

Scoil na Croise Naofa
Geashill NS
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www.geashillns.ie
Roll No. 091911
Registered Charity No. 20204543

March 7th 2024

Dear Parents,

Please see the calendar below which outlines the remaining school closures this year.

Referendums	Friday 8th March
St. Patrick's Day	Monday 18th March
Easter	School closes at 12.30pm on Friday 22nd March & reopens Mon 8th April
May Bank Holiday	Mon 6th May
June Bank Holiday	Mon 3rd June
Summer Holidays	School closes on Friday 21st June

Board of Management News

The latest meeting of the board of management was held on Tuesday 27th February. You can read a report from the meeting [here](#).

Also, board members attended training organised by the Catholic Primary School Management Association in Portlaoise on Tuesday 5th March. This training updated our board on a variety of areas to help ensure the continued good governance of our school.

Attendance

As you know, we encourage good attendance in school as it plays an important part in the overall successful outcome for your child. However, if your child is unwell it is best to keep them at home until they feel better. If your child is absent you must let the teacher know the reason for the absence using one of the following headings: illness, urgent family reason or holiday. If the absence is for another reason please give a short explanatory note to the teacher. All communication about absences can be made using Class Dojo. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who follows this procedure whenever there is an absence.

Please note that if your child is absent for 20 days or more the school has to report this

information to the Child and Family Agency's educational welfare services. Therefore, having an explanation for each absence is important. More information on attendance and the role of Tusla and its educational welfare services can be found [here](#).

For your information, the overall attendance rates for the last number of years can be seen below and I am encouraged to see the upward trend in the last couple of years.

2023/24 (to date)	92%
2022/23	91.6%
2021/22	89.9%
2020/21	95.2%
2019/20	95.6%

Uniform

A reminder that school uniform tracksuits should be plain navy with no stripes. Also on the subject of uniforms, Geashill Tidy Towns and the school are hoping to set up a school uniform bank where uniforms that are no longer in use, but still in a reasonably good condition, can be reused instead of being thrown out. We are looking for some parents to help us organise and run this initiative. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Denise in the office or myself directly.

Contact Details

Please ensure the school has the up to date contact numbers of parents/guardians/child minders so easy contact can be made in the event of a child becoming unwell in school and for text-a-parent purposes. Also, if anyone is having trouble accessing their Class Dojo account please let the class teacher know and they will make every effort to get things working properly.

Healthy Lunches

A reminder to everyone that our Healthy Eating Days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On these days we ask you and your children to pack healthy options for the lunch breaks. Food such as crisps and chocolate should be kept as a small treat for Fridays. Fizzy drinks should not come to school any day. Some advice on healthy lunches can be found [here](#).



Also, if you wish to use this school lunch provider, download The Lunch Bag app and follow the instructions. You can order every day or just once a week, whatever works best for you. More information can be found at www.thelunchbag.ie.

Green Flag News

The green school committee has been working hard this year and last to help us achieve our 8th Green Flag. The current theme of our work is Global Citizenship and Marine. Our application will soon be submitted to An Taisce and we are hoping to be awarded our flag in the next term. More information on our work can be found at the link below:

[Green Flag Update](#)

Active Flag

Our active school committee has also been very busy this year organising a wide range of activities for all our classes. We are hoping to be awarded our 2nd active flag later this year. You can see some of the work going on in this area at the link below:

[Active Flag News](#)

Confirmation

Congratulations to the pupils in 6th Class who received the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 1st March. Thanks to the boys and girls from 3rd to 5th Classes who took part in the choir.

Credit Union Quiz

Well done to our Junior and Senior quiz teams who took part recently in the Tullamore Credit Union Quiz competition. While we didn't repeat the successes of last year both teams performed really well on the night. A special thanks to all the participants for their effort and enthusiasm while preparing for the quiz.

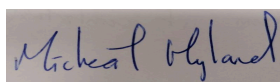
Primary Curriculum Developments

As you may be aware, the primary curriculum is being currently updated in many subject areas.. New curriculums in English and Irish have been introduced already and a new Maths curriculum will be introduced from next September. In the coming years new curriculums will be introduced in Arts Education, Social & Environmental Education, Science, Technology & Engineering and Wellbeing, while a modern foreign language is also to be introduced. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment is responsible for the design and implementation of these new curriculums. It is currently running a consultation process on all of this and parents are welcome to take part in that consultation. Anyone interested in doing so can find more information [here](#).

Today FM Science Competition

Well done to Shauna Hennessy in 6th Class who took part in and won a Today FM Science competition recently. The prize was an amazing €1500 for the school. We will put the money to good use as it will help us to improve our STEM resources.

Yours sincerely,



Principal