

March 2018



# CHORMAIC'S NEWS

All the latest news from Scoil Chormaic CNS, Balbriggan.

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## Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter

Dear parents and guardians. Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. You have received this newsletter via email because you gave us your email — exactly for this purpose. There is a link on the website to provide emails.



This edition of Chormaic's News is brought to you by a representation designed by Weronika R in Ms Reville's Second Class.

## Principal's welcome

Dear Families,

Welcome back after the winter holiday break. I hope you all had a good break and are ready for terms 2 and 3. This term started off with great excitement as Scoil Chormaic CNS moved into our permanent building. It is so good to be finally in and have all our classes together in the one building. A huge thank you goes out to all our staff for working so hard to get us in on time and ready for the new term. It was fantastic to see so many families come into the building on the 19th of January for the open day. You were all very welcome and your compliments and comments on the building were greatly appreciated. I am sure you have checked our website for your photos!

I would also like to say a huge thanks to all our parent volunteers who are assisting with the smooth running of our traffic management system. More volunteers are needed so if you can help out one or more mornings or afternoons per week please download the form from our website or collect one from Anita in the office. Every school in the country is faced with this challenge annually, we are progressing well. There is no parking available for parents on campus. Drivers are remind to use the set down area safely in the morning as you drop off your children from 8.45am onwards. Please note that pupils are not supervised before this time. At dismissal time, childcare facilities and the bus are the only vehicles allowed on campus. All other vehicles should be parked safely and parents should walk to the campus to collect your children. There is to be no parking at stop sign areas, pathways or grass areas that would block pedestrians.

After School clubs and other activities continue to run this term. There is something for everyone. Wishing you all a successful 2018

Kind regards,  
Deirdre Corcoran

# Our new school building!

It is official! Scoil Chormaic CNS has moved to our new permanent building! The students and staff were a bundle of excitement as we arrived to our brand new school building after the Winter Break. On the 19th of January 2018, families had the opportunity to come see our new school and to get guided tours by our students. Here are some photos taken on the day.



## Class in Focus — Ms Tracey's Senior Infants



### Our Class News

Hello everybody! We are Ms Tracey's Senior Infants. We have been super busy this year, especially since coming back to school in January! Take a look at some of the exciting things that have been happening in our classroom...

### We love Science!

In Ms Tracey's class we have been learning all about Space. Ms Tracey made a space station for us and some of us painted planets for it and others for to create our space themed small world area. During Science Week we made balloon rockets which fitted into our space theme!



### Aistear

We love Aistear time in our classroom! Aistear is all about learning through play; it's a fun and exciting way for us to learn. Recently, in Aistear we have learned all about the post office and the work of the postal worker. We learned how we would send a letter to our friends or family in Ireland or around the world.

### Writing

Our class have been doing a lot of practice on our writing this term. The children have been super at writing and carrying out their instructions. So far we have sent letters, made Rice Krispie cakes, made Valentine's cards and jam sandwiches and can write instructions on how to do it!



### Maths

In maths we have begun to work on our number stories and have been doing super work! We have also been learning about money which we could then use in our Post Office.

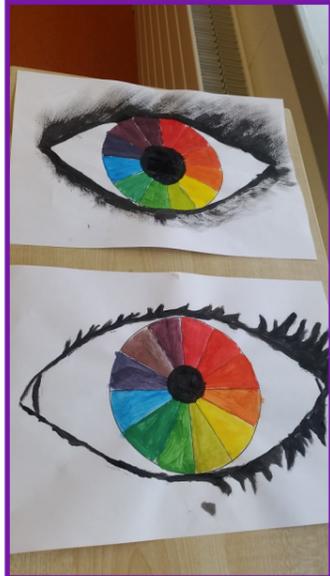
### Excitement Ahead!

In March we will have a new teacher from Marino College as she trains to become a teacher. We can't wait to have Ms Ryan visit us!

# After School Clubs!



In **Art Club** the pupils create different pieces of art using paint, clay, construction, drawing and fabrics and fiber. In Art club the pupils have been learning about the colour wheel and mixing colours.



In **Ukulele Orchestra**, we've been learning the 4 chords that most popular songs are based off of, C, G, Am & F. The progress has been rapid as we are nearly ready to perform our first song, "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz.

Seasoned students are playing a difficult melody line over our talented new ukulelist's chords and it really sounds like we've an amazing orchestra on our hands here!



