



Scoil Naomh Chaitríona

Newsletter- Jan/ February

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Dear Parents

We hope you are all well and coping as best you can in these uncertain times. Unfortunately, we find ourselves once more in the situation where we must remain at home to keep ourselves and others safe. We are conscious that everyone's circumstances are different, and parents have so much on their plates. We understand that the safety and health of your family is your main priority currently. You may find it difficult to engage in home schooling everyday so please don't feel under pressure and do what you can, when you can. We hope that we are now in the final weeks of this school closure and look forward to welcoming your children back to school soon.

Remote Teaching and Learning

We are now over a month into remote teaching and learning. The experience has undoubtedly been a challenging one for everyone but I must commend you all for your time and effort.

The support you are giving to your child through these difficult times will stand to them on our return to school. If we can do anything at all to make your home learning experience easier, please let us know.

We have devices available for loan and we can preload these with videos of our recorded lessons if you have no internet access. We will continue to deliver workbooks, stationery and treats on a regular basis. All the teachers commented on how great it was to see children and parents last Monday. Their smiling faces and positivity was a real tonic.



Enrolments

We are now accepting enrolments for September. If you would like to enroll your child, please contact us by email at officescoilchaitriona@gmail.com or by phone at (071) 98 51062 and we can post you our enrolment form and school information.

If you wish you can fill out an enrolment form online at <https://www.scoilchaitrionaballyshannon.ie/>

Please spread the word, let others know of the great things that happen in our school and help Scoil Chaitríona continue to grow.



Now Enrolling
Scoil Chaitríona
Ballyshannon
Accepting enrolments for September

News and Upcoming Events

Important Dates for February

- **Internet Safety Day** – Tuesday 9th February
- **Mid-Term Break** -Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February
(There will be no online learning expected for these two days)
- **Birthdays** – A big Happy Birthday to Marika (7th Feb) and Savannah (9th Feb) who turn 10 this month. We hope you both enjoy your special days.



New Website

Our new website is now finished and ready to be launched. Have a look at www.scoilchaitrionaballyshannon.ie There will also be a Phone App which you can download that's linked to our website. This App can allow you receive messages from the school and notify you if we have posted any news or new photographs. You will receive a text over the coming days with a link. We are also looking into setting up a Facebook Page. We feel a presence on social media could be great for showing off all the great work that goes on in Scoil Chatríona.

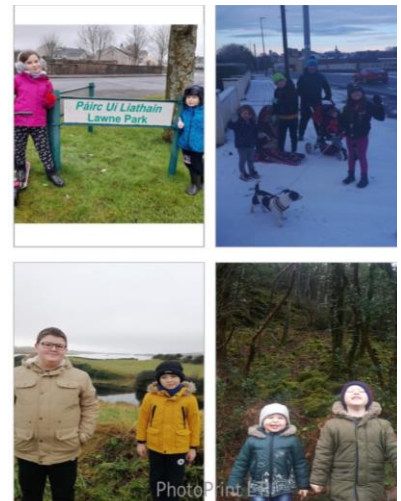
On enrolling your child with us you would have specified whether or not we have permission to use your child's photograph online or in the local newspaper. We will be sending out an online permission slip during the week to check if you are still happy for us to use your child's photograph .

Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 9th February is Internet Safety Day. This year more than ever, with technology playing such a central role in our lives, it is so important that we educate our children on how to be safe online. Throughout this week teachers will be sharing lessons and resources to help keep our pupils well informed and safe while using the internet.

Let's Keep Active

It is so important for all our mental and physical wellbeing that we stay as active as we can over the next few weeks. With children not in school and most adults working from home, a lot of us are leading less active lifestyles. We will be posting regular P.E. lessons, physical challenges and wellbeing exercises for you and your child to try out. Thank you for all the photographs and videos we received from our Walking Challenge and the Spell Your Name Challenge. We love to see our children keeping fit and exercising.



Getting Creative

Karen Webster, who is helping our school with Art has asked us to watch her introduction video and try her Art lesson. (Posted on ClassDojo by Ms O Reilly) Karen has asked us to send her all your efforts so please keep the pictures coming. It was lovely to see the photos of your St Bridget crosses last week. Its great that many of you agree that it is valuable to try to keep the old traditions and customs alive.

In- Person Supplementary Programme to Support the Education of Children with Complex Needs

Last week the government announced that they are setting up an *'In-person Supplementary Programme to Support the Education and/or Care Needs of Pupils with Complex Needs'* scheme.

WHAT IS THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME?

- Parents can engage SNA's/teachers to work in a student's home, at evenings and weekends, outside of school hours.
- An allocation of five hours per week of home-based teaching or care supports will be made available to eligible pupils. The DES has sanctioned this to happen over 4 weeks (20 hours to be divided up as suits)
- This allocation is intended to supplement, and not replace, the remote teaching provided by the pupil's school and can be provided by a teacher or SNA

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

- It can be a 4 week programme, starting any time from 11th Feb, to be finished by the end of April.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- All pupils enrolled in special schools and special classes in primary schools
- Pupils in mainstream schools who are accessing the highest levels of support in school at the School Support Plus/Support for a Few stage of the Continuum of Support (including pupils with Autism, Down syndrome, sensory impairments, and other disabilities.)

I AM UNSURE IF MY CHILD IS ELIGIBLE. HOW DO I FIND OUT?

- If you want to find out if your child qualifies or find out more information, send us an email at officescoilchaitriona@gmail.com or contact your class teacher through ClassDojo.

Note: *This is a voluntary programme and your child's teacher/SNA is not obliged to provide support as it is outside of normal working hours. It is up to the parent to engage a teacher/ SNA in a private arrangement.*

Fundraising

Scoil Chaitriona would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and families who supported our Christmas Draw. We would also like to thank the local businesses in town; SPAR, The Abbey Garage, Centra and the Post Office for allowing us use their premises to sell lines and also all the people and businesses who sponsored prizes. Our final figure raised was €2605. Huge credit to Marie Gallagher for all her organising and hard work with the Parents' Association. Well done and thank you.

Thank You

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our teachers and staff who have gone above and beyond these past few weeks with planning/ preparing work, recording lessons, organising laptops and making deliveries. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!