

December 2017



CHORMAIC'S NEWS

All the latest news from Scoil Chormaic CNS, Balbriggan.

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Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter

Dear parents and guardians. Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. We have created a fictional character called 'Chormaic' to bring you the latest news from our school. You have received this newsletter via email because you gave us your email — exactly for this purpose. There is a link on the website to provide emails.



This edition of Chormaic's News is brought to you by a representation designed by Saoirse Flanagan in Ms Forde's First Class.

Principal's welcome

Dear families,

You are very welcome to the inaugural issue of the new school newsletter for Scoil Chormaic CNS! This is an exciting event for our school community. The newsletter contains contributions from the teachers, pupils and parents and they are to be congratulated on this!

There are many exciting events to look forward to this school year, the move to the permanent building at Stephenstown (date to be confirmed), winter assemblies, school trips, Parents' Association elections in January, and our first ever graduation of a sixth class! Your support and participation in these are invaluable to the school and I look forward to seeing you at them.

For information on the school please refer to the school website regularly, please check your child's school bag and homework journal for notes and families of children in junior and senior infants please ensure you are signed up for class dojo.

Wishing you and your families an exciting school year.

Kind regards,

Deirdre Corcoran
Principal

Class in Focus — Ms Lynch's 3rd

Our 'Word of the Week':

remark

Meaning: To make a comment about something you think or notice.

Examples:

1. "Tom has worked really hard today!" remarked the teacher.
2. Zoe made a kind remark about the beautiful painting.



Our Class News

Hello everybody! We are Ms Lynch's Third Class and we are so excited to show and tell you about some of the things we have been doing at school so far this year. Since starting Third Class, we have learned about many new things. For example, multiplication, the Stone Age, different types of farms, the Amazon Rainforest, Samba music, and lots of science about our bodies. We even composed our own soundscapes and some kitchen music! As well as all of that, we have won the trophy twice already this year for earning the most Green Tokens for good behaviour in the yard. Take a look at some of the other exciting things that have been happening in our classroom...

How to Earn a Pen Licence

In Third Class, boys and girls can earn a Pen Licence. These Pen Licences are very special as you have to work really hard on consistently using neat joined writing in your school work and homework in order to earn one. This month, the first two students in our class earned pen licences. Now, they can use pen when doing their work. We are so proud of them and their beautiful handwriting!



Carnival Masks

We have been learning all about Brazil, Samba music and the Amazon Rainforest. We really enjoyed making these Carnival masks and dancing around our classroom to Samba music.

Science Week 2017

Our class tried out some fun experiments during Science Week, which ran from the 13th to 17th of November. One of the experiments that we really liked was the skittles rainbows. It's super easy so why not try it at home yourself? All you need is a white plate, a packet of skittles and some warm water to pour into the middle of the plate once you have made your pattern of skittles. Then, sit back and watch your rainbow appear.



'Children's Working Wall'

In Ms Lynch's class, lots of students like to work on their own independent projects in their free time. These projects are chosen by the children themselves and can be about anything that we are interested in, or want to learn more about. Ms Lynch was so impressed by all of the wonderful projects that students were doing, that she created an area in our classroom called the 'Children's Working Wall'. This is a space that we, the students, control ourselves. Here, we can hang up and display any work that we chose to research and complete projects on, or any work that we feel especially proud of. The 'Children's Working Wall' has been a great addition to our classroom and we are really enjoying being able to research and display things that we are interested in.

Dates for your diary:

Parent-teacher meetings:

*Monday, December 4th,
from 3pm until 5.45pm
– for pupils with surnames
beginning with letters A to M.
*Thursday, December 7th,
from 3pm until 5.45pm
– for pupils with surnames
beginning with letters N to Z.

Winter assembly:

Junior assembly – Tuesday,
December 19th
Senior assembly – Wednesday,
December 20th

Christmas holidays:

School closes on Friday,
December 22nd at 12.30pm
and will reopen on Monday,
January 8th at 9am.

Staff training:

School closed on Tuesday,
April 17th, 2018.

Communion & Confirmation:

Communion – Saturday,
April 28th, 2018, at 10am.
Confirmation – Wednesday,
April 18th, 2018, at 12pm.

Board of management meeting dates:

Tuesday, December 12th.
Tuesday, January 16th.
Tuesday, February 13th.
Tuesday, March 13th.
(More dates in the new year.)

Infant MMR Injections:

Tuesday, December 12th.

Scholastic Book Fair:

The week of February 19th-26th.

Mid-term break:

School closed on February
15th and 16th.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

News from the Scoil Chormaic Parents' Association

Hi all,

We are the Parents' Association of Scoil Chormaic. We started the association last January, we are parents from different countries, cultures and ideas. We complement, support and learn from each other.

All the parents in the school are members of our association so if you did not know so...welcome! We cannot wait to meet you!

Our aim is to work together with the school for the best possible education for our children. We work with the principal, staff and board of management to build effective partnership between home and school. Research shows that children achieve better outcomes when parents and teachers work together.

It is important, and we would like to invite you to get actively involved. You do not need superpowers or lots of free time (we are all parents, we know how valuable time is).

Next January we will run our Annual General Meeting (AGM). That would be a great opportunity to introduce yourself, meet other parents, or just get to know us and to know what we have done in the last year. With one year as an association we are like a baby, learning to move, making mistakes, learning, improving...But the love for our kids and for this school will make us move mountains.

Join us.

We wait for you at our AGM!

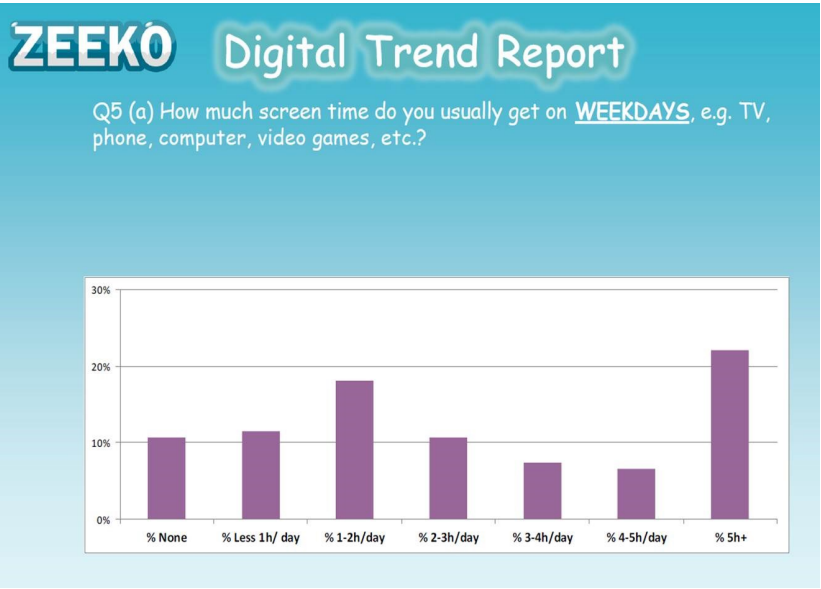
Zeeko Internet safety talk gives food for thought

On Monday the 20th of November, we had a visit from 'Zeeko', for some Internet Safety talks and workshops for students, staff and parents —and what a great success they were.

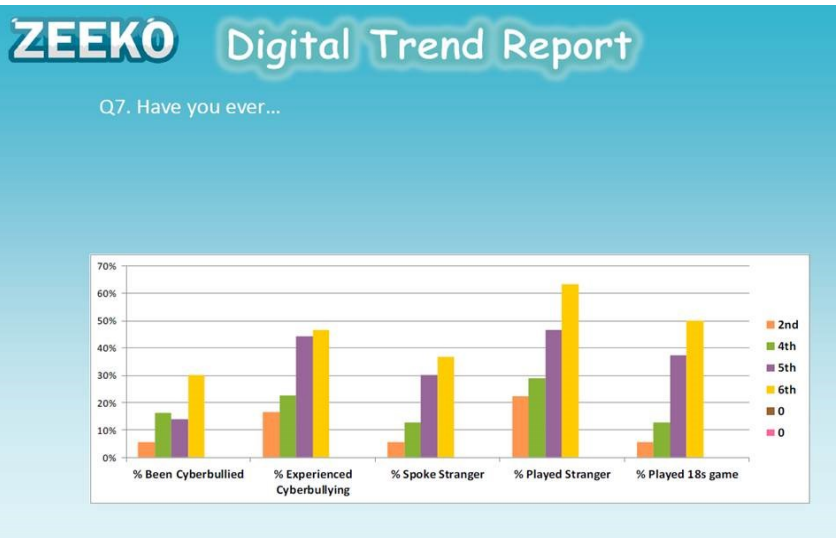
The children had the opportunity to learn about some of the great things about the internet, online games and social media, but also the dangers that we need to be aware of when using the internet.

Parents and teachers were encouraged to become a 'chatbudi' for the children. A 'chatbudi' is somebody who your child trusts and will talk to about their online world. A 'chatbudi' is somebody who is there to celebrate all of the positive things that children achieve and do online, and also who will listen and help the child should they have any negative experiences online, for example cyberbullying.

One of the many interesting things we learned about was 'blue light'. Blue light is emitted from all phones, iPads, tablets, TVs, laptops and computers. This light tricks your brain into believing it is day time and slows down the production of melatonin in the brain (the chemical that helps us to fall asleep at night).



Digital Trend Report: This graph shows how much screen time the children in Scoil Chormaic usually get on weekdays. It is well above average!



Digital Trend Report: This graph shows the online experiences children have had with strangers or with cyberbullying.

Notes from the office:

MMR injection forms

Due to Storm Ophelia the Junior Infant MMR Injections have been put back to December 12th. The HSE team will arrive on this day to the school to carry out these injections. If there is any parent who has not yet returned their child's injection form can they please do so immediately.

Book fair

Due to the huge success of the Scholastic Book Fair last year we will be holding another book fair this year from the 19th February to the 26th February. Please keep this date in your diaries. Further information to follow.

School Health Screening for Senior Infants 2017/18

We have no date as yet for the

hearing and vision tests. The Public Health Nurse will be in touch with the school regarding dates for when these screening will take place as soon as she knows.

Dismount bikes notice

The school campus has a dismount and walk policy when it comes to bikes. If your child cycles to school, please remind them of the need to dismount and walk their bikes from the entrance gate to the campus—and not to mount their bikes until they have left the school grounds.

New office hours

The office will be closed from 10am until 1pm each day from now until the Christmas holidays.

This is to facilitate new office management systems introduced since the handover to the new school patron.

Confirmation meetings

Confirmation meetings recently took place in the church for the current 6th class children who will be making it next year. Baptismal certs need to be submitted to the parish office if parents wish to present their child for confirmation.

GAA training is a big success

Training is going really well for both the 3rd/4th class and the 5th/6th class teams. All of the boys and girls are enjoying themselves and the teachers are very impressed with their skill levels!

The teams train in O'Dwyer's every Tuesday from 3pm to 4pm. We are very lucky to have Larissa from O'Dwyer's helping out with the 5th/6th class team recently and she is hoping to arrange a blitz day for us against some of the local schools very soon.

It's important that all the players on the panels try their best to attend training every week so as to give themselves the best chance to keep improving their skills!

Parents we need your help! Please donate a prize for our Winter Assembly raffle—this is our biggest fundraiser of the year! Drop prizes into a box in Anita's office.

Pupil book review

Book Review by Seán Flanagan (2nd Class - Ms Reville)

Book Title: The Magician's Nephew

Author: C.S. Lewis

Fiction or Non-fiction: Fiction

What is this book about?

This book is about a world called Narnia. A boy and a girl called Polly and Digory meet a queen called Queen Jadis. She is a white witch and put a spell on Narnia so there will be an eternal winter but never Christmas!



Who would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend it to 5th class and over because there is very hard vocabulary.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What ages and interests is this book suitable for?

I would recommend it to 11 years and older for interest because there are tricky words. I would recommend it if you are interested in fantasy.

Dublin Ladies get a huge welcome



Pictured are some of the students giving a huge welcome to the Dublin Ladies.



The Dublin Ladies team brought the Brendan Martin Cup (Ladies Gaelic Football All-Ireland Cup) to the school on Tuesday, November 28th — and what a welcome they got!

The students were in full voice to welcome O'Dwyer's Games Promotional Officer, Larissa Muldoon, and Dubs footballer Emer Ni Eafa. This year is the second time that the Dublin La-

dies have won the Ladies All-Ireland Football Senior Championship. The last time was in 2010.

So the pupils were delighted to welcome the All-Ireland champions to the school and showed them how extremely proud we are of the champions in our midst!

Up the Dubs!

Roots of Empathy

Roots of Empathy is taking place in Ms Hughes' class this year!

Roots of Empathy is a very special programme that helps children build empathy and develop emotional literacy.

We are one of a small number of schools in Ireland who have been chosen to run the programme.



Children in Ms Hughes' class with baby Levi and her mother and Ms O'Gorman.

We are very lucky to have the Doseciuc family as our Roots of Empathy family, and baby Levi as our 'teacher'!

Our family will visit us every month until the end of the school year. Look out for updates and photographs on school noticeboards.

To find out more about Roots of Empathy, ask Ms O'Gorman or check out www.rootsofempathy.org



Our new school at Stephenstown is nearing completion. The project has been seriously delayed.

New building is almost ready

The new school building has been seriously delayed and it has been a big frustration to all—especially our three classes located off-campus.

The school has received notification from the Department of Education that electricity should be connected to the new building by December 8th.

Further tests need to be conducted after the connection, but this means that the building could possibly be ready for handover just before the Christmas holidays.

The school will need to close for a number of days to facilitate the move and parents will be informed of these days as soon as a move-in date is known.

Drop and go system at the new building

Parents, there is no parking at the new building at drop off and collection times. There will be a drop and go system in place in the mornings. We will have more information on this at a later date.

PUPILS' COUNCIL

New Pupils' Council established in the school



Members of the Pupils' Council with organising teachers Ms Downes (left) and Ms Kelly.

Greetings from the School Council.

So far this year, we have run an art completion to design a mascot for the newsletter. One of the winning entries you can see in this edition.

We have also set up a 'Pupil Suggestions Box' so that all the children can put their suggestions out there.

We are currently working on a School Council video about the highlights of being a student at Scoil Chormaic. Watch this space!!

By Eimí – 5th Class School Council Representative

How to make a school appointment

1. *Parents wishing to speak to the school principal Ms Corcoran, in relation to their child or other school matters should do so by making an appointment through the office.*
2. *An appointment with the principal is only necessary after the parent has already liaised with the teacher and is seeking further information or if requested by the principal.*
3. *The principal and staff generally do not make phone calls to follow up on incidents which happen in school to parents.*
4. *When making such an appointment, parents must recognize that the school is a busy place and the principal is not available to meet parents immediately. However, the appointment will be made for the next available possible time. There are times reserved in the principal's day for such meetings.*
5. *This is to facilitate parents not having to come more than twice in any given day to the school. There is also time for the school to investigate the incident and respond to same. Therefore, again, reducing the number of meetings necessary to get the incident resolved in the appropriate manner.*

Points 4 and 5 also apply to teachers and appointments can be requested through the child's homework journal or class Dojo.

Board of Management

Following the completion of the transfer of patronage to the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB), the school's new Board of Management (BOM) took charge of the school in October this year.

The board is made up of two representatives from the DDLETB, two representatives from the parents, two representatives from the teachers and two representatives from the community.

The members of the board are: Cllr Grainne Maguire (chairperson—DDLETB), our principal Deirdre Corcoran (secretary—staff), Alan Weston (staff), Mairín Brady (parent), Jonathan Hoey (parent), Tom Reilly (community) and Paul Barnett (community).

Items for consideration on the BOM agenda must be submitted seven days before a BOM meeting. Dates for meetings are on the school website.

Chairperson Grainne Maguire is excited to take on her new role on the board and is looking forward to the many exciting developments in the school in the weeks, months and years ahead.

We will have more from the board in our next newsletter.

Up the Dubs!

"We are the champions," sang the children, as Dublin player Evan Comerford entered the school hall with the Sam Maguire Cup on Friday, December 1st.

All the children cheered and waved their Dublin flags and gave a huge welcome to Evan and Sam!

Evan told us about life as a Dublin football player, what it was like to be part of the All-Ireland winning panel and how it all began for him as a GAA player in primary school.

The children asked some great questions too. What a great day! Up the Dubs!



Pictures from the visit of Dublin player Evan Comerford with the Sam Maguire Cup.

