



Scoil Naomh Lorcán O'Tuathail

(St. Laurence O'Toole's National School)

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April 10th 2024

Our **TOCHAR** Values
We aim High

Teamwork,
Championing **O**thers,
Cinéaltas (Kindness),
Honour,
Eng**A**gement in learning
Resilience.

Dear parents/guardians,
It was wonderful to welcome all children and staff back to school this week for our final term of the academic year. I hope that all families had an opportunity to relax together - in spite of the weather! I would like to wish our Muslim families a very Happy Eid this week!

Many of our 6th class pupils will be attending their **Service of Light** next Monday 15th April at 7pm in the church and will make their **Confirmation** on Friday 19th April at 11am. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Cleo Fanning and Tara Cunningham** for all their hard work in preparing the children through the Confirmation Connect Programme for this year's Confirmation. It has been a great success and I would like to acknowledge the care and dedication of both Cleo and Tara throughout the year.

Please see attached with this newsletter our **school calendar** for next year. A reminder to parents to try not to book holidays during term time as this disrupts the learning of your child.

Say Yes to Languages

Our Say Yes to Languages Programme is due to begin next week in school with 3rd and 4th classes learning French and 5th and 6th classes learning Spanish for a block of 8 weeks.

European Elections - School Closure

The school will be closed on **Friday 7th June 2024** to facilitate the European Elections.

Credit Union Quiz

A huge well done to Mark Ichim, Amelia Power, Conor Carpenter and Matthew Doyle who performed exceptionally well at the National Final of the Credit Union Quiz in the RDS yesterday (Sunday 8th April). They faced stiff competition from 43 other teams from all corners of Ireland and some of the questions were extremely tough. We are delighted to say that the Roundwood NS U11 team finished in an excellent joint 7th place. We also say well done to our substitutes Roisín Donelon and Michael Fanning who worked equally hard in preparing for the National Final. We are very proud of you all and your achievements!

Eason Spelling Bee

Well done to Kelan Lawlor, 6th class, who will be representing our school in the Eason Spelling Bee on April 17th. We wish him all the best of luck!

Creative Schools Week

We are thrilled to let you know that James Hayes, our assigned sculptor as part of the Creative Schools Project, will be in school, 22nd - 26th April. The children have already been learning the art of sculpture in workshops with James on Thursday, 21st March and the 5th and 6th classes had a wonderful day creating fabulous soap sculptures. This sculpture-making is the culmination of other workshops completed by the Creative School Committee since January 2023.

The week of 26th to 31st May will be Creative Schools Launch Week in Roundwood when our completed wooden sculpture will be unveiled in our natural playground. The oak for this sculpture has been generously donated by Patrick Nuttall. During Creative Schools Launch Week, the children in all classes will engage in a range of age appropriate activities highlighting the importance of nature in our environment, ranging from storytelling to paper-making. So exciting! A great opportunity for all!

GAA Skills Competition

The north east Wicklow finals of the GAA Football Skills competition took place yesterday on the grounds of Bray Emmets GAA Club. We say "well done" to the Roundwood NS representatives. They all

did very well despite facing challenging weather conditions. Congratulations to::

Boys

1. Lucas Kavanagh
2. Alex Murray

Girls

1. Isabelle Gaughran
2. Niamh Fanning

Niamh Fanning has qualified for the County Final to be held in Ballinakill next Wednesday and we wish her the very best of luck.

Men's Shed Presentation

We were delighted to welcome members of the Men's Shed into our school before the Easter Break - Arthur Hall, Séighean O'Draoí, John Gilmartin, Críostóir Begley and Sean Lenihan . Ms Fitzpatrick made a presentation of the work of the Men's Shed in our community for our visitors and pupils from 1st to 6th classes. This was to mark our involvement in the Creative Schools Programme and to highlight the good work that the Men's Shed does for the whole community, including our school. The Men's Shed presented the school with a Willow Tree which we will be planting in the school garden. The PA gifted the Men's Shed with a cheque from the fundraising from our Lá Glas (See PA News in this newsletter for further details).

