

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

Dates for your diary

May 24th: Boys Cumann na mBunscoil Football blitz

May 26th: Senior School Tour to Baysports Athlone. Leaving school at 8:15am. Returning around 3pm.

May 30th: Ladies football county final in Loughgeorge, time and opponent to be confirmed.

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

June 16th: Sports day. Time to be confirmed.

June 17th: School reports sent to parents.

June 20th: 6th class Graduation and concert with Mary Jo Fitzpatrick. Time to be confirmed. Most likely to be between 1:30pm-3pm. All parents welcome.

June 23rd: End of School Year.

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

News

Ladies Football: Our combined Gortaleam/Ballinlass 7 a side Gaelic football team had a successful day out in the opening rounds of the Cumann na mBunscoil competition winning both their games and qualifying for the county final on May 30th in Loughgeorge. It is our intention that all pupils will go together by bus to support the team next week.

Hurling: Gortaleam fielded a team in the 5 a side Cumann na mBunscoil blitz last week. The children have been training once a week over the last few weeks. It was a great opportunity for them to learn how to play one of our native games. Despite losing both their games they gave their best effort in last week's competition

Gardening: Helen and the children have been working hard in preparing our garden beds for the summer. They have planted many vegetables and wildflowers. The children will continue to maintain the garden in the coming weeks before the summer holidays. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour.

Fish Tank: A new fish tank is located in the foyer of the school. Thanks to the Rushe family for its donation and construction. The children enjoy feeding the fish twice a day.

Music: Mary-Jo Fitzpatrick has continued music lessons and the children are continuing to make good progress each week. There are 4 lessons remaining and the graduation/summer concert event in our final week.

Playground: The children have really enjoyed playing on the new climbing frame. The two classrooms take turns using it every day.

Fundraiser: Our recent Toy and Cake sale fundraiser was very successful. The school raised close to 500 euro. Far exceeding what would have been expected. Great credit is due to the Parent Association who helped on the day and to all families who donated or contributed in any way to the event. We are open to suggestions on what this should be invested in. Due to the prices of bus transport on tours and other school events we decided to put a 5 euro subsidy for all children on all school tours from this fund.

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Bus service: As you would have read last week. Bus Éireann are willing to include our school on their bus route to and from Dunmore in the future. This is an important selling point for our school and it would be great for it be utilised in the future. Children living on the Glenamaddy/Williamstown side of our school are also encouraged to express interest as routes can be changed if interest exists. Get in touch if you are interested.

Sacraments: Congratulations to our 2nd class who made the First Holy Communion recently and to their teacher Ms. Harte. Congratulations to our 5th and 6th class who made their confirmation last Friday in Garrafrauns Church. The intention is that the next Confirmation will be held in Kiltevena Church in 2025.

Outstanding Payments: If your family have any outstanding payments to make on Books, Music, BAS, school tours etc., ideally all payments would be paid by June 17th. We will let you know in the coming weeks if any payments are due from your family. We are always willing to work with you if you need more time but we'd emphasise the need to communicate this to us and it will be easier to manage.

Parent survey: Thank you to all parents for completing the school review survey. We appreciate you taking this time and we will consider all suggestions. The majority of parents are happy for the children to have the choice of wearing the tracksuit or formal uniform and we are in agreement with this. The majority of parents are happy for online payments to come into effect in the school next year. This would help prevent the risk of having cash in our school and hopefully make life easier for families.

Senior Room News: Between all of the events listed above it has been a hectic but enjoyable couple of months. We are working through the remaining parts of the curriculum also. In English our 5th and 6th class are reading the novel "1000 Year Old Boy" and 4th class are reