

# NUAHT NIOCLÁIS

2024

## A message from The Principal



Um Nollaig 2024.

Ó Pheann an Mháistir.

A Chairde,

Fáilte is céad romhaibh chuig Nuachtlitir Niocláis don Nollaig 2024. Guím Rath Dé oraibh uilig don Nolliaig agus athbhliain faoi mhaise.

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our school newsletter. We are full of festive cheer at Scoil Niocláis with the success of our junior Christmas concert performances. The sound of Christmas music echoed around the school during the daily rehearsals. The pupils colourful festive art work adorns the walls for all to admire.

Throughout the month of December our pupils have reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas which is to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. Over the past number of weeks and months, the pupils have raised much needed funds for charities. Thank you to our pupils, many families living in our locality will now have a better Christmas because of your generosity.

Our Santa Dash, held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, was a resounding success again this year. An impressive €13,729 was raised and our receiving charity this year is *Marymount Hospital & Hospice*. The Santa Dash was a tremendous whole school effort and was carefully planned and managed by our *School Wellbeing Committee* and supported by our *Parents' Association* also.

As our first term draws to a close, I would like to thank the teachers for their commitment and dedication to learning in the school, to our S.N.A staff for their care of our pupils, our office staff and our caretakers for all their hard work in the running and upkeep of the school.

Finally, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Board of Management, staff and pupils, I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year of 2025.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go éir,

Is mise le meas

Marc Ó Síocháin.



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## Health & Wellbeing

The Santa Dash is a firm favourite on our school calendar. Pupils and staff alike were in training for weeks for the big event which was a huge success. The event finished up with a celebratory fun disco in the plaza .Ms. Creedon said “this is a fantastic event which promotes health & wellbeing . It is an opportunity for the whole school community to get involved and raise much needed funds for school resources and a deserving charity close to our hearts, Marymount Hospice” . The event has gone from strength to strength raising an unprecedented **13,729 euro** . The generosity of families and friends of Scoil Niocláis at this time of year is much appreciated . Míle Buíochas!



## Snow White & The Magnificent Seven Pantomime

In this production of Snow White she flees the palace and finds sanctuary in the forest with The Magnificent Seven . Packed full of comedy , music and excitement this pantomime helped the pupils realise that love and kindness conquer evil in the end . Audience participation played a key role with seven pupils taking to the stage . The halla was transformed into a theatre and it definitely brought some panto cheer to Scoil Niocláis.



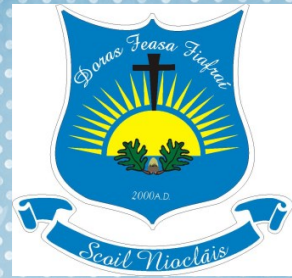
## Douglas Community School Christmas Drama

4th & 5th class were enthralled by the energetic and highly entertaining play ‘ Robin Hood in the Mangala Woods ’. Their favourite characters were Donald Trump ,The Grinch , The Young Offenders, Oasis , Spiderman and Travis Scott . The students put on an amazing show and our pupils got a warm welcome.



Elmarie Mawe and 96FM visited Ms. Finn's class and recorded the choir singing our Christmas songs. They will play our songs on the Arts House programme on Sunday mornings **December 22nd, 29th and January 5th** between 8am and 11 am and also available on the podcast. Many thanks to our wonderful choir and accompanying musicians- Ms. O'Callaghan, Ms. Power and Ms. Hurley who accompanied on piano, viola and violin. In November pupils enjoyed a wonderful musical performance by the Cork Pops Orchestra at the Cork City Hall also.

# JINGLE ALL THE WAY AT THE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS !



*Congratulations to our Junior and Senior Infant classes on their outstanding performances at the Christmas Concerts. Our new Junior Infant pupils have brought much happiness, laughter, smiles and energy to Scoil Niocláis over the past four months under the direction of their amazing teachers and SNAS.*



# Sciath na Scol Champions 2024



The Girls Football Team



Scoil Niocláis is the proud winners of the Sciath Na Scol Boys Championship Final with an impressive victory over Ballinspittle 5-12 to 5-2. The boys dug deep and they were unstoppable in the 2nd half.

