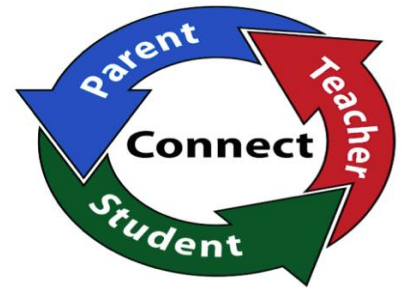


Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala

NEWS



Newsletter January 2024

We wish to welcome all our pupils back for another busy and exciting term at school.

Thank you to all who attended our school events before Christmas - our school Nativity Drama, Junior and Senior Infants Plays and our annual cake sale and Movie Day organised by the Parents' Association. Your support is very valuable to us!



Enrolment for 2024/2025 School Year

Enrolment of pupils starting school in September 2024 is ongoing at present from Monday 15th January until Friday 9th February. Call us on 9722661 or email scoilaodhrua@gmail.com to request an Enrolment Pack be forwarded to you. If you wish to visit the school, call the office to arrange this. We welcome your interest.

If you know any family, neighbours or friends who wish to enrol a child in our school, please share this information.

Catholic Schools' Week 21st Jan – 27th January:

Theme: Communities of Service

We are celebrating "Grandparents Day" and "St. Brigid's Day" by holding a Mass on Friday 2nd February in St. Patrick's Church at 11.45am. We are inviting all grandparents to join us for mass on this date. After mass all are invited to the PE Room, Aodh Rua Campus, for light refreshments.



Nature Heroes Update

Our Nature Heroes have been seen out and about around the school since returning after their Christmas break. Some classes are responsible for taking care of our bird stations. Our Picker Pals are out monitoring and ensuring our grounds are litter free. Mr. Nugent had the opportunity to work with some students to assemble our bird tables and bug doors.

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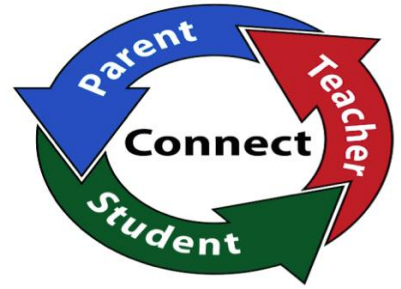
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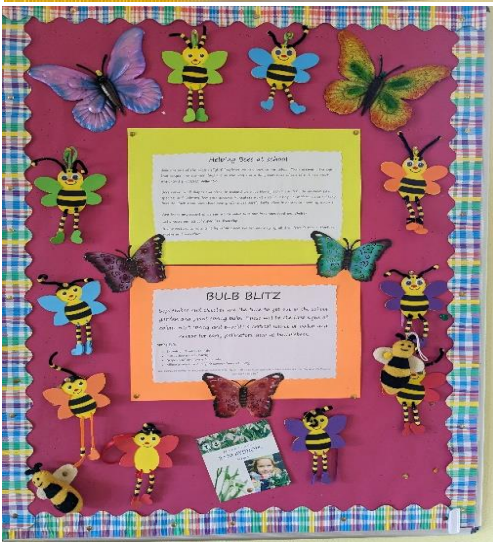
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We encourage everyone to use a re-useable bottle and we continue to encourage healthy eating. We hope families get to enjoy some fresh winter walks and hope to see new item on our Discovery Tables.



Students have been learning about many different native Irish species throughout the school - badgers, bats, deer and frogs. A Snail Shelter has been spotted in the Aodh Rua garden. We are very excited to monitor what 3rd class are up to. We are diving further into our understanding of biodiversity this month.



Here is a reminder of our Nature Hero Aims:

- ✓ To create habitats.
- ✓ To establish good environmental practices.
- ✓ To develop our outdoor learning spaces and take our learning outside.

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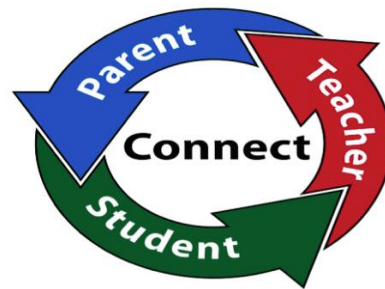
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Credit Union Quiz: Monday 29th January

The school is entering six teams from 4/5/6th classes and all are looking forward to participating.

Parents' Association Updates

The Parents Association would like to highlight two important upcoming events:

St Patrick's Day Parade.

Planning is underway. This is such a popular event, every year, and is eagerly anticipated by all the children. So please support us with this event.

This year is the Donegal 550 themed parade and we have already received a preliminary design plan from none other than McCabe Architects who along with FERM Engineering and Parents Association support will create an authentic float for our children and us parents to represent the occasion with flair.

The organising, choreography and craftwork for this event will not happen by itself, it's going to require dedicated commitment from all parents. We can meet as a group in the Nuala Building Tues 30th January at 8p.m. to expand out the plan and assign roles/tasks. Numbers of people both students and parents will need to be established early on in order to have the required costumes ready for the day. The school will send out a form to fill in so you can confirm you and your child(ren)'s interest in the coming weeks.

