



Scoil Naomh Lorcán O'Tuathail

(St. Laurence O'Toole's National School)

Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. Tel/Fax: 01 281 8399 | Email: roundwoodns@gmail.com | Web: roundwoodns.ie

8th March 2023

Literacy Week

Literacy Week was a great success last week and the whole school really enjoyed all activities which were running throughout the week.

Well done to everyone for making an effort for World Book Day dress up. The costumes were fantastic and it was great to see all the happy faces coming into school on Friday! All staff made a special effort also and there was a great buzz around the school.

Our assembly on Friday was a little different from usual and all children were taken unaware by Ms Trunchball who came to the assembly. Ms Trunchball was not happy with everything that was going on in school during Literacy Week - buddy reading, reading for fun, book trails, mystery readers - she was horrified by such antics and there was a powerful exchange of opinions between her and the whole school! All the children were very animated and keen to tell her that reading and learning were, in fact, for fun! We had five new pupils arrive on Friday from another school who caused havoc during the day - they looked like our SNAs but we were not able to corroborate this as we were unable to locate our SNAs for the day...

A big thank you to all the Mystery Readers who came to school throughout the week. It was a wonderful experience for parents and pupils and we hope to repeat it next year!

A final big thank you to Ms Kelly and the Literacy Team for all the hard work behind the scenes preparing for the week.

Book Fair

The Book Fair was a great success this year. A big thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out throughout the week and made it possible. Much appreciated! We have raised just over €2000 to purchase new books for our libraries from all the sales made this year which is fantastic! Well done to all!

Food Dudes has come to school!

Food Dudes is Ireland's national healthy eating programme for primary schools. It works by positively changing children's attitudes towards eating fresh fruit and vegetables. This is achieved by combining three key elements - repeated tasting, rewards, and role modelling - on a recurring 3-year cycle. To date, more than ONE MILLION pupils have successfully participated in the Food

Dudes Healthy Eating Programme.

An extension to the Food Dudes programme with extra funding from Healthy Ireland, we are also taking part in a pilot, which provides parents with a

whole fruit and vegetable take home pack as an extension to the programme. The whole fruit and vegetable pack has been sent home this week.

Now is a great time to start a conversation at home about how important healthy eating is and how your child can continue to build a healthy diet. The aim of this pilot is to continue healthy eating behaviours and to encourage your child to bring fruit and vegetables to school in their Food Dudes lunchbox every day. This whole fruit and vegetable pack will provide parents with a week's supply of fruit and vegetables to incorporate into your child's lunchbox. The whole fruit and the vegetable pack will include 5 apples, 5 satsumas, broccoli and 500g of carrots.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Beidh Seachtain na Gaeilge a chéiliúreadh againn sa scoil ar an 13ú - 17ú de Mhárta. Next week we will be celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge in the school. We have some fun activities planned - Tráth na gCeist, Céilí, Paráid agus a lán rudaí eile.

Lá Glas

The Parents Association have organised a Lá Glas fundraiser for the school which will take place on Thursday 16th March. Children will be asked to either pay €5 via Aladdin or to bring in a €2 donation for the event and be encouraged to wear green on the day!

All Ireland Quiz Team Finalists

A huge congratulations to the U13 Quiz Team who are now All Ireland Finalists in

the Cumann na mBunscol Table Quiz Competition! Out of an initial 300 schools we are now in the final with 50 other schools from all over Ireland. This is a huge achievement and a huge congratulations to the team. Well done, Max Casserly Byrne, David Kearney, Luke Rooney and Donnacha Treacy. A very big thank you to and well done to Mr Flood for all his hard work in helping to prepare the team.

Athletics Update

Well done to Zack, Jess, Jack, Ayla and Kelan who took part in the Leinster Indoor Track & Field championships in Athlone International Arena last weekend.

Special mention goes to Zack Kavanagh, Jess O'Connor and Jack Higgins. Zack put in an amazing performance in the U14 boys 800m final, securing himself a bronze Leinster medal. A fantastic achievement for Zack. Jess O'Connor narrowly missed out on a bronze medal in the U13 girls 600m final, securing 4th place -hard luck Jess but well done on a first-class performance throughout the whole weekend. Well done to Jack Higgins for qualifying for the U14, 60m sprint final.

Leinster level is incredibly tough - well done everyone.

Congratulations

Well done to Max McCabe who earned a green stripe on his belt in taekwondo last week. He was one of only 3 students that received a medal for breaking the wooden board during a sidekick!

Well done to Darcey Flynn, Oonagh Fanning, Frances Flood and Aiden O'Callaghan who took part in the Wicklow Branch Feis at the weekend and took home many medals for their Irish Dancing. They all dance for McGrath Flood Irish Dancing Group. Super achievement and well done!

Well done to Darcie Hurley in Ms Fox's class who won a gymnastics competition last week also!

Is your child interested in playing the guitar?

Guitar lessons for all ages and abilities available.

- Basic/Fun Guitar
- Lead Guitar/Chords/Bass guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Preparation for Grades for the Royal Irish Academy of Music
- Reading/Writing of Music
- Theory of Music

Classes will be on Thursdays after school. For bookings and inquiries contact Nathan Nicholl on 0863311215.

The gift of giving cards and presents

A reminder to all parents that we do not permit party invitations to be given out during the school day. The only exception would be if the whole class was being invited to a party. Please also, do not send your child into school with cards or gifts for specific children either as this can cause upset among the rest of the children in the class. As a school we want to ensure that children are not excluded

or made to feel uncomfortable during the school day and sometimes the giving of gifts can lead to this. Thank you for your support in this matter.

