

# Spring Newsletter, 2024

Anois teacht an Earraigh. Now comes the Spring.

Please read below some news and highlights from term 2.



## Gaelscoil Lir nominated as a DCU Changemaker School

Gaelscoil Lir has been nominated as a DCU Changemaker School.

DCU Changemaker Schools are schools that have been selected to work with the DCU Institute of Education to reimagine, co-create and lead transformation in education in Ireland by developing, amplifying, and sharing the skills of empathy, creativity, leadership, and teamwork.

We have been nominated as a DCU Changemaker School as our school has been recognised as innovative in our activities and transformative in our culture. It has been recognised that our school also develops the leadership skills of staff and students, has a student voice at the heart of all we do and is committed to creating systemic change in education.

## Board of Management

Our new Board of Management met for the first time in January. We are extremely lucky to be supported by such an experienced and dedicated board.

We are still seeking a female community representative. If you know of anyone who might be suitable for the role, who is living or working in the area, with a good level of proficiency in Irish, please let Sinéad know.

## New team members

Following a successful application to the NCSE for increased support, Caoilfhionn Ní Scanláin and Lisa Clark have joined our team as Additional Needs Assistants. Fáilte mhór rompu.

## Financial reporting to the FSSU

Each year, the school is required to prepare a report detailing how finances are managed and report this to the Department of Education through the FSSU (Financial Support Services Unit). Please find a report summary for the 2022-23 financial year [here](#).



## Assembly

Every Friday, the whole school comes together for assembly. During this time, we discuss our priorities as a school, the children might sing a song, or share their highlights from the week.

Most importantly, assembly gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of the children. A student of the week, friend of the week and Irish speaker of the week is selected from each class. These children are treated to a hot-chocolate in the staffroom as a special reward.

### Hot school lunches

After some research and sampling we have selected *The Lunchbag* as suppliers of the Hot Meals Scheme in our school. We hope that the system will be up and running in April or early May. You can find a letter to parents [here](#) and some information about the menu if you follow [this link](#).

### Yard

There has been a noticeable improvement in yard behaviour over the last number of weeks. The children have made a great effort to play gently, and include everyone in their games. Thank you for your support with this.

We would like to improve the yard environment to support the children's play. If you have any ideas or expertise in this area, please approach Sinéad, Ciara, or members of Cairde na Scoile.

### Anti-bullying week

Following on from Friendship Week last term, this term we focused on preventing bullying in our school. Classes revised what it is to be a good friend and what behaviour we welcome and celebrate in Gaelscoil Lir. Children were directly taught which behaviours are not acceptable in our school.

Teachers focused on the difference between being mean in an isolated incident and bullying itself. Appropriate language was taught and we worked on self-confidence with games and affirmations. Thanks to Ciara for organising a week of wonderful anti-bullying lessons for the whole school.

Our motto of the week: I am important. I am strong. I have a voice. *Tá mé tábhachtach. Tá mé láidir. Tá guth agam.*

### Na Gael Óga / GAA

On 28 March, Naoise from Na Gaeil Óga, started GAA training with the children. Naoise will visit Gaelscoil Lir every Wednesday for the next few months. We are very grateful for his time.

Na Gael Óga is an Irish medium GAA club based in West Dublin, with training usually taking place in Lucan and Clondalkin. The club is currently accepting children on their junior teams, as well as the academy for pupils born in 2016-18. For more information, contact Naoise directly on 083 060 4895.



### Yoga

Our Deputy Principal, Ciara Nic Oscair, is a qualified yoga instructor, and has kindly offered to do weekly yoga sessions with all the classes in the school. Míle buíochas, Ciara.

### Irish dancing

From April, each child will have the opportunity to participate in weekly Irish dancing lessons. Lorraine has been teaching Irish dancing in schools across Leinster for many years and is a fluent Irish speaker

### Italian lessons

The children in Rang a 1 and Rang 2 have begun learning Italian each week with Sinéad. Sono fantastici!

### After-school care

Our children may access afterschool services in KidsInc. which is next door to Gaelscoil Lir. Contact: [rebecca@kidsinc.ie](mailto:rebecca@kidsinc.ie) for more details and application forms, or chat to Sinéad.



