

# Scoil Cholmcille SNS

## Spring Newsletter March 2026



Thank you to the entire School Community for the wonderful start we have had to 2026. We are all looking forward to St Patrick's weekend and we are enjoying all the activities of Seachtain na Gaeilge. Go raibh maith agat do Mr.Horgan agus na Muinteoíri go leir don ceili spraoiuil a eagrú. Seachtain na Gaeilge is a wonderful opportunity to use our Irish and to continue using it. Have a meal in Irish, designate a day for Irish at home or learn new phrases or vocabulary from the children. Úsáid í agus mairfidh sí. As always, we are committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for your children. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Let's make this spring a season of growth and discovery for all our students!

### Frisbee and Tennis

Children participated in Frisbee lessons for 4 weeks. Feedback was very positive as children worked on throwing and catching and playing together. Tennis lessons have been organised for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class for the next 6 weeks to continue to work on ball skills and coordination.



### Football Leagues

Well done to the boys team who achieved a draw in their first match of the league against St.Francis of Assisi. Their sportsmanship skills were commended. Best of luck to the Girls team who have their first match coming up in Howth. Thank you to Ms.Cassidy, Ms.Gibbons, Mr. O'Raghallaigh and Mr.McQuillan for getting the children involved.



### Drama Gaeilge

We were delighted to welcome Brian from High Rock Productions for his fantastic performance of Stair. The show was lively, engaging, and full of humor, keeping our students entertained from start to finish. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to experience the Irish language in such a fun and meaningful way!



### Wellbeing

Wellbeing is the area of focus for our School Self Evaluation. As a result of review and feedback we have brought in different initiatives such as 'Soft Starts' to support Children's wellbeing in School. It involves quiet, relaxing, or sensory-friendly activities, allowing children to ease into the day in a low-pressure environment. We are participating in the Kindness Heroes initiative also, spreading kindness in our School. We are looking to contribute to the wellbeing of our entire school community. If you have any ideas on how we could support Parents through programmes or activities please contact the Principal.



### Creative Schools Day

Children participated in a wonderful Creative Day in School on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. We were delighted to see children, Parents, Teachers and a Past Pupil share their creative skills and learn from each other. If you would like to learn more about the Creative Schools Initiative that the School is involved follow [this link](#). Thank you to Ms.Dean for leading this programme.

### Ceoltoir Gaelach

As part of Seachtain Na Gaeilge we welcomed Cathal Ahern – All-Ireland Champion musician and Primary School Music Educator to the School. This fully interactive Irish traditional music programme allowed students to hear and experience multiple live instruments (including tin whistle, flute, uilleann pipes and mandolin), explore the history behind the music, and connect with Ireland's rich cultural heritage in an engaging way. Hopefully it will inspire some future musicians in our School.



### Online survey for SherpaAfterSchool Care

The Board of Management are currently surveying Parents to evaluate interest in After School Care provided by Sherpakids. Please click on the link if you have not already completed [Survey](#).

### Spanish Lessons

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes have started 10 weeks of Spanish lessons as part of the Modern Languages Initiative. We look forward to hearing their progress.





## World Book Day:

Well done to everyone who participated in World Book Day on March 5th! From creative costumes to active engagement in book reviews, swaps, and recommendations, the school was buzzing with literary excitement.

A big thank you to Ms. Roe for organizing the events and the ongoing Book Fair. We hope these activities inspire the children to keep diving into stories at home, discovering that reading is a joy that goes far beyond the classroom.

How to Use Your World Book Day Token

Parents can use the €1.50 (or £1.00) tokens in one of two ways:

- Free Book: Swap the token for one of the exclusive, new World Book Day books at participating bookshops or during our school Book Fair.
- Discount: Use the token to get €1.50 off any full-priced book or audiobook costing €3.87 or more.

Tips for developing reading habits at home:

- Make it Social: Read one chapter aloud to your child before bed, even if they can read fluently themselves. It allows them to enjoy more complex plots without the "work" of decoding.
- Keep it Casual: Reading isn't just about novels! Graphic novels, comics, and even recipe books are fantastic ways to build fluency. Anything that gets them excited to turn the page counts.
- Lead by Example: Let your child see you reading for pleasure, whether it's a book, a magazine, or a newspaper. When children see adults enjoying a book, they are much more likely to pick one up themselves.

## Some Irish Phrases to use daily at home

### Daily Conversations

Tá mé sa bhaile (Taw may sah wahl-yeh) – I am at home

Dia dhuit (Dee-ah gwit) – Hello (To one person)

Maidin mhaith (Maw-din whah) – Good morning

Oíche mhaith (Ee-ha whah) – Good night

Slán go fóill (Slawn guh fole) – Goodbye for now

Conas atá tú? (Kun-us a-taw too?) – How are you?

Tá mé go maith (Taw may guh mah) – I am fine

Go raibh maith agat (Guh rev mah ah-gut) – Thank you

### Around the House

Is breá liom é (Iss brow lyum ay) – I love it

Tá sé sin go hiontach (Taw shay shin guh hee-un-tah) – That is wonderful/brilliant

Cabhraigh liom (Cow-ree lyum) – Help me

Ar aghaidh linn (Air eye lin) – Let's go/Forward

Bíodh lá deas agat (Bee-uh law jass ah-gut) – Have a nice day

### For Parents/Children

Tabhair aire duit féin (Taw-ir ar-eh dit fane) – Take care of yourself

An bhfuil tú réidh? (Un will too ray?) – Are you ready?

Déan do cheachtanna (Jane duh kyakh-tah-nah) – Do your homework

Ith do bhia (Ih duh vee-ah) – Eat your food



## Tips to keep your child safe online

■ Webwise: 5 Tips for Online Safety

- Open the Dialogue: Talk regularly with your child about what they do online. Making it a casual conversation ensures they feel comfortable coming to you if they ever feel uncomfortable or upset.
- Keep it Public: Encourage the use of tablets, laptops, and consoles in shared family areas like the kitchen or living room, never in bedrooms.
- Check the Age: Many popular apps (including TikTok, Snapchat, and WhatsApp) have a minimum age rating of 13+. Always check the PEGI rating before downloading a new game.
- Be "AI Aware": With the rise of AI tools, teach children that not everything they see or hear online is real. Encourage them to question "deepfakes" and AI-generated content.
- Personal Info stays Private: Remind children never to share their full name, school, or address. A good rule of thumb: "If you wouldn't tell a stranger on the street, don't post it online."