Arthur Hall, former Principal of St Laurence O'Toole's NS, was recently awarded a lifetime achievement award by Wicklow GAA. In acknowledgement of his

dedication to our school, we presented him with a framed photograph and card. It was a wonderful day for pupils and our special visitors alike.

Transition to Secondary School

Parents of 5th and 6th class pupils might be interested in the following Zoom session which discusses the transition from primary to secondary school and the issues around this transition.

<https://www.clareed.ie/cpd-courses-2/primary-courses/3154-from-endings-to-beginnings-helping-your-child-to-transition-from-primary-to-secondary-school-p-pp-parents.html>

GAA Achievement for Roundwood!

Sunday's win in Portlaoise over Westmeath in 1st round of the Leinster Senior Championship was a great day for Wicklow and particularly Roundwood. Four past pupils, Conor and Darragh Fee and Matt and JP Nolan, graduating classes of 2015 and 2016, represented their county proudly. All had been tutored by Peter Byrne, himself a former member of the County panel. We should also give an honourable mention to our players on the County Minor panel, JJ Brady, Matthew Fox, Ryan Healy. Additionally, U20 County panel members consist of Lorcan Smyth, Joe Heatly, and Eanna Nolan. Congratulations to all!!

WEE Battery Collection

Thank you to all families who have sent in batteries - the school is filling up and we are excited to think that we may be in with a chance of winning this

competition! Keep on bringing in your old batteries!

Dates to note:

Service of Light

Monday 15th April @ 7pm

School closure Teacher Training

Monday 29th April

Sports Day (An Tochar GAA Complex)

Wednesday 19th June

Graduation for 6th class

Thursday 27th June at 11.30am

Parents Association

What's On this Week from the PA?

The PA presented the **Mens Shed** with the proceeds of our recent **Lá Glas** which totalled **€415**. The members of the Men's Shed were very thankful for such a gift but noted that due to the severity of conditions for families, especially children, in Gaza at the moment, they will be sending the money to support those less fortunate in Gaza. A lovely gesture and the children in Roundwood can know that they are making a difference for children far away living in difficult circumstances.

Upcoming Events

Please click on the following link or check out our website to read the Parents Association Constitution:

<https://www.roundwoodns.ie/our-school/parents-association/>

Roundwood's Parents Association is a member of the National Parent Council (NPC). The NPC offers a wide range of free parental webinars that can be watched at any time. See the link <https://www.npc.ie/> or phone **01 887 4477** for additional information.

Is mise, le meas,



Sinéad Sharkey
Principal

SCHOOL NOTES

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

If you have any concerns of a Child Protection nature, Ms Sinéad Sharkey is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in the school. Any concerns can be brought directly to Ms Sharkey. If Ms Sharkey is not available, Ms Kim Kelly is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) and will deal with any issues in the absence of Ms Sharkey.

Please note that our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be viewed on our website www.roundwoodns.ie

Communication with the School

If you have any concerns or queries in relation to your child or the school, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Teachers can be contacted via

the Contact page on our website or alternatively, you can contact the school office directly to make an appointment to speak with the teacher. Please see our Communication with the School Policy on our website www.roundwoodns.ie.

If you are trying to contact the Board of Management on an issue, please send a letter addressed to the Chairperson of the BOM at the school address or, an email to chairpersonbom@roundwoodns.ie.

Please note that the Parental Complaints Procedure is to be used in the first instance for any issues relating to teachers. Emails will be checked prior to Board of Management meetings throughout the year.

School Policies

For copies of any of our school policies, please refer to our website. All policies can be downloaded from the website. If you require a hard copy, please contact the office directly and we will provide you with one.

Road Safety outside School

Staff have been requested not to park on the Lough Dan Road as cars cover the safety signage on the road. Can all parents please not park on the road either as it is unsafe to cover the road markings. Dropping children off and collecting from this area and the area adjacent to the staff car park is also dangerous and we would ask parents to park safely in the village or Roundwood Inn.

