

Gortaleam National School
Dunmore,
Tuam,
Co. Galway
Roll Number: 18686N
Gortaleam Family Newsletter March 2023

Dates for your diary

March 31st: End of Term 2. School will finish at midday.

April 17th: Return from Easter Holidays

May 14th: First Holy Communion for 2nd class.

May 19th: Confirmation at midday in Garrafrauns Church for 5th and 6th class.

June 3rd: Senior School Tour to Baysports Athlone.

June 8th: Junior school tour to Turoe Pet Farm.

June 23rd: End of School Year.

August 30th: Beginning of school year 2023/24.

News

FAI Soccer Blitz: The Girls and Boys recently competed in the FAI 5 side soccer blitz in Shiven Rovers. Both sides really enjoyed the day. Our girls' team won 3 matches and got to the semi-finals before losing a tight game to Castleblakeney NS.

RDS Science Blast: The Senior Room had a great day at the RDS in Dublin displaying the results of their investigation into the different breeds of dairy cattle and the quality and quantity of the milk they produce.

SNA extension of hours: Helen Long is now working in our school for the full school day following a review of our Special Needs Assistant allocation. We are delighted to have her expertise in our school.

Seachtain na Gaeilge Activities: The children engaged in a word hunt around the school on March 16th. It was great to hear the children use their cúpla focal in school.

Website: Our school website can be found online at gortaleamns.ie. Thanks to James Beattie from OTT Marketing in Dunmore for its designing. This will be updated once a term. Follow our Facebook for more regular updates. School policies are available on the website.

Mother and Toddler Group: We are currently considering setting up a Mother and Toddler group in our school for one morning a week for parents and their toddlers in the area for a social outlet. More to come on this after the break but you could mention this to any young families in the local area.

Buddy reading/activities: Our Senior Room and Junior Room now come together once a week to read and play together. The children are enjoying this time together and learning from each other.

Fred the party performer: Fred visited our school last Friday and performed some impressive magic tricks and sang some songs for the children.

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Cycling lessons: This week, the senior room have completed two days of Road Safety cycling lessons in Ballinlass NS.

GAA Coaching: The children from 3rd-6th will begin GAA training in the final term-Gaelic football and some hurling. A coach employed by GAA will also be training the children in Gaelic Football for 6 weeks in Term 3. If your child is interested in hurling they should have their own hurl. The school hopes to provide helmets.

Playground: We are making some additions to our Playground in the coming weeks and months.

Gardening: It is that time of the year again where we are busy working on our garden. We hope to plant onions, potatoes, carrots, sunflowers, wildflowers, peas, broccoli, pumpkins and parsnips in the coming months.

Glenamaddy Talent Show: Glenamaddy Musical Society is hosting a non-competitive Talent show for local schools on April 29th at 7:30pm. We are sending one act from our school to perform in this event. This will be decided on after the Easter break.

After School Activities: The children have been having great fun in After School recently. They have made dream boards, worked in the garden, played sports, built Minecraft worlds on the iPads, baking, clay constructions, and made Easter baskets. Thank you to all parents who are availing of the service provided in the Before and After School Club. Thank you to Helen also for her work with the children. A reminder than the NCS provides grants to families to fund their use of before and after school services. Google search "NCS Subsidy calculator" for more information.

Fundraiser: Our Parents Association are considering many different ideas for a fundraiser/promotional opportunity for our school in Term 3. If you have any ideas please get in touch with the school or Kathryn Comer (chairperson of Parents Association)

Toy Sale and Cake Sale: One possible option is having a second-hand toy/book sale and cake sale in the school on an afternoon/weekend in early May. This has been provisionally booked in for Sunday, May 7th. If you have any toys at home that you would like to give away it may be worth getting them together over the Easter break. We will be in touch regarding this after Easter.

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your work with your child in the past few months. As you can see school has been very busy over the last couple of months. It is hard to believe that we are our last week of Term 2. The children will have a well-deserved break over Easter. We have a busy last term ahead of us.

If you wish to have a meeting or phone conversation with a teacher please request in advance via text or email. As always, if you have any questions, recommendations or concerns about any matters please get in touch.

We wish you all an enjoyable Easter break.

Regards,

Conor Burke

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