



Spring Newsletter  
2025

## Nuacht Niocláis



### A message from the Principal.

A Chairde,

Mar Phríomóide Scoil Niocláis is cúis áthais domsa cúpla focal a scríobh don Nuachtlitir atá á foilisiú againn am na Cásca 2025.

As we commence the Easter Holiday period for 2025 I am pleased to pen a few short words to contribute to our Nuachtlitir na Cásca 2025– Nótaí Niocláis.

The Easter celebrations each year mark a turning point in our calendar with the arrival of Spring Time on March 30th and the changing forward of our clocks which brings longer days, better weather and growth and renewal in our environment.

The year 2025 is a very significant year for Scoil Niocláis as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of our school on September 18th 2000. We are currently preparing for an Anniversary celebration in the Autumn.

I am pleased to confirm that this morning ( April 11th 2025) we received confirmation from the Dept of Social Protection & the Department of Education that Scoil Niocláis has been included in the Hot Schools Meal Scheme—more details to follow immediately after Easter.

Our very fine publication details many activities and events which have occurred here in Scoil Niocláis since January and I encourage you to share this online publication with your family and friends.

Our newsletter provides a magnificent overview of the talents of our pupils, their many opportunities and the professional and the dedicated work of our staff who add greatly to the community of learning and friendship which we strive to cultivate and develop here in the school.

My earnest wish is that you will enjoy a relaxing and pleasant Easter break and take in as many outdoor opportunities as possible.

Ag tnúth le bualadh libh go léir arís ar an 28ú Aibreán.

Beannachtaí na Féile Cásca oraibh go léir,

Marc Ó Síocháin. (Príomh – Oide.)



The children in Junior Infants were delighted to welcome their grandparents to Scoil Niocláis for Grandparents Day on the 28th March. Fr. Riordan led the special ceremony.

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## VEX ROBOTICS TEAM IN THE NATIONAL FINALS AGAIN !!!!!



Very well done to our Vex Robotics team and teachers Mrs Kenny, Mr. Owens and Ms. Philips. The team competed in the National Finals in March in MTU and came ninth in the Finals. Competing involves not only designing, building and coding a robot but driving, loading, discussing strategy with other teams and scoring points on the day.

Our team of eight pupils, Susan, Sacha, Iga, Emma, Ben,

Fionn, Liam, and Sarah have been amazing to work with and we congratulate them on the five awards they have received in Vex Competitions over the last two years.

This competition is about more than awards, it involves co-operation, respect for others ideas, troubleshooting, analytical thinking and calm heads in competitive situations. We are very proud that our pupils have all this in abundance.

Maith sibh!!!

*“We place a strong emphasis on STEM in Scoil Niocláis (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and the Science Fair is the highlight for 3rd class.*



### SCIENCE FAIR 2025

As part of The Curious Mind Programme 3rd class were involved in The Science Fair. Parents were invited in to view experiments on the 10th April such as self-inflating balloons, alka-seltzer pop, oobleck and lava lamps to mention a few. 3rd & 5th classes visited Blackrock Castle in January and learned about Space. 4th & 5th class visited the Lifetime Lab also.

Teachers have received training on the New Maths Curriculum and have been exploring Maths Talk in particular. Parents could support this at home by spotting maths in the child's environment outside school. Teachers also received BEEBOT training to teach pupils the basics of programming through using a little robot. This promotes problem-solving, spatial awareness and logical thinking.



### World Autism Day 2025



To celebrate World Autism Day 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils engaged in the DreamSpace live event with Adam Harris from ASIAM, Fourth Class pupils were busy with Art activities making posters about their emotions, Fifth class had a visit from a leaving cert pupil who spoke of her experience as an autistic young adult navigating secondary school. All other classes watched U Tube videos which explained Autism in an age appropriate way. Also the parents of pupils in our AS Classes attended our Coffee Morning. Parents of incoming pupils had the opportunity to visit one of our AS Classrooms. This was a very successful event!



