Scoil na Croise Naofa

Geashill

Co. Offaly

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 **Dates for your Diaries:**

* School is closed Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February for midterm break.
* **School will be closed on Monday March 12th for teacher in-service on the new language curriculum.**
* School will be closed on Monday 19th March. (Public Holiday)
* Confirmation takes place on Friday 23rd March in Ballinagar Church at 2.30pm.
* School is closed for the Easter holidays on Friday 23rd March.
* School re-opens after Easter on Monday 9th April.
* **School is closed on Friday 20th April and Friday 4th May at 12.30pm for teacher in-service training on Child Safeguarding procedures.**

Please note the sections in bold print. These dates were not on our original school calendar.

**Upgrade of Water Pipes**

As you may already know, major upgrade work on the water pipe infrastructure of the village will begin soon. The work is scheduled to last for four to five weeks. As the road in front of the school is part of the scheduled works, dropping and collecting children may prove to be more difficult than usual. I have been assured by the construction company that a road management plan will be in operation and I ask all drivers and pedestrians to co-operate with whatever arrangements will be in place. The most important thing is that all the children arrive and go home safely each day.

**Pupil Insurance 24 Hour Cover**

For the last number of years, we have used Brennan’s Insurance for the 24 hour pupil insurance cover. We have found the company very good to work with. I also know that parents who have had to make a claim have been satisfied with the service.

It has come to our attention that there has been a change in the terms of the policy in relation to claims being made where the accident/injury has happened outside of school. Up to now all medical expenses have been covered but now there is an excess of €100 on these claims. In other words, the first €100 of a claim where the accident/injury has happened outside school hours will now not be covered. This was not made explicitly clear when we renewed our policy but unfortunately it was specified in the very small print. Therefore, for anyone who has made a claim recently or may do so in the near future, please note that the first €100 of a claim made for an injury which happened outside of school will not be covered.

**Credit Union Quiz**

Many congratulations to our two quiz teams who took part in the Tullamore Credit Union Quiz last Tuesday. Over twenty schools took part from the Tullamore area and the competition was very tense and close. Our junior team made up of 3rd and 4th Class pupils performed very well and finished 5th in its competition. Our senior team did even better and came in 2nd place which was a really wonderful achievement. The senior team now moves on to the All-Ireland Final which takes place in Blanchardstown on Saturday March 3rd. A big well done to Rachel Hackett, Conall Hyland, Brian Flood, Grace Meehan and Saoirse Garry who made up the junior team and to Conor Hennessy, Kevin Sweeney, Cian Flood, Caoimhe Hyland and Shane Hackett on the senior team. They all put a huge effort into preparing for the quiz, both at home and in school, even staying for extra practice after school on five evenings. We wish the senior team the very best of luck in the All – Ireland Final.

**Internet Safety Day**

As Internet Safety Day took place last Tuesday, it might be a good time to take another look at [www.zeeko.ie](http://www.zeeko.ie) for some useful tips and reminders on how to use the internet safely and in an age-appropriate manner. Internet safety is becoming an ever increasing issue for both homes and schools. Back in September we held very informative workshops for children, teachers and parents and lots of the advice delivered then can be found on the Zeeko website.

**Food Dudes**

The Food Dudes healthy eating programme will begin next week for Junior Infants to 2nd Class. The senior classes will start it in March. Please see letters with more information about the Food Dudes which have also been sent home today. You can also find out more on [www.fooddudes.ie](http://www.fooddudes.ie) if you wish.

**French Lessons**

3rd to 6th Classes are enjoying their French lessons which are taking place as part of the twinning initiative between Geashill/Ballycommon/Ballinagar and Jaux. These lessons will continue until the Easter holidays.

Lots of children have volunteered to take part in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade along with children from Ballinagar and Cappagh schools. There will be more information about this later.

**Tag Rugby and Swimming**

Tag rugby and swimming lessons have been taking place from 3rd to 6th Classes since the start of the term. The children have enjoyed these and it is all part of our active school work.

**Website**

A reminder once again that all the latest information, including copies of our newsletters, can be found on our website at [www.geashillns.ie](http://www.geashillns.ie).

 Yours Sincerely,

 Mícheál Hyland