The Team Captain Ned Mc Sweeney said he “ is proud of the entire team for the commitment at every training session “ and the Vice captain Luke Mc Manus added that “ It was a strong team performance that wouldn't of been possible without our supportive coaches : Mr. Horgan , Ms. Murphy , Mr. Walsh and especially our school coach Pat Harrington for his work over the years. “

The boys won every match and the positive energy and momentum grew. Both players mentioned that Mr. Horgan said “ to believe in themselves.” Pat Harrington felt this was an extremely talented panel of 26 players . This group of players have left a wonderful legacy indeed. Our Girls Football Team also reached the semi-final and played excellently.

Players thanked our principal Mr. Sheehan for his words of encouragement and for prioritising sport in the school . It was a historical day for our school and the school community celebrated with a big reception to mark this wonderful achievement. Our school definitely has the best supporters with cheers and banners plentiful at the match . Comhghairdeas libh arís agus Scoil Niocláis Abú !!!!!



## Jean Monnet Actions EU Funding Initiative



We are fortunate to be **the first primary schools in Ireland** to receive the **Jean Monnet Actions EU learning Initiative Grant** . Ms. Downing & The Jean Monnet Committee created a grant proposal and our school was chosen to be awarded the top amount of **€35,000**. This success is only possible thanks to our dynamic ,dedicated staff of teachers willing to embrace change and upskill to improve the teaching and learning experience for our pupils thus preparing them for a modern Europe.

Our school has a tradition of teaching about Europe and EU citizenship .We hope to build on this foundation through engaging in this initiative . The three areas that our school will focus on is Multicultural Education ,Digital Education , EU Education and the introduction of an EU language .

The introduction of a European language over the next three years is novel and would help our school prepare for the transition to the mandatory introduction of a modern foreign language as part of The National Curriculum in 2026. Teachers would teach 6 basics topics of an EU language of their preference . The focus will be on fun and participation . We look forward to acknowledging the many European home languages of our pupils and learning the basics of a new language together .



Ms. Kelleher and 4th class pupils at a Jean Monnet Actions stall at our School Open Night on the 6th of October . Pupils displayed European projects , played interactive EU games with visitors and explained what they are learning in school about the EU & Europe. The Christmas Around the World Display celebrates



### EAGER READERS IN SCOIL NIOCLÁIS

We have been promoting reading throughout Scoil Niocláis, as part of our Eager Readers Initiative this term.

1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes have enjoyed visits to Douglas Library and further visits are planned for Terms 2 and 3.

We have been updating class libraries with novels and picture books. We have added to our sets of class novels also. Thanks to the generosity of parents, we have been able to avail of funds raised from Cake Sales, to purchase Read at Home books for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes.

Our Senior Infant pupils have been enthusiastically borrowing class library books to take home. Our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils have created some wonderfully creative posters, which are displayed around the school, to inspire and encourage us to read. In Term 2 we will have our annual Book Fair, which will take place on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.



## AS CLASS NEWS



*“Out of three categories, Scoil Niocláis is in the top category in terms of best practice”*

Our school was delighted to open a third AS classroom in September. We recently had visitors from the Department of Education who came to visit 2 of our AS Classes. Thank you to all the staff who were involved in this process and particular thanks to our pupils who did so well! The visitors found that our school has very good practice & that there is a culture of inclusion in Scoil Niocláis. They were very happy with the inclusion of our AS class pupils in the mainstream setting also. Ms. Michelle Lane our Special Needs Coordinator highlighted that this visit will feed into a national process of review of special classes for autistic pupils. She is very pleased that our parents also had the opportunity to meet with the cigirí & give an input to the process.