Huge Congratulations to our **Girls and Boys Table Tennis teams** in the U13's Munster School's Table Tennis Finals . Our girls team did absolutely fantastic, coming in 1st place as U13's Munster Table Tennis Champions, beating last year's winners, Lower Aghada NS in a super competitive final! Our boys team came in 3rd place beating St. Anthony's NS in a nail biting playoff. We are extremely proud of both teams and look forward to supporting our girls in Dublin in the All Irelands on May 1st . Scoil Niocláis Abú !

Our camogie team had three super matches against Ballinora, Rochestown and Inishannon over the last 4 weeks. We got some great weather and the girls really enjoyed the games!



Well done to our girls and boys Sciath na Scoil teams who represented Scoil Niocláis brilliantly in the competition.



Well done also to our girls and boys soccer teams who made it to the Cork Finals of the FAI 5s tournament. Our girls showed off some fantastic skills but unfortunately didn't qualify for the semi final stage. Our boys won their final on penalties and now go through to the Munsters next month! Well done to all involved!



*In October we were ambassadors for the school helping out on the School Open Night .Also in March, we welcomed the grandparents on Grandparent's Day by standing at the gates and showing them to the halla. This was a great help for teachers to make sure the day was a success. We also updated the 'You Belong' display with our new names of our new Junior Infants.*

*Hopefully we will be involved in more worthwhile and fun activities around the school in the final term such as Intercultural Day and creating a time capsule for the 25th year anniversary of our school in Autumn.*

*By Finn Murray and Emma o' Brien*



The Creative Arts

3rd . 4th & 5th class pupils enjoyed a brilliant performance of "Peter Pan" by students in Coláiste Éamann Rís on Thursday 3rd April. Also 5th class thoroughly enjoyed a fantastic performance of 'Follow the yellow brick road' by Transition Year students in Regina Mundi .



## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE



### Lá Glas

Bhí an spórt againn le linn seachtain na Gaeilge . Rinnear iar-racht iontach Gaeilge a labhairt timpeall na scoile. Bhí An tUasal Ó Síocháin agus Bean Uí Chionnaith an sásta .

Seachtain na Gaeilge was a great couple of weeks in Scoil Niocláis. Each class was involved in various Irish language and culture promoting activities. There was a tráth na gCeist ( quiz) organised by Ms. Breen., An Seó Faisean by Ms. Creedon's class,, a junior concert and a Céíí Mór sa halla. We were treated to a professional display by The Attridge School of Dancing.

It was a fun filled fortnight and all pupils and staff made a big effort to speak cúpla focail as Gaeilge. On Friday pupils dressed up in Green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. There was a big parade and a mega disco.



Léigh le chéile was an initiative where older pupils read Irish stories to younger pupils. Thank you to all the pupils who read stories as Gaeilge .



## CÉILÍ ,IRISH DANCING DISPLAY



Tráth na gCeist 2025 Winners

## CÓR FHÉILE NA SCOL IN CITY HALL



Ms. O'Callaghan & Ms .Ryan's Senior Infants at the Cór Fhéile on 1st April ! A Well Done to both classes, their teachers and SNA's. Their performance was outstanding on the night in City Hall with wonderful singing , choreography and amazing colourful hats !

# LEABHAR ÓRGA

Congratulations to the pupils who got their names in the Leabhar Órga by their class teacher. This is an outstanding achievement. Attributes such as kindness, courtesy and consideration of others are celebrated also academic achievements and talents. Pupils from our Infant classes received a medal also at Codháil. Ms. Casey, Ms. Currane / Ms. Raher and Ms. Sommer's classes performed songs, poems and played the tin-whistle. Keep up the great musical work!



## The Creative Schools & Green School's Programme joint Garden Project

Scoil Niocláis is continuing work in the creative schools initiative. We have received a grant of 4,000 euros from the Arts Council this money helped revive and decorate our Sensory Garden. Ms. Creedon's 6th class painted the garden with bright colours making it a more child friendly and an enticing space for our pupils. Pictured here are 5th class pupils enjoying a biodiversity workshop in the garden.