In **Homework Club**, children get a chance to complete the homework in a positive, quiet, study-orientated space. The children can also get some extra help from the two teachers in the room. The teachers also listen to the children's reading and correct their written homework.



## More from the After School Clubs!



In **Dodgeball Club**, we have been having loads of fun ! Between running, dodging, throwing, blocking and dodging again (plus the occasional game of Super Catch), we have been go, go, go since the beginning of this year.

Our squad is a strong team made of pupils from 3rd to 6th Class. So if you're up for a game against us, you better be light on your feet, head in the game and be ready to 'Three, Two, One, DODGEBALL !'



**Gaelic football** has been running in Scoil Chormaic for the past four years and has been a huge success. Mr McElligott takes charge of the 5th and 6th class team in the school. On Monday the 26th of February, they started off their league campaign with a very impressive performance against Bellewstown with some outstanding displays. They unfortunately did not come out with a victory and will be hoping to emulate their performance again in the coming weeks in their second game. We wish them the very best of luck.

Mr Garvey and Mr Lacey are currently coaching the 3rd and 4th class team respectively and they have been honing their skills in Gaelic football for the very first time this year. Some of the improvements in their play has been excellent so far this year in addition to their attitude and commitment to playing as part of a team. The third team will play their very first competitive Fingal league game in the coming weeks.



*Interested in one of these clubs?*

*Why not join for Term 3?*

## Dates for your diary:

### Half day:

The school will close at 12.30pm on Friday, March 23rd for the Easter holidays. The school will reopen on Monday, April 9th, at 9am.

### Staff training:

The school will be closed on Tuesday, April 17th, as the staff are trained in the new Primary Language Curriculum.

### M&M Theatre:

The very successful M&M Theatre company will be in our school again this year on Monday, April 23rd, to put on yet another performance for the children.

### Communion & Confirmation:

*Confirmation* – Wednesday, 18th of April, at 12pm.

*Communion* – Saturday, 28th of April, at 10am.

This information is brought to you by a representation designed by Darya in Ms Lynch's Third Class.



## Swimming:

### Term 3

10/04/18  
17/04/18  
24/04/18  
01/05/18  
08/05/18

**2nd class (30)**  
**6th class (30)**

Total: 60 places  
Price: €25 per child



### Term 3

15/05/18  
22/05/18  
29/05/18  
05/06/18  
12/06/18

**Junior Infants (30)**  
**6th class (30)**

Total: 60 places  
Price: €25 per child

**Please note that parents will receive a letter from their class teacher about swimming. It will be allocated on a first come first served basis.**

## Book Week

### Visit to the Library



Last week, Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st classes visited Balbriggan Library as part of the book week celebrations. First the librarian greeted us and she spoke to us all about how the library works. We learned: how many books we can borrow, for how long and what happens if we don't return them on time. The librarian explained how to find books written by our favourite authors and we set off looking for these books. The children really enjoyed the visit and hopefully, it will encourage some new members to join the local library.



In 1st class, the children were very keen to find Roald Dahl Books as their class teachers are reading them to the classes at the moment. Ms Riordan read us a story all about a Carlo the giraffe and his trip to the library.

In Senior Infants, our principal Ms Corcoran came to share some of her favourite stories with us. We were so excited and loved her reading to us!



### Book Fair

Last week, the book fair arrived at Scoil Chormaic. Ms Riordan's class were so excited to visit the book fair and were very impressed with the selection of books available. The most popular books in our class this year were "I Love Kittens" and the LEGO figure books. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the families who supported the book fair.

### Trips to Eason

1st to 6th classes were given book vouchers and got a chance to visit Eason across the week. We got to take a look around the children's section and then use

### Paired Reading

This week we also got the opportunity to take part in paired reading with a younger or older class. The aim of this is for the children to have exposure to others reading. Older pupils read to the younger pupils and then listened to the younger pupils either read or retell a story!



## Pupil book review

### Book Review by Ava Browne

**Title:** Magic Seal

**Author:** Rosie Bank

**Fiction or Nonfiction:** Fiction

**What is the book about?** This book is about three girls called Ellie, Summer and Jasmine and they have a box that takes them to a kingdom. The kingdom is ruled by a king but he has an evil sister that has cast a spell on the animals that come around every hundred years which is not very long in that world. The girls have to try and get the keeper's charms back.

