

06<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What a wonderful week of learning and activity we are having at St Colmcille's GNS. Our students and families have been enjoying the live music outside the school twice a week as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge. A huge thank you to our students (including past pupils), parents and staff for sharing their musical talents so generously, and to Ms Keenan for organising this lovely community event!

This is only a small snapshot of what is taking place over the next two weeks as part of **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. The girls will take part in junior and senior concerts, a whole-school céilí, a visiting drama group, a whole-school quiz As Gaeilge, an art competition and so much more. These activities provide opportunities for the girls to experience Irish in a social and enjoyable way and hopefully it will inspire them to continue to use a cúpla focal every day!

In the middle of this busy week, we also celebrated World Book Day. This year the girls across the school explored a shared text, *Milo Changes the World*, with lots of age-appropriate activities at every class level. As reading is at the heart of World Book Day, we chose to focus on the story itself. Instead of dressing up as characters, the girls came to school in cosy clothing (hoodies, snoods, fluffy socks and the like) creating a relaxed atmosphere that encouraged everyone to settle in and enjoy reading. Our aim was to move away from the commercial aspect and refocus on what the day is really about fostering a love of books and reading. Many thanks to Ms Downey and Ms Cushen for organising.

### **Sports and Wellbeing**

Football training has started back with Mr Daly, Ms Murphy and Ms Mullen. The girls are once again participating in the Fingal League a competition we won in 2024 and performed so well in last year. It is wonderful to see such enthusiasm for training and teamwork. The first match will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - St. Colmcille's GNS Abú ☐

Swimming finished for 4<sup>th</sup> Class this week, and next week the girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class will begin their swimming programme. This provides an opportunity for students to learn to swim or further develop their confidence and skills in the water. We know this represents a big financial commitment from families each year and we are very grateful for your support in helping the girls develop this important life skill.

Athletics training is also taking place after school with Ms Mullen and Ms O'Brien. The girls are registered for the league and putting the hours in! The first race will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March hopefully - weather permitting.

Basketball has been taking place for our 4<sup>th</sup> class girls and soon rugby starts for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class girls - plenty of opportunities to be active as the weather improves and we look forward to being outdoors more!

### **Curriculum Enrichment**

In school we are continuing to focus on **maths** pedagogy as we implement the new maths curriculum, ensuring that our teaching reflects the latest research and best practice. Thank you to all parents who responded to the survey sent by Ms McMonagle. Your feedback is very valuable as we continue to strengthen teaching and learning for all of our students.

**Spanish** classes also begin again today for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes. This builds on the excellent work that has taken place over the past number of years with our native Spanish speaker, Adriane. The girls greatly enjoy the lessons and many continue their learning after school with Ms Ahern. Opportunities such as these help broaden the girls' learning experiences and reflect the wide range of interests within our student body.

### **Student Leadership and Voice**

Our **Student Council** together with their coordinator, Ms Ahern will hold a Book Fair on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March. Yesterday the council led our school assembly and shared what they have achieved so far this year along with their plans for the coming months. They spoke with great confidence, you could have heard a pin drop while they were presenting.

The theme of the assembly was *Words Matter*. We reflected on the analogy of toothpaste, once you squeeze toothpaste out, it cannot be put back in. In the same way, the words we choose have a lasting impact. We discussed how language can uplift, include and encourage others, but also how unkind words can hurt deeply.

Our **Green Schools committee** continues to do wonderful work across the school. The girls are currently surveying classes and supporting everyone in meeting our recycling targets, ensuring that items are placed in the correct bins under the careful watch of Ms McMonagle. Their work helps keep sustainability and care for our planet at the forefront of daily school life.

Our **Active Play leaders** are also doing fantastic work in the junior yard, helping to organise games and activities so that everyone feels included at playtime. They are creating a lovely atmosphere where children of different ages can play together naturally, much like children playing together in their local estates and roads. Thanks to Ms Moloney for organising.

Finally, as part of our commitment to supporting families and the wellbeing of our students, we are currently in discussions with a number of providers about introducing a before and after-school service here in St Colmcille's. We hope to have this in place by September. This would complement what is already available in the boys' school and provide families with a flexible option that continues to offer a happy environment for children outside of school hours.

That's it for another busy week in St Colmcille's. I hope everyone has something nice planned for the weekend. Cork are flying it in the hurling league at the moment, so I'm looking forward to watching the match on Saturday night against Limerick! Best of luck to **Ireland** this evening in their rugby match against **Wales** – hopefully another great game ahead!

Le Meas

Karen Burke Logue

School Principal