



Newsletter March 1st 2022



Dates to Remember

2nd March - Ash Wednesday

3rd March – World Book Day

16th March - Lá Glás

25th March - 2nd class First Confession



Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

Lent, in the Christian tradition, is a period of 40 days before Easter.

It is a time in which Christians are supposed to be quiet and thoughtful, preparing themselves for Easter. We are encouraged to pray, give money to charities and give up some of the things we might otherwise do for pleasure.

Fr Diarmuid will be distributing ashes tomorrow to the boys who visit the church with their class.



World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March.

Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. They can come to school dressed as their favourite character and if possible to bring their books with them in order to stimulate a class discussion based on their character.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/schoolsandnurseries/>

The link above has some nice resources you may like to explore with your child.



St Vincent de Paul

Over the years Scoil Iósaif Naofa has done much fundraising for St Vincent De Paul.

If any family in our school community is in need and may need a little support, please contact St Vincent de Paul on 091 563233. They will provide support in the form of vouchers for uniforms - food boxes etc.

There is never any shame in asking for support...one of our school mottos is 'asking for support is a sign of strength'.



Inniu an céad lá de Seachtain na Gaeilge!

Today is the first day of the fortnight long celebration of *an Ghaeilge*.

We try to encourage as much spoken Irish in Scoil Íosaif Naofa as possible with everyday instructions and greeting taking place as gaeilge.

For the next two weeks, classes will be planning and engaging in many fun and enjoyable activities 'as gaeilge', it may be song singing, PE as gaeilge, Bingo as gaeilge and many more activities in order to encourage a positive and engaging attitude towards our native language.

Gaeilge is our chosen area for our 'School Self Evaluation' also referred to as SSE, which means we have identified certain areas in the Irish curriculum that we are shining a torch on in order to improve our practice and children's learning in the area.

Overall it is a reflective practice on our teaching and learning of spoken Irish throughout the school.

Seachtain na Gaeilge provides a lovely opportunity for schools to enjoy fun aspects of our language. Hopefully some of these activities will be shared around the dinner table in the evenings or even in the car on the way to training or during bedtime routines.



Minister for Education, Norma Foley, joins Laureate na nÓg, Áine Ní Ghlinn, to launch *An Bosca Leabharlainne*.

Laureate na nÓg, Áine Ní Ghlinn, celebrated the launch of her flagship project, *An Bosca Leabharlainne*, by Minister for Education, Norma Foley. Produced in partnership with Foras na Gaeilge and the Arts Council, the project has delivered 55,000 books to over 1,800 schools this month.

We are very grateful to have received our *Bosca Leabharlainne* last month.

Covid Update

The Department of Education has accepted the recommendations of the NPHET to remove remaining restrictions relating to mask-wearing and physical distancing in schools.

If members of staff or students wish to continue wearing face masks or coverings, they may do so. Continued use of good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and ventilation will continue in Scoil Iósaif Naofa.

Scoil Iósaif Naofa will continue to use good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and ventilation.

Critical components of the collective response in relation to COVID-19 continue to apply including self-isolation if symptomatic (even if fully vaccinated/boosted) or if having a positive COVID-19 test. One of the key messages to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread.

As part of the transition arrangements the HSE will continue with the current processes to support the provision of antigen tests to primary schools, special schools and childcare settings.

The Antigen Free phone number is: 1800 110055 or parents may order antigen tests online via www.hse.ie/schooltest. The call centre opening hours will be altered slightly and from next week onwards will be 8:45am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). The online portal will remain operational 24/7 and will shortly be available through Irish as well as English.

Participation in antigen testing is voluntary, therefore it is not necessary for parents to share information with the school about whether they have requested antigen tests and nor to confirm negative antigen tests. Children who are well should continue to come to school whether they participate in antigen testing or not.

We will consider all other changes cautiously in the coming weeks. Staggered opening and closing times etc will remain in place until we have time to consider and make necessary adjustments to our Response Plan.

Thank you as always for your support and co-operation over the last 2 years as we navigated our way through the many changes Covid dictated. We very much look forward to the months ahead as we begin to embrace school life as it was pre Covid-19.



Reminder – AGM meeting – SEE FLYER ATTACHED.