### The Leabhar Órga is back !!!

Ms. Bradley and Ms. Lane met with all class levels in Comhdháil (assembly) and handed out two golden vouchers to two children in each class. These names were written in the Leabhar Órga (Golden book) by their teachers for good behaviour, best effort, helping others, good manners and being positive !

### Digital Strategy Framework 2024

New ipads were purchased for the East Wing for 3rd & 5th class . Continuous investment in upgrading our digital technologies enables teachers to **integrate digital technology into the teaching & learning** in Scoil Niocláis . Bee Bots and mats have been purchased for junior classes and in January teachers will receive training on coding .The remaining 15 % of the STEM grant was received having fulfilled the criteria.



## SNPA News

Pupils from Junior Infants to 4th class enjoyed visiting Santa in his Grotto . Santa said Blinky the elf told him that our pupils have been super all year . All our pupils are on the good list . Congratulations ! Ho , Ho , Ho !



## The Student Council Corner

*Hi , I'm Aisling from the Student Council . Let me tell you about what the Student Council has done this term .*

*At the start of the year we guided parents around at the Scoil Niocláis Open Night .It was a great experience and I'm sure that everyone enjoyed it .*

*Next, we guided parents to the correct room at The Parent Teacher Meetings. We sure helped a lot of parents . We're happy to say nobody got lost!*

*A few weeks ago we helped with the Food Appeal and got so many great donations and everyone was so kind and generous. Then, we collected it up ,organised it into boxes and loaded it into the 5 teachers cars!! and shipped it off to Edel House , Missionaries of Charity and The Simon Community. We had a great time and I hope our donations will help some families in need.*

*We had such a fun term and I hope next term we can help the school and the people of Cork even more!!!*

*By Aisling O'Donovan in 6th Class*

## Bake Sales

The **Bake Sale Fundraisers** are a terrific success. Thank you to all the families who have been busy baking treats for pupils and staff alike . The cakes are delicious ! The proceeds of the cake sales have contributed to the cost of the Eager Reader initiative buying the Read At Home books.



*The 3rd & 4th class had a cinema trip to see Moana was a great day out.*



## Notes for Parents

### **Reopening of School**

School closes on Fri 20th Dec at 12 noon and 11.45 for junior classes. It reopens on Monday Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 8.35 a.m .

### **St. Brigid's Day**

The school will be closed on Monday 3rd Feb 2025.

### **February Midterm**

The school will close on Fri 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2.20 pm and reopen Mon 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### **New Primary Maths Curriculum**

The school will be closed on Thurs 27th February 2025 to facilitate an inservice day for teachers to upskill on the New Primary Mathematics Curriculum.

### **Xmas Factor 2024**

All pupils were invited to audition and the best act from each class was selected by a class vote . There was also a lucky wildcard that got the last place in the final . Best of luck to all acts on the 20th Dec. Thanks to Mr. Walsh & Ms. Sexton for organising the amazing production . There are 14 acts and talent this year is incredible ! Check out the school blog to find out what act is the winner of the Xmas Factor 2024.



Avery from 4th class at rehearsals singing 'Christmas Tree Farm.'

### **St. Patrick's Day**

The school will be closed on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tues 18th March 2025.

### **Acceptable Use Policy**

All phones, tablets and smart watches are prohibited for use by pupils on the school grounds. Thank you for your cooperation .

### **Healthy Eating Policy**

We ask that children drink water or milk . Treat day is Friday and children are permitted one small treat. No crisps or fizzy drinks please. No nut products as per school policy to protect pupils with allergies.



## Green School News

Our school is working towards our 8th Green Flag 'Global Citizenship and The Marine Environment'

Our school is trying to reduce plastic which ends up in our oceans. Please use a reusable drinks container and lunch box .Please avoid clingfilm or tinfoil, use a kitchen paper instead .

The Green School Committee organised the Recycled Christmas Tree Decoration Competition . All families are encouraged to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle this Christmas. Check out our school blog for news of the winners .



Our School Ukulele Band singing 'You and Me Belong Together '

