

**Gortaleam National School**  
**Dunmore,**  
**Tuam,**  
**Co.Galway**  
**Roll Number: 18686N**  
**Gortnaleam Family Newsletter March 25th 2022**

**News Updates**

- School Open day: April 5<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am and 4pm-6pm. We are currently accepting enrolments at all class levels. The purpose of the open day is to provide an opportunity for families in the area to visit the school. Brochures will be provided to every family in the school next week to advertise this open day/evening to parents of children of school-going age in the near future. We would hugely appreciate any support parents can give in promoting our school.

-Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> class who made their First Confession on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. Thank you to Ms. Kearney and Fr. Fergal for their work in preparing the children.

-Spring has arrived! The children planted onions and potatoes in the school garden this week with the assistance of Helen Long. See photos on Facebook.

-See page 10 of this week's Tuam Herald for a report on the retirement get together for Mr. Hussey and Ms. Comer-Dolan.

**Junior Room Update**

The Junior Room have been learning about the Titanic recently. They have been completing a project on this too. They have been reading the novel "Mr. Skip" by Michael Morpurgo. Take some time at home to discuss these topics.

The school is working towards achieving an Active Flag. The children in the Junior Room are running laps of our school yard each day. They are adding up their running distance to reach different destinations around Ireland.

They really enjoyed planting potatoes and onions earlier this week.

**Senior Room Update**

The Senior Room have been busy familiarising themselves with the School iPads this month. They have been researching the countries of South America. They have produced projects on the country of their choice using resources and information from NatGeoKids.com and Kids Britannica. Each child has also been given a Minecraft Education account. They have been learning about the different features on this app and we have some creative projects in mind for later in the year.

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class have been reading the novel Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne. 6<sup>th</sup> class are reading "There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom" by Louis Sachar.

*Please Turn Over*

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**Principal: Conor Burke**

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**Upcoming events for your calendar**

**Rugby:** The children of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class are playing in a Tag Rugby tournament with children from Ballinlass NS on Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup>. It takes place from 10:30-2pm in Dunmore Rugby club. Thank you to Niall Doherty for the time and dedication he has given to coaching the children in our school.

**Gaelic Football:** Training is beginning after our Easter Break. A coach employed by Galway GAA will be coaching children from the Junior room once a week. I will be coaching children from the Senior room. We are also entered in a Cumann na mBunscoil tournament for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class. We may play with Ballinlass in these games.

**Hurling:** It is my intention to introduce hurling to the children after the Easter break. I am on the lookout for helmets at the moment. Any help in this regard would be appreciated.

**Swimming:** Children from 2<sup>nd</sup> class-6<sup>th</sup> class will have swimming lessons in Coral Leisure Pool in Tuam after the Easter holidays. It is expected that this will take place for 6 weeks, beginning on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> and concluding on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment details will follow before our Easter holidays.

**School Open Day/Evening:** April 5<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am and 4pm-6pm.

**Easter Holidays:** Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>, finishing at 12pm. Return on Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Cash for Clothes:** They will be collecting used clothes from our school on May 10<sup>th</sup>. A reminder will be sent closer to the time. This is a good opportunity to donate winter clothes that children have grown out of.

**Summer Holidays:** Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>, finishing at 12pm.

**School Tours**

Junior Tour (Junior-2<sup>nd</sup> class) Friday May 20<sup>th</sup> Graune Pet Farm.

Senior Tour (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class) Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> Baysports Athlone.

More details will be provided closer to the time.

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for your kindness and support in my first month as principal here. I look forward to working closely with you all into the future. Thank you to everyone who has completed the Parents Survey this week. I would really appreciate if you could do this over the weekend if you had not yet had the opportunity to do so.

Kind Regards,

Conor Burke (scoilgort@gmail.com)

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