## After-school clubs

Some afterschool clubs are available to our pupils (renting space from Rathcoole ETNS):

- STEAM Academy
  - Junior/Senior Infants: Mondays 1:10pm-2:10pm (€22.5/lesson)
  - 1st - 3rd Class: Mondays 2:20pm-3:50pm (€24.75/lesson)
  - For more information email [info@steamacademy.pro](mailto:info@steamacademy.pro)
- Catch Dance Academy
  - Junior/Senior Infants: Thursdays 1:10pm-2:10pm
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes: Thursday 2:10pm-3:10pm
  - €50 for 5 sessions
  - For more information contact Melanie at [catchdanceacademy@gmail.com](mailto:catchdanceacademy@gmail.com)

If there is a club that you would like us to run, please come and talk to Sinéad. Some of our teachers would be happy to run after-school clubs such as art, sports or games if there is enough interest to run them.



## Green Schools Committee

Our new Green Schools Committee has been selected. They will ensure that we are responsibly disposing of our waste by leading our green campaign, conducting a litter survey and undertaking spot checks in classrooms on a regular basis. Thanks to Michaela for managing this for Gaelscoil Lir.

## Policy review:

As a recently established school, we are constantly developing new policies to ensure quality teaching and learning, and to provide a safe and well organised environment in which to work and study.

Parental feedback is vitally important to us, as we endeavour to develop positive and productive home-school relations. This term, we have developed two policies: [Handwriting](#) and [Administration of Medicines](#). If you can find the time, please read these policies and share any feedback by emailing [sinead@gslir.ie](mailto:sinead@gslir.ie).

## Easter egg hunt

Our annual Easter egg hunt will take place on the last day of term, 22 March. The children may wear their own clothes this day.

## Speaking of eggs...

We will truly celebrate the return of Spring when our live eggs will be delivered in early April. Please feel free to drop into the school with younger and older children to see the chicks when they hatch

## Spring raffle

Our Christmas Raffle was a great success, and over €200 was raised. Many thanks for the generous contributions. This money was used to pay for our drumming workshop.

This term, another raffle will be held, the draw taking place on 14 March. Tickets will be €2 each or three tickets for €5. Any money raised will help to fund some of the activities taking place during Seachtain na Gaeilge.



## Cairde na Scoile

Our new parents' association, 'Cairde na Scoile', will host another parents' morning soon. Our first parents' morning was a great success, and thoroughly enjoyable.

Cairde na Scoile is also organising our Lá Glas this year. The children will be asked to bring €2 on the day. The money raised will help to cover the cost of the events taking place during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

If you would like to help out, please contact Anne-Marie, Clara or Thomas at [cns@gsilir.ie](mailto:cns@gsilir.ie), or talk to Sinéad. Míle buíochas to Cairde na Scoile.

## Gaeilge

From the end of term 2, we will expect the children from Naíonáin Mhóra – Rang 2 to use Gaeilge as a means of communication informally in class and on the school yard. Rather than punishing children for not speaking Irish, we will incentivise and celebrate the children's use of our beautiful language. Stickers, spot prizes and Gaeilgeoir na Seachtain (Irish speaker of the week) will be awarded.

We want the children to know that Irish is special and valuable, and that being able to speak our language is a privilege. When our pupils of Gaelscoil Lir finish primary school, they will be fluent in at least two languages. By choosing to send your child to Gaelscoil Lir, you have given them the gift of bilingualism.

## Dates to note:

- 4 – 14 March: Seachtain na Gaeilge
- 7 March: World Book Day. Children may dress up as their favourite character from a book and bring a book to school.
- 14 March: Lá Glas. The children may wear green to school.
- 15 March: School Closure. NSCE Whole Staff Training
- 18 March: School Closure: Bank Holiday
- 22 March: Last day of term (Finish time 11:30am; non-uniform day)
- 8 April: First day of Term 3



## Calendar 2024 -25

- Please find the school calendar for 2024 -25 below. This will be uploaded onto our school website. Please note, this calendar is subject to changes, such as curriculum training days, red weather warning closures etc. The calendar may be downloaded [here](#).



### Féilire 2024 - 2025

Lúnasa – Meán F / August - Sept						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
			28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Deireadh Fómhair / October						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Samhain / November						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Nollaig / December						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Eanáir / January						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Feabhra / February						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Márta / March						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Aibreán / April						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Bealtaine / May						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Meitheamh / June						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Iúil / July						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Lúnasa / August						
D	L	M	C	D	A	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

■ Céad lá scoile / First day of school

■ Leath lá /Half day (Páisti ag dul abhaile ag 11:30m/ All children going home at 11:30am)

■ Scoil Dúnta (Laethanta Saoire)/ School Closed (Holidays)

Thank you for your support and kindness. If you ever have any queries and concerns, please know that we are here to help.