The Green School Committee had a visit from Úna Leader from An Táisce. She was very impressed with the Green School's Committee's work led by Ms. O' Sullivan on the theme Global Citizenship and The Marine Environment.



## SACRAMENTS OF FIRST PENANCE & CONFIRMATION

On the 5th March children from 2nd class received the sacrament of reconciliation. Children learned the Prayer Before and After Confession and the Act of Sorrow.



On the 21st March Bishop Buckley and Bishop Noel Regan confirmed our 6th class pupils. Fr. Riordan has worked with the teachers to help prepare the pupils for these sacraments. Both were special ceremonies and families are looking forward to the Holy Communion in May.

The SNPA organised a pizza party for 6th class by Curly Stu Pizzas to celebrate their confirmation.

This is a pupil's artwork depicting Zacchaeus The Tax Collector.



# BOOK FAIR & WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

## Notes for Parents

### Term 3

**Easter 2025:** The school closes on Fri the 11th of April at 12 noon and at 11.45 for junior classes. It reopens on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 8.35 am .

**May Bank Holiday :** School closes on Monday May 5th .

**First Holy Communion :** 2nd class pupils will receive the sacrament on the 17th of May .

**Intercultural Day:** Celebration on May 30th

**Maureen Griffin** (Internet Safety expert): 5th June

**June Bank Holiday :** School closes Monday June 2nd and Tuesday June 3rd .

**Summer Holidays :** School Closes Friday June 27th at 12 noon and 11.45 am for junior classes. School reopens for new school year on Thurs 28th August 2025.

The annual Scholastic Book Fair took place at the end of January. It was a great success, thanks to the generosity of parents who availed of the opportunity to buy books for their children. A total of € 9,600 was spent at the Book Fair, 60% of which is given to Scoil Niocláis as credit for the purchase of books for class libraries. We are delighted with this generous sum of money. Thank you to all who generously purchased books at the fair.

This year we opted for a more sustainable Book Fair, choosing not to include stationery, pens, plastic or plastic items and to focus solely on books. The response to this change was extremely positive from parents and school staff.

Many thanks to Yvonne O' Connell and our wonderful Parents' Association who generously gave their time to run this fundraising event. Classes displayed their work in creative displays, admired by all.

As part of our Eager Readers Initiative, we have had termly visits for 1<sup>st</sup> classes to 6<sup>th</sup> classes to Douglas library. Ms Walsh's 6<sup>th</sup> class attended a library event with local author and Scoil Niocláis past pupil, Daniel Heaphy, reading from and discussing his novel, 'Breanne 1975'. World Book Day was a colourful event in Scoil Niocláis. Many pupils dressed as favourite characters from books. Pyjamas, blankets and favourite books were brought to some classes and it certainly was whole-school celebration of books and reading!



## Uniform & Tracksuits

Pupils wear the uniform and all black foot wear 3 days a week and the tracksuit on PE days. In May and June pupils may wear their school shorts. Runners of choice can be worn with the track-suit or shorts.

## Acceptable Use Policy

In line with the school's AU 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 would like to remind parents and guardians that we operate a healthy eating policy in Scoil Niocláis. We ask that children drink water or milk . Treat day is Friday and children may have one small treat. No crisps or fizzy drinks please.

## PARENT'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

Pupils and staff of Scoil Niocláis dressed in purple to raise awareness of epilepsy in our school. Thank you to our Parents Association for organising the event on the 26th March !

The Parent's Association were delighted to help run the Book Fair. They also organised the Easter Bunny to visit each class.



The Parents Association were delighted to host their 1st ever table quiz on Friday April 4th .There were cash prizes. The winning team are pictured in the photo above.

They are currently recruiting new committee members or volunteers for special events. Please contact [yvonesnpa@gmail.com](mailto:yvonesnpa@gmail.com). Traditionally 1st class parents bake cakes and make sandwiches for the Holy Communion reception in the halla. We are asking 1st class parents to please support this effort. The success of these special events is dependent on the good will of our parents to volunteer to help. Many hands make light work !