

SCOIL ÁINE NAOFA NEWSLETTER

January 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 2nd February

Bank Holiday—School Closed

Thursday 19th & Friday 20th February

Mid-Term Break—School Closed

Message from Mr Reilly

I would like to welcome everyone to our new look monthly newsletter in Scoil Áine Naofa. It is our aim to keep you updated on school events, extra-curricular activities and put a spotlight on different classes each month. It was wonderful to welcome all the children back to school after the Christmas Holidays. We have a great term ahead of us with different school and cultural events to look forward to. We always remind the children to look ahead and to think positively about school and this is something that they have certainly been doing since the beginning of January. As we look ahead to the new term, I would also like to welcome a new SNA to our staff, Celine Kiernan. We hope that Celine enjoys her time working with the staff and children in Scoil Áine Naofa.

Le dea ghuí

Conor Reilly

Principal

OUR CLASSES...

3rd Class—Room 12

As it is book month in Scoil Áine, all of us in Room 12 have become authors and have been writing our own stories! We all wrote a story, edited it and wrote out the final draft. Then, in order to properly publish our work, we combined these amazing stories with art and made 3D landscape books. Everybody's story and art is so unique and creative, well done!



Ms Byrne

4th Class—Room 1

This January, Room 1 have done lots of fun things. We have learned lots of things as well. We have learned about the planets, shadows, and the Aztecs. In Irish we learned about siopadóireacht. Right now, we are learning about the Sun Gods and light and how it is powered.

We are going swimming every Tuesday for five weeks in Clondalkin. For art, we have made things out of clay like pinch pots and coil pots. We are also doing a line competition with all the fourth classes. Our class won last week. Our prize was that we get to sit next to our friends for one subject. Last Monday Mr. Greene came into our class for Irish, it was fun.

Laila Benzie



5th Class—Room 8

Our class has been busy stepping back in time as part of our recent history projects, exploring three major revolutions that shaped the modern world. Working in groups, the children researched and created projects on the American Revolution, the French Revolution and the Irish Rebellion.

Each group spent a full week researching, planning and collaborating before presenting their learning on colourful A2 displays. The American Revolution project, “The Birth of Liberty”, examined the fight for independence and freedom across the Atlantic. “The Fall of the Monarchy” focused on the dramatic events of the French Revolution, while “The Path to Freedom” explored the struggle for independence in Ireland.

The projects centred on the causes of each revolution, the key figures involved and the lasting impact these events had on society. The level of teamwork, effort and historical understanding on display was fantastic. The completed projects can be seen outside Room 8, and we are very proud of the students’ hard work and enthusiasm for history.

Mr O’Dea



6th Class Room 33

In 6th Class, Room 33 have been looking at Neo Pop Art, a movement inspired by the colourful art of Warhol and Picasso from the 50s and 60s. Neo Pop Art uses vibrant colours, patterns and bold geometric lines. We looked at the Brazilian artist Romero Britto's work and created our own images inspired by his creations. Many of the more famous works from Pop Art and Neo Pop Art contain iconic brands. Can you identify the icon used in one of these 6th Class creations associated with a famous rock band?

Ms Regan



Room 24

Room 24 were busy this month learning all about Polar animals. We did some lovely projects on Arctic and Antarctic animals and learned some interesting facts about each animal. The boys presented their projects to our social group. From the pictures you can see we used lots of different materials in our art lesson to create our Polar animals.

Ms Carragher



OUR COUNCILS & COMMITTEES...

Restorative Practice Committee

Hi Everyone,

We are the RP Mentors. We are always on the yard during break times promoting our school's expectations. RP stands for Restorative Practice! Every month we go around to the school classrooms promoting kindness, inclusiveness, good manners, respect and positivity. The yard climbing wall is a restorative zone where you can relax and have calmness and enjoy positivity with your friends!

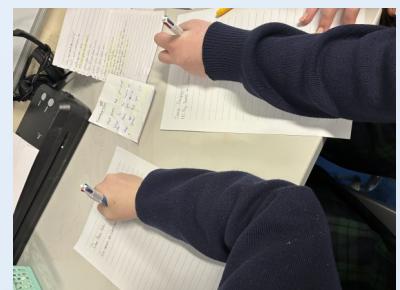
The RP Mentors



Student Council

The Student Council is excited to share our new project—a letter-writing partnership with Griffeen Valley Nursing Home! Our 5th and 6th Class representatives, with the wonderful help of 3rd and 4th Class, have written letters to residents Patrick, Anna, Peggy, Eilish, Alice, and Betty. This project aims to build connections across generations and bring a little extra joy to our local community, and we hope to build on this by visiting the residents in the future to continue these meaningful connections.

Ms Browne



Green Schools Committee

The Green Schools Committee are currently working towards our Biodiversity flag. We are busy behind the scenes revising our previous four flags which include Litter and Waste, Energy, Water and Travel. As well as that, all the classes have been learning about biodiversity too and have done some amazing displays based on this. We also gave our year two survey on biodiversity, and the results showed a huge growth in our knowledge on this topic. Well done everyone for your hard work!

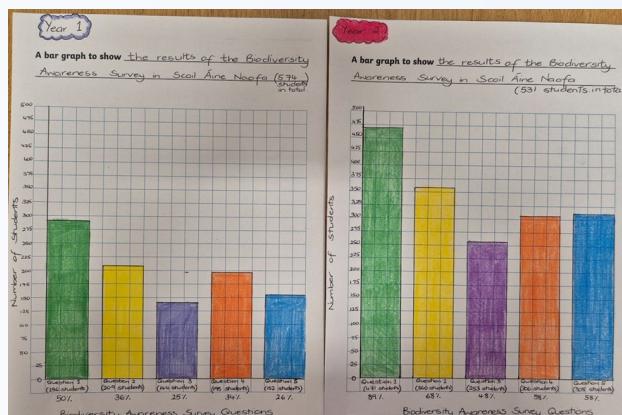
We have a number of events coming up. On Friday, January 30th, we will have a no uniform day. Everyone is encouraged to wear the colour green or biodiversity themed clothes. We ask that each child brings in €2 to raise money for planting equipment and materials to help improve the biodiversity in the school.

The winners of the biodiversity classroom display boards will go to Griffeen Valley Park to meet the Park Ranger - Gerry, to learn more about biodiversity in our local area. Well done to the winning classes - Ms Dunphy (3rd), Ms Ryan (4th), Mr O'Dea (5th) and Ms O'Flynn (6th).

On Friday the 13th of February, we will have our Green Schools Day of action. Every stream will be working together to clean up, plant and help improve the biodiversity in school.

We really appreciate everyone's help in the preparation of our flag.

Ms Gallagher



Active Schools Committee

Pupils from 3rd to 6th class have been thoroughly enjoying a series of rugby coaching sessions in our school, delivered by coaches from Barnhall RFC in partnership with Leinster Rugby. The sessions have focused on developing fundamental rugby skills such as passing, movement and teamwork, while also promoting fitness, confidence and fair play. The children have shown great enthusiasm and engagement throughout, and it has been wonderful to see their skills and enjoyment of the game grow each week. We would like to sincerely thank Barnhall RFC and Leinster Rugby for providing such a positive and professional sporting experience for our pupils.

Mr O'Dowd



MUSIC...

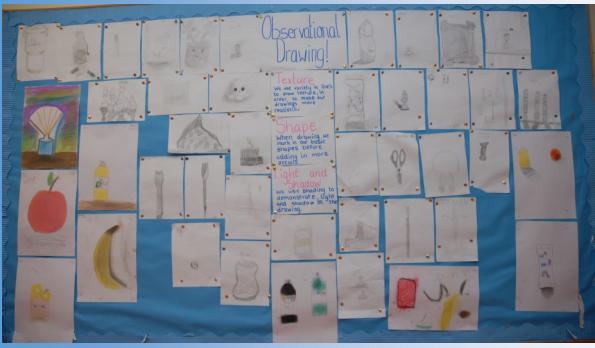
Ukelele

Ukulele lessons are ongoing in Scoil Áine. Third and fourth classes have finished their block of lessons, and fifth class will begin this week. The children are loving learning a new instrument and lots of interesting songs. They especially love when the instructor, Claire, brings in her therapy dog Molly! Molly loves listening to the children play their music.



Ms Coughlan

A selection of work from our noticeboards...



ACTIVITIES & CLUBS...

Craft Club

A new craft club for knitting and crocheting begins this week in Scoil Áine. Fifth class are up first and will learn the basics of knitting and crocheting. They then will try their hand at some patterns.

Ms Coughlan



Chess Club

In December we held our very first inter school chess competition. It was a great experience. We enjoyed meeting fellow chess players and practicing our skills against different players from another school. It is definitely one of the highlights for the chess club here at Scoil Áine and we look forward to more competitions in the future!

Ms Treacy



ENGLISH...

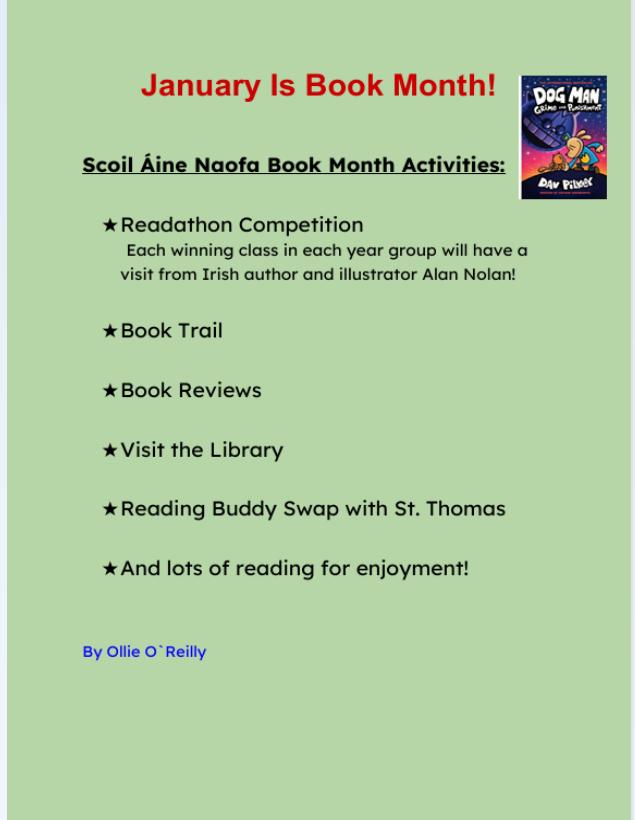
Book Month

This month we are celebrating 'book month'. We are all enjoying spending extra time reading for fun and all classes thoroughly enjoyed participating in the 'reading buddy programme' with St. Thomas'. We are also busy participating in our Readathon competition and eagerly awaiting the results to see which classes will be the lucky winners this year!

Ms Grenham

January Is Book Month!

Scoil Áine Naofa Book Month Activities:



- ★ Readathon Competition
Each winning class in each year group will have a visit from Irish author and illustrator Alan Nolan!
- ★ Book Trail
- ★ Book Reviews
- ★ Visit the Library
- ★ Reading Buddy Swap with St. Thomas
- ★ And lots of reading for enjoyment!

By Ollie O'Reilly

Poster created by Ollie Reilly

4th Class Room 4