New Books

The Department of Education issued a grant this academic year for us to replenish our libraries and book supplies in the school. After consultation with pupils and teachers, we have been able to purchase new levelled readers and high interest books for the whole school. This is a great addition to our school. A very big thank you to the parents who have been busy working behind the scenes with book covering to ensure that these books are kept in the best possible condition so they can last long into the future.

Can you help?

The school is looking for any families who may have any of the items below that they no longer need or want. We would ask that the items are in good condition and fit for purpose.

- mini trampoline
- scooter boards/ skate boards
- kids play tunnel
- space hoppers
- yoga balls

If you have any of the objects above would you please leave them in the office with Chris.

School Hall for Rent

If you are looking for a venue to host a meeting or club either as a once off event or long term, the school hall is available.

Please contact the office with more details.

Clothes Collection

This Saturday 11th March there will be a clothes collection run by the PA. Old clothes will be collected at the school between 10am and 2pm on Saturday - a great chance to clear out all your wardrobes for the Spring and raise some money for the school at the same time! See our website for more information.

Centenary - Sunday 11th June 2023

We are beginning to get excited in school now as we enter our Centenary Year - 2023. Please save the date of Sunday 11th June 2023 as this is the day that we will be celebrating 100 years of our wonderful school! A fun day of entertainment, food, music, keynote speakers and presentations is being prepared and we look forward to welcoming all current and past pupils, families and community members to the school on the day. Further information will be posted as we move closer to the big day!

Anti-Bullying Strategy

As part of our anti-bullying strategy, pupils from 1st to 6th classes are being asked to complete sociograms. The information from these will help us to ensure that all pupils are coming to school in a safe environment and that supports are in place for all. We do not tolerate bullying in any form in our school and we rely on our children to help us to understand what is going on within class. Please see

our Anti-Bullying Policy on our website for further information.

Arrival Times

Please note that supervision in the yard begins at 9.10am for pupils. The only children allowed into the school grounds before this time are children who have arrived by bus. All parents are asked to respect this rule and ensure children are not left at the school gates before 9.10am for their safety. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Parents Association

What's On this Week from the PA?

The **AGM** for the PA will be held on Monday 27th March at 7pm in the school hall. All parents are invited to attend.

Roundwood's Parents Association is a member of the National Parent Council (NPC). The NPC offers a wide range of free parental webinars that can be watched at any time. See the link <https://www.npc.ie/> or phone **01 887 4477** for additional information.

Cycle Against Suicide with Dr. Blanaid Gavin:

<https://people.ucd.ie/blanaid.gavin> is hosting an information evening for **parents**.

Free Information Sessions for Parents

Understanding Anxiety in Teenagers

In this session, Dr. Gavin will talk about what anxiety is, why it happens, when to be concerned, and how to help.

Understanding Depression in Teenagers

In this session, Dr. Gavin will discuss what

is known about the causes and consequences of depression and what is known to aid recovery.

Taking place via zoom on Thursday, March 9th - 7 pm to 9 pm, this event is free to all parents.

For parents wishing to join, please register at:

<https://www.cycleagainstsucide.com/croke-park-hour/>

What is PA fundraising going towards?

The Parents Association fundraising is extremely important to the school. Fundraising alleviates the expense on parents throughout the year and ensures that our pupils have many more opportunities to engage in co-curricular and alternative activities to enhance their education throughout the year. The main areas where fundraising is spent are detailed below but this list is not exhaustive.

- Buses for school tours
- Buses for swimming (2nd/3rd)
- Celebration Weeks
- Music Generation (Ukulele lessons for 3rd / 5th classes)
- Sacraments
- Graduation / Hoodies 6th
- Transition Programme (6th)
- Treats for children
- Gifts / Donations
- School priorities / equipment / resources

Easter Camp - Spotlight Studios



Easter Camp - Kraftworx

Please go to Kraftworxclasses@gmail.com or www.Kraftworx.ie to book a place.



Roundwood Review and Calendars

The Roundwood Review and 6th class calendars were a huge success. Well done to all the 6th class pupils, staff involved and of course to families and community members who agreed to be interviewed for the book. You can still purchase a copy of the Roundwood Review by contacting

the school office directly.

Roundwood Lotto

A reminder to all families to purchase a lotto ticket for the draw this week. The Lotto Jackpot this week is **€28, 000** - if you're not in then you can't win! Our school is a beneficiary of lotto so in buying a ticket you are helping the school also.

Dates for the Do This in Memory of Me Masses for 2nd class Communion pupils:

- **Saturday at 7pm**

11th Mar

1st April

22nd April

10th June

Dates to remember:

St Patrick's Day Closure

Friday 17th March school closed

School Closure:

Friday 24th March - staff CPD

Service of Light:

Tuesday 25th April @ 7pm

Easter Holidays:

Friday 31st March @ 12.30pm

School re-opens:

Monday 17th April @


Confirmation:

Saturday 29th April @ 11am

Communion:

Saturday 20th May @11am

Is mise, le meas,



Sinéad Sharkey
Principal

SCHOOL NOTES

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

If you have any concerns of a Child Protection nature, Ms Sinéad Sharkey is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in the school. Any concerns can be brought directly to Ms Sharkey. If Ms Sharkey is not available, Ms Kim Kelly is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) and will deal with any issues in the absence of Ms Sharkey.

Please note that our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be viewed on our website www.roundwoodns.ie

Communication with the School

If you have any concerns or queries in relation to your child or the school, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Teachers can be contacted via the Contact page on our website or alternatively, you can contact the school office directly to make an appointment to speak with the teacher. Please see our Communication with the School Policy on our website www.roundwoodns.ie

School Policies

For copies of any of our school policies, please refer to our website. All policies can be downloaded from the website. If you require a hard copy, please contact the office directly and we will provide you with one.