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Dear Lough Gur community newsletter readers,

We returned to school on Thursday 5th January after a lovely two week break for the Christmas holidays. January has been a very busy month for all of us in Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir. Here is what has been happening in our school:

Nollaig na mBan

The boys and girls spent the first two days back at school learning all about Nollaig na mBan and the traditions associated with this special day. We visited St. Patrick's Church beside our school to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on 6th January. Rev. Fr. Cleary and the other parishioners gave us a great welcome and praised the boys and girls for their participation in the mass.

GAA Training

We were delighted to welcome Callan, a trainer with Cumann na mBunscol, to our school on Wednesday 25th January to train our pupils in both football and hurling. He will train the boys and girls for a total of six weeks. This is great preparation for our participation in our upcoming South Limerick two-teacher GAA blitzes.

Enrolment

Enrolment is open for the 2023/24 academic year in Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir. Please visit the school website for our enrolment application and to see why Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir is a great place for your child to receive their primary education.

Rugby Training

Danny Keogh, a trainer with Bruff Rugby Club, will begin coaching the boys and girls in rugby starting on Thursday 2nd February. Our pupils are very excited about practicing

their rugby skills and taking part in a rugby blitz with other schools in Bruff R.F.C at the beginning of March.

Swimming

Beginning on 8th March, our pupils will travel to the University of Limerick every Wednesday for six weeks for swimming lessons. We are delighted to see the return of swimming to our school and it is a fantastic opportunity for the boys and girls to improve their swimming ability.

Upgrades to Our Classrooms

Classrooms have been furnished with new display boards which offer greater opportunity to showcase pupils' work and enrich the pupils' visual learning environment. Thanks to our Deputy Principal Carole Cleary for leading this initiative and to our caretaker Niall Malone for installing them. They really brighten up and add functionality to our classrooms.

Sacraments

The following dates have been set for the sacraments this year:

First Confession – 9th March

First Holy Communion – Saturday 20th May

Confirmation – Friday 26th May

5th & 6th class pupils will participate in a Confirmation retreat on 13th March in Holycross Abbey with the pupils from Knockainey National School.

Junior Classroom

In the Junior room January began with the class discussing what changes and experiences the year 2023 will bring. We compiled a list of these and the class set about writing in what new personal adventures they hope will take place.

It was all about the theme of hobbies (caitheamh aimsire) in gaeilge. We mimed our favourite past times, hobbies and sports and the class had to guess what it



was by naming it as gaeilge. We learnt a poem "Is Feidir Liom" which talks about all the hobbies we are able to do.

We examined maps in Geography looking at a map from 2009. This was new to a lot of pupils who are used to navigating by Google maps. We looked at the different roads, mountains, rivers and mountains. We located our nearest river and mountain. Each child was given a map of Limerick and we highlighted different places that have a connection to us.

Environmental awareness and care was big this month in our classroom for science. We learnt about the importance of recycling and how it benefits the environment. The class then looked at various sorts of packaging and sorted them as being recyclable or non-recyclable. This had a very positive effect on the class as for the month of January they made a conscious effort to look at the packaging in their lunch boxes themselves to see which items go into the general waste bin or recycling bin.

Shopping local was another aspect we looked at and how it benefits the local economy and small businesses. This saw Muinteoir Carole and SNA Mags purchase a dozen eggs off our very own pupil in the school, Ollie Cronin!

For our 'hands on' maths this month we used lollipop sticks in order to create various shapes. We used flashcards of these shapes to help us and the children loved working out how to create and construct the required shapes. These hands on maths sessions help develop children's logical thinking and problem solving abilities.

We also covered the strand of money in maths. Muinteoir Carole brought in the 'old money' she used when she was younger such as the £1 coin, £5 note, 50p etc. The class examined these in detail and compared them to the euro coins. We discussed how COVID impacted the use of cash

and how people were asked to use contactless payment during the pandemic. We compiled a survey to see how many adults now use their debit card over cash. We asked our parents, teachers, SNA Mags, our postman Steve, caretaker Niall and even Fr. Eddie!



Our results from our survey showed that the majority of people now use their debit card. The class then played shop where they switched roles as customers and shopkeepers and used toy money in order to purchase items, they worked out how much money they needed and if they were due any change back

Their most favourite part of learning about money was how far £1 could get you in a shop where back in the day £1 could buy you a 100 penny sweets for 1p each!

Senior Classroom

The Senior Classroom has hit the ground running since returning to school after Christmas. We began by discussing New Year's Resolutions, their purpose and why it's important that they are realistic / achievable. We then wrote our very own resolutions which we will revisit at the beginning of February to track our progress towards achieving them.

On 16th January, we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by learning all about the human rights activist, completing mini projects about him, drawing portraits of MLK Jr. and writing our very own 'I have a dream' speeches.



In Gaeilge, we have been learning vocabulary and phrases about the weather (An Aimsir). We have a discussion as Gaeilge every morning about the day's weather. 3rd

and 4th class learned the poems ‘An Sneachta’ and ‘Seol Amach An Geimhreadh’ while 5th and 6th learned ‘An Ghaoth’, a poem about the wind.

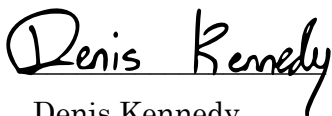
Maths has been very practical over the last month. We have been studying lines and angles. The boys and girls explored the school environment and identified lots of lines and angles all around us. We used pipe cleaners and paper plates to check if angles were right, acute or obtuse. 5th and 6th class progressed to measuring and drawing angles and triangles using protractors.

We have been very active and ventured outside the classroom to complete some splatter / perspective art with Múinteoir Kate. She has been focusing on Europe with the boys and girls in Geography. They are learning about the capital cities of each country and will complete some project work in the coming weeks.

There’s always huge excitement in the air on Friday afternoons for P.E. with Príomhoide Denis. The boys and girls enjoy competing in creative team relay races using all sorts of equipment. We have also been playing two variations of Rounders called ‘Crazy Soccer Rounders’ and ‘Burned’. These activities are a great way to finish off each week and ensure the boys and girls head home happy from school.

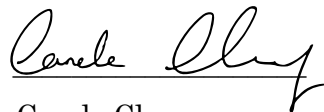
We are looking forward to celebrating St. Brigid’s Day and St. Valentine’s Day in our school in the coming weeks and can’t wait to share our news with you all again next month.

Le gach dea-ghuí,



Denis Kennedy

An Príomhoide



Carole Cleary

An Príomhoide Tánaiste