**Who would you recommend this book to and why?**

I would recommend this book to 2nd class and over because it is very long and has some tricky words.

**What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why?**

I would recommend it for 8 years and older because you can imagine that story in your head really well

**Rating:** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



### Carol Singing in Ardgillan Castle

We were invited to sing at a carol service in Ardgillan Castle on Saturday 16th December. We sang five winter songs and our audience thought we were fantastic!

Afterwards, we were invited downstairs to take a photo with a giant teddy bear. We had a fabulous time!



# Work Experience Students

## Lina:

My name is Lina and I'm a Transition Year student in Loreto Balbriggan. For my work experience, I decided to do two weeks experience in Scoil Chormaic CNS. It was the best decision I made because once I started, I enjoyed and loved it. I appreciate Ms Moore who kindly introduced me to the teachers and made me feel welcomed. My experience in Scoil Chormaic CNS was amazing and exciting as I met a lot of unique and different kids who I had a delightful time teaching and helping. Toward the end of my experience, I made jelly with Ms King's senior infants class which was a blast as it tasted good too! After this work experience, I would definitely look towards being a primary school teacher. Many thanks again to Ms Moore, Ms King, Ms Lynch, Ms Kelly, Ms Riordan, Ms Diskin, Ms Breen, Ms Farrell and many more for welcoming me into your classrooms. I also thank the Principal Ms Corcoran and Deputy Principal Mr Weston for giving me the opportunity to work in their school.



Lina with Ms. Kelly's class on her last day of Work Experience

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## Chloe:

My name is Chloe and I have done two weeks of Transition Year work experience in Scoil Chormaic CNS and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I spent one week in Anita's office and helped with the paperwork. I prepared, checked and posted Junior Infants intake acceptance forms for 2018/2019. I also inputted the Junior Infants for 2019 onto the Aladdin System. I spent my second week in Ms. Lynch's class where I gained experience working with children. I especially enjoyed working alongside a pupil who needed extra support in class.

I had never really thought about teaching as a career, but working in Scoil Chormaic Community National School has opened my eyes to teaching and a chosen career path going forward into the future.

Chloe with Ms. Lynch's class on her last day of Work Experience





This page of Chormaic's News is brought to you by a representation designed by Deborah in Ms Reilly's Sixth Class.

## Special Thanks from Scoil Chormaic

Scoil Chormaic CNS would like to thank the following local businesses for their support for our Winter Assembly Raffle:

**Techrete**  
**Specsavers**  
**Clubhouse Hairdressers**  
**Notionz**  
**Smiles Dental**  
**McCartan's Pharmacy**  
**Phoenix Gym**  
**Castlemill Butchers**  
**Pizza Hot**  
**Vera Moda**  
**Dunnes Stores**  
**L & L Beauty Salon**  
**D'lish**  
**Noor**  
**Glebe Football Club**  
**Boots Pharmacy**  
**Super Valu Santry**  
**Tresses and Talons**  
**Cupcake Insanity**  
**Boots Pharmacy**  
**OmniPlex Cinemas**  
**McFadden's**  
**The Icebox**  
**Super Valu Balbriggan**  
**The Hamlet Pub**



### **How to make a school appointment**

1. *Parents wishing to speak to the school principal Ms Corcoran, in relation to their child or other school matters should do so by making an appointment through the office.*
2. *An appointment with the principal is only necessary after the parent has already liaised with the teacher and is seeking further information or if requested by the principal.*
3. *The principal and staff generally do not make phone calls to follow up on incidents which happen in school to parents.*
4. *When making such an appointment, parents must recognize that the school is a busy place and the principal is not available to meet parents immediately. However, the appointment will be made for the next available possible time. The are times reserved in the principal's day for such meetings.*
5. *This is to facilitate parents not having to come more than twice in any given day to the school. There is also time for the school to investigate the incident and respond to same. Therefore, again, reducing the number of meetings necessary to get the incident resolved in the appropriate manner.*

*Points 4 and 5 also apply to teachers and appointments can be requested through the child's homework journal or class Dojo.*

## **Parents' Association**

**We are delighted to announce the newly elected Parents Association are:**

**Sharon Kane, Nicky McGuirk, Ciara Carroll, Viveta Lamberte, Marzena Brzeska, Tara Thiesen, David Styles, Elizabeth McClorey, Mairin Brady, Anna Getzov, Marilyn Murphy, Ayodele Yusuf, Thuwaima Saad, Aleksandra Wojtyla.**



**Sharon Kane** was voted in as **Chairperson**, **Ciara Carroll** was voted in as **Secretary** and **Nicky McGuirk** was voted in as **Treasurer**.

