

Scoil na Croise Naofa
Geashill NS
Geashill, Co. Offaly, R35 W253.
057 9343754
geashillnsoffice@gmail.com
www.geashillns.ie
Roll No. 091911
Registered Charity No. 20204543

March 23rd 2023

Dear Parents,

Dates for your Diaries:

Easter Holidays	School closes at 12.30pm on Friday 31st March & reopens Mon 17th April
May Bank Holiday	School closed on Monday 1st May
First Communion	Saturday 13th May at 11.30am in Raheen Church
School Tour for 3rd to 6th Classes to National Sports Campus, Dublin	Thursday 25th May
June Bank Holiday	School closed on Monday 5th June
Swimming for 3rd to 6th Classes	Monday June 12th - Friday June 16th
School Tour for Infants to 2nd Classes to Tearaways Pet Farm & Activity Centre	Tuesday June 20th
Summer Holidays	School closes at 12.30pm on Friday 23rd June

Swimming Lessons

This year 3rd to 6th Classes will have five days of swimming lessons in the week of Monday June 12th. More details will be sent home after Easter.

School Tours

School tour information will be sent home after Easter also.

Confirmation

The Confirmation ceremony for pupils of Ballinagar and Geashill schools took place in St. Joseph's Church, Ballinagar on Friday 10th March. Congratulations to all the pupils involved. Well done also to the 5th Class children from both schools who sang so beautifully in the choir.



Credit Union Quiz Success

It was an amazing evening for our school at this year's Tullamore Credit Union Quiz. Our Junior and Senior teams both won their competitions against over twenty schools from the Tullamore area. While our school has won these quizzes in the past we had never won both junior and senior competitions in the same year. So a big well done to both our teams for creating a piece of school history.



Our senior team went forward to the National Final which took place in early March. In a closely fought quiz, they finished in 5th place just two points behind the winners.



Lá Glas

The school turned green on Wednesday last for our Lá Glas as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge. All classes had been practicing Irish dancing for the past couple of weeks and they enjoyed dancing with each other on Wednesday.



World Book Day

We had an enjoyable day celebrating World Book Day on March 2nd. There were lots of reading based activities going on in all our classrooms. Children also dressed up as characters from books they enjoyed reading. Well done to everyone for taking part so enthusiastically.

Robotics

Well done to our pupils from 6th Class who represented the school in the Offaly Primary School Robotics competition. They worked hard designing, building and programming their robot in the weeks before the competition and they performed well in the competition itself.



Wellbeing/Mental Health Awareness Week

As part of our Amber Flag work we held a very successful mental health awareness week recently. All classes took part in various related activities that promote wellbeing. One of the highlights was a whole school walk to and from the football pitch. This was to help show the link between being active and our overall wellbeing. Another highlight was Thankful Thursday where we all made sure to be thankful for all the small things we do for each other everyday.



We have chosen wellbeing as our area of focus for this year's School Self Evaluation process. As part of this I will ask you to fill in a short online questionnaire after Easter. The children will also have to complete a short survey.

Athletics & Tag Rugby

All classes took part in a four week athletics programme run by Offaly Sports Partnership. This proved to be very worthwhile and enjoyable. Each session focused on the basic fundamental movement skills. 1st to 4th Classes will be taking part in an athletics competition after Easter. 3rd to 6th Classes enjoyed 6 weeks of Tag Rugby. Thanks to John Burns from Tullamore Rugby Club for this.

GAA/Winter Lunchtime League

Our winter lunchtime football leagues proved to be very successful. Children from 1st to 6th Classes played lots of short matches over the last few months. They had lots of fun while developing their football skills at the same time.



The Cumann na mBunscol school football competitions begin for our girls next Tuesday with a match against Cappagh School in Ballycommon at 2.30pm. Our boys kick off their campaign after Easter against Pullough. We will be placing a big emphasis on respect for the referee during all these games and as usual I know that all players, spectators and mentors will represent the school in an exemplary manner.

Soccer

We recently took part in the FAI Offaly 5-a-side soccer competition. Both our teams performed very well. Our girls won their three group games and reached the final where they were unlucky to lose 3-2 to Shinrone. Our boys won two games and drew one and missed out on a final place on goal difference. Well done to both teams for representing the school so well.



Grandparents' Day

We celebrated Grandparents' Day in January. It was great to welcome our grandparents back to the school again. There was such a lovely atmosphere throughout the school. Classrooms were alive with music, songs, poems, knitting, card games and much more besides. We're looking forward to next year already.



Uniform

Well done to everyone who wears the correct uniform every day. As we approach the final term please make every effort to continue this good practice right up to the summer holidays.

Morning Drop Off

A reminder also that school starts at 9.10am and that children can be dropped off from 9am.

Inspection

We had an unannounced school inspection on Friday 3rd March. The inspector spent the day visiting three classrooms, observing lessons in a variety of curriculum areas. She reported that teaching and learning was very good, which is the highest level she can award. She complimented the pupils' enthusiasm for learning, their behaviour and their work on display in the classrooms and in their copies.

I was very pleased that the excellent work I see across all classes everyday was affirmed by our school inspector.

She also confirmed that we are fully compliant in the areas of child safeguarding and anti-bullying.

School Management Team

Two new assistant principals have been recently appointed to the management team of the school. I wish Laura Cleary and Aoife Walsh all the best in their new roles. The full school management team that assists me is as follows:


Deputy Principal: Colette Hyland

Assistant Principals: Fiona Walsh, Laura Cleary and Aoife Walsh.

Free School Books

Please read this information about the Free School Book Scheme for primary schools which will be introduced for this September.

Free schoolbooks for all primary school pupils



Information for parents/guardians

From September 2023, **schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks** for children in recognised primary schools, including special schools, will be provided to every child free by their school. There is no charge to parents/guardians for this, as schools receive funding from Government to cover these costs.

Schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks will be provided on loan by the school.

There is no need for parents to buy or rent these.

There will be no fee for parents for this.

All children in the class will have access to the schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks that they need.

The schoolbooks and workbooks will be on loan to the children.


They must be returned at the end of the school year, or if the child leaves the school.

Schools receive funding to buy these items. Schools must prioritise the use of the funding to cover all costs of textbooks, workbooks and copybooks.

There may be a requirement for parents to buy some additional items for children to use at school. The schools must make this clear to parents.

It is important that books are kept in good condition so they can be re-used. Please help make sure your child/children keep the school books safe and takes care of them, so they can be used again by another child.

In Budget 2023, the Government provided over €50 million to eliminate the cost of schoolbooks for children attending primary schools and special schools.



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

And Finally

As you have read above this has been a very busy term with lots of extra activities in all classes. But as well as all of that, there's been lots of progress made in literacy, numeracy and in subjects across the curriculum. Well done to all the children for their hard work.

As usual I remind you to keep in contact with your child's class on Class Dojo. Keep an eye on our website and Twitter as well.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter

Yours sincerely,

