to try a variety of options over the coming weeks. If you feel your child may be hesitant to try new foods, you may wish to send additional items from home until they become more familiar with the lunches.*

We expect that this new system will take time to settle in, and there may be a few hiccups along the way, thank you in advance for your patience as everyone adjusts! If you have any issues with registering for the app, please let us know. For queries specifically about food, menus, or the lunches themselves, please contact Glanmore Foods directly at glanmorefoods.ie. We are excited to introduce this new initiative in our school and hope it will be of great benefit to all our pupils and families.

Lá na nGeansaí Nollag - 16/12/25

Beimid ag smaoineamh ar na daoine, nach bhfuil comh compóirdeach céanna linne i rith séasúr na Nollag sa mhí seo. Ar an Máirt 16ú Nollaig beimid ar fad ag caitheamh geansaí, léinte, éadaí na Nollag ar scoil, in ionad ár n-éadach scoile. Iarrfaimid ar gach chlann deontas beag a thabhairt chuig Naomh Uinseann de Póil ar an lá seo, tríd an nasc seo: Support Lá Geansaí na Nollag ar son Naomh U d on iDonate.ie
Is féidir leis na páistí cupla euro a thabhairt isteach ar an lá ach oiread. Bímid ag déanamh an chuid foghlaim ar chineáltas san Aidbheint agus conas cabhrú le daoine nach bhfuil sa suíomh céanna linne ag an am seo den bhliain. Tá sé tábhachtach dúinn dea-shampla a thaispeáint dos na páistí faoin gcineáltas agus conas a chabhraíonn eagraíochta mar Naomh Uinseann de Póil le daoine i gceantar áitiúla i rith na bliana ar fad, agus ach go háirithe ag an Nollaig. Ar an lá seo tá cead ag na páistí geansaithe Nollag, hataí Nollag nó cibé éadaí na Nollag atá acu a chaitheamh. Molaimid go ndéanfadh na tuismitheoirí an rud céanna!

This month, we will be thinking of those who are not as fortunate as us at Christmas time. On Tuesday, 16th December, we will all be wearing Christmas jumpers, shirts, or festive clothes to school instead of our usual school uniforms. We ask each family to consider making a small donation to St. Vincent de Paul on the day through this link: Support Lá Geansaí na Nollag ar son Naomh U d on iDonate.ie

Children may bring in a few euros to school either, if they wish. Through this activity, we hope to highlight the importance of kindness during Advent and to show how we can help those who are less fortunate at this time of year. It is important for us to set a good example for the children, demonstrating how organisations like St. Vincent de Paul support people in our local community throughout the year, and especially at Christmas. On the day, children are welcome to wear Christmas

jumpers, hats, or any festive clothing they have. We also encourage parents to join in the fun and dress festively too!

Dátaí don Dialann

Laethanta Saoire na Nollag ag tosnú : Aoine 19ú @11:50
Christmas Break starts: Friday 19/12 at 11:50 (half-day)

Arais ar scoil - Dé Luain 5ú Eanáir 2026
School re-opening - Monday 5th January 2026

Beidh na cruinnithe tuismitheoirí/múinteoirí ar siúl sa scoil, do chuile rang, Dé Céadaoin agus Déardaoin 28ú & 29ú Mí Eanáir 2026 ó a 2.30in - 5in. Cuirfear nasc amach tríd Aladdin go luath i mí Eanáir chun amanta na cruinnithe a eagrú do chách.

This year's parent/teacher meetings will take place in the school, for every class, on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th January 2026 from 2.30pm-5pm. A link will be sent out through Aladdin in early January to organise the meeting times for everyone.

Lá Saoire Bainc Naomh Bhríde - Dé Luain 2ra Feabhra '26 - Scoil dúnta
St Brigid's Day Bank Holiday - Monday 2nd Feb '26 - School closure

Scoil Dúnta do Lá Traenála 1 ar an gCuraclam Nua: Dé Luain 9ú Márta '26
School Closed for Teacher Training Day 1 on the New Curriculum: Mon 9th March '26

Scoil Dúnta don Lá Traenála 2 ar an gCuraclam Nua: Céadaoin 22ú Aibreán '26
School Closed for Teacher Training Day 2 on the New Curriculum: Wed 22nd April '26

Buíochas ó chroí do chuile pháiste, chlann agus pobal na scoile uile, chuile mhúinteoir, chúntóir, Amelia ár gcoimhdeacht bus, Abina ár rúnaí, Aaron ár bhfear cúraim, Christiana ár nglantóir, Cairde na Scoile agus ár mBord Bainistíochta iontach, as ucht bhur gcuid tacaíochta agus obair dhian i rith na bliana.
Guímíd beannachtaí na Nollag agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise oraibh ar fad.

A heartfelt thank you to all the children and the entire school community, all the teachers, assistants, Amelia our bus escort, Abina our secretary, Aaron our caretaker, Christiana our cleaner, Cairde na Scoile and our fantastic Board of Management, for all the support and hard work throughout 2025. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Le meas,
Orflaith 🎄