## Board of Management

### **BOM update**

On behalf of the Board of Management we wish to express our appreciation to all the staff, teachers, pupils and parents over the last couple of months during the transition to the new school.

We are delighted that the school is now established in the new premises and we look forward to building on the great community spirit that exists in the school. The Board is available through the parents association or Board members should anyone have any issues relating to the school and look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards

Gráinne Maguire, Chairperson

### **What does the Board of Management do?**

The Board of Management (BoM) manages the school on behalf of the Patron, the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB).

Although the BoM is accountable to the Patron and the Minister for the overall running of the school, it is the principal who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school. The principal is accountable to the BoM/DDLETB.

The main duties of the BoM are to:

- Oversee the provision of an appropriate education for each pupil in the school
- Ensure that the characteristic spirit of the school is upheld
- Discuss and ratify policies developed by the school
- Keep the patron informed on key decisions and proposals
- Ensure that school money/resources are used responsibly

### **How often do they meet?**

The BoM meets a minimum of five times in the school year and once every term. The dates of board meetings are usually decided at the first board meeting of the year and thereafter may be obtained from the principal on request or are published on the school website.

### **Who is on the BoM of my school?**

The BoM has eight members. The composition of the board is made of up two Patron's nominees, two teacher nominees (including the principal), two parent nominees, and two community members.

Patron Representative: Cllr Gráinne Maguire

Teacher Representative: Ms Deirdre Corcoran, Principal

Teacher Representative: Mr Alan Weston

Parent Representative: Ms Mairín Brady

Parent Representative: Mr Jonathan Hoey

Community Representative: Mr Tom Reilly

Community Representative: Mr Paul Barnett



At the official handover of the keys to the new school recently were (l-r): Alan Weston, Acting Deputy Principal, Jennifer Talbot, DDLETB, Paul McEvoy, DDLETB, Deirdre Corcoran, Principal, Gráinne Maguire, BOM Chairperson and George Murphy, DDLETB.

## Substitute teacher crisis

Dáta: 20/03/2018

A thuismitheoirí/ a chaomhnóirí,

Your children are entitled to a qualified substitute teacher when a class teacher is on certified leave. However, despite all best efforts, this school has been unable to source a substitute teacher on many occasions since September 2017, as there is a shortage of substitute teachers nationwide at present.

Special Education Teachers (SET) in the school, to recent times, have not been requested to provide substitute cover for absent colleagues because they are engaged in essential full-time teaching tasks. Consequently, on a number of occasions classes have been divided up (split) and the pupils placed in different classes across the school.

I am aware that this is a disruption to the teaching and learning of your children and I have informed the Board of Management of this. In order to address the learning needs of your children, this school has put the following plan in place to support the pupils as best as possible with their learning:

- Class teachers assign weekly homework on a Monday so that pupils are able to continue with their homework for the rest of the week should a teacher be absent;
- 'Split packs' with work appropriate for your child are prepared by teachers and left for distribution to the pupils in the case of a class being split;
- SET teachers are assigned to particular classes and they take the class in from their line, take the roll, assign work and split the pupils to their assigned classes, and gather the class back and dismiss at home time;
- The split packs are gathered up daily and corrected;
- In the case of a qualified substitute teacher being available, an absent teacher's plans are made available to this substitute teacher to continue with the teaching and learning of the class;
- In the case of a qualified substitute teacher not being available, where possible, on the third day of a class teacher's absence, a SET teacher will take and teach the class, and continue with the class teacher's plans for teaching and learning;
- This in turn means that the SET teacher's timetable will be cancelled.

I am sure that you appreciate this is not ideal, and this school would much prefer to have a qualified substitute teacher in the case where a teacher is on certified leave\*. I can assure you that staff in our school takes certified leave only when absolutely necessary. We have a very committed staff. Indeed, in the past, many staff have come to work when they should be minding their health. They are acutely aware of the substitute crisis and do their best to avoid a class being split.

Le meas,  
Deirdre Corcoran

\*Please also note that there are some aspects of teachers' leave which are not sanctioned for substitute cover by the Department of Education and Skills and classes will ordinarily be split in those situations.