SARAN Bingo Night. This is a new fundraiser in our programme, we have been promised a slot for Bingo in the St. John Bosco Centre in the very near future, according to their most recent update we can expect this to be middle of February this year.

The way to get the best out of this night is if it is strongly supported by us parents and students

Other fundraising events are going to need to be ran over the coming months so we really urge Parents who are creative/experienced and could possibly devote time to the St Patrick's day preparations to step forward to allow the current PA team to focus on upcoming events as the school has a wishlist of school items and sports equipment to fulfill, along with additional coaching such as the Basketball which is on at the moment.

The school calendars will be available on sale on the night of the meeting 30th for anyone who wants to purchase at a reduced rate, we have 60 left over and it would be a pity to see them not all purchased. Next year we will reduce the number printed to be more in line with this year's demand.

Many Thanks for all your support,

Parents Association Committee

Sports Activities

Basketball has started for 6 weeks in all classes with Sharon Cunningham. Hopefully this will be both enjoyable and beneficial for our pupils. This is being funded by the Parent's Association.

Swimming/ Music Lessons

These have resumed for the new term in our school.

Mobile Phones

Under no circumstances are pupils to have mobile phones, cameras, iPods, or any other devices at

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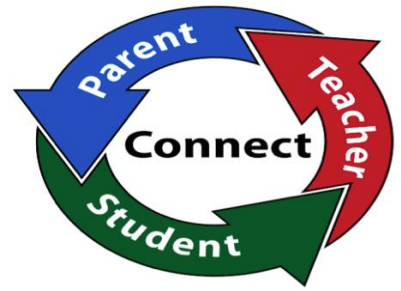
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school. Because of the dangers involved, this will be considered Gross Misbehaviour.

Smart Watches:

If your child has or got a Smart Watch for Christmas, please do not allow him/her to wear it to school as it contravenes our mobile phone/I.T. devices policy.

Healthy Eating:

Please continue to support our Healthy Eating Policy ensuring that your child has a nutritious lunch each day "Treats" should just be on Fridays.

Active Schools Update

The whole school really enjoyed participating in the 'Olympic Movement Break' challenge last term. The children loved learning new skills from the different athletes.

Well done to all pupils who took part in the 'Active School Slogan' competition, and a special congratulations to Peadar Dolan, in Fifth Class, who was the overall winner. Peadar created the very catchy slogan 'Talent doesn't apply, as long as you give it a try!'. Keep an eye out for these posters around the school very soon!

After a very successful trial run, we are delighted to continue our league system with the senior classes in the Aodh Rua playground. Each team are learning invaluable leadership skills through their role as 'Playground leader'.

We are extremely grateful to have a new basketball coach, Sharon Cunningham, join us this term. Classes have engaged in lessons with enthusiasm and motivation to learn new skills.

Upcoming #ASF event: Active School Running Challenge (commencing on 26.02.24)



Winter Clothing

We would be very appreciative if the children could wear a coat and hat to school from now on if they do not already do so. Children will be going out to the yard for playtimes (except if it is raining). Thanking you.

Pupils' Absences

When a pupil is absent due to illness or for other reasons parents must inform the class teacher in writing stating the reason for absence, otherwise it will be documented as unexplained.

The school Principal is obliged to notify TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) when a pupil is absent from school for 20 days on aggregate. Unexplained absences will be investigated by TUSLA.

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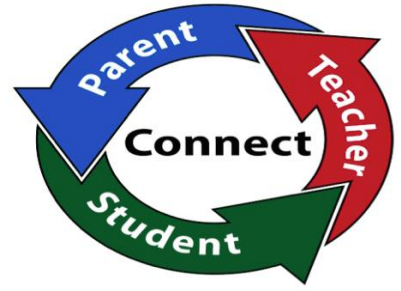
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Dates to Remember

Teacher Training Day Thursday 1st February 2024.
School closed for pupils.

Mass for Grandparents on Friday 2nd February @
11.45am in St. Patrick's Church.

Bank Holiday on Monday 5th February. School
closed.

Enrolment for pupils starting in September 2024
is from Monday 15th January to Friday 9th
February.

Mid-Term break (2 days) 15th & 16th February.

First Penance Ceremony 13th March 2024 (for
pupils making their First Holy Communion)

First Holy Communion 4th May 2024 in St.
Patrick's Church @ 11.00am.

Sacrament of Confirmation – 13th April 2024 in
St. Agatha's Church, Clar @ 2.30pm.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

The confirmation candidates have started their participation in the Liturgy of the Word at weekend masses. The Parish Centre are putting the final touches to the schedule and it will be forwarded to all involved very soon. These weeks before confirmation are a very special time. The students will decide on their confirmation names and the parish "You Shall Be My Witness" programme will begin in spring. Emer Coughlan will also visit each week and guide us on praying the Holy Rosary through the lives of the Saints.

Stand
TALL
and be
PROUD.
Be
YOURSELF
you are
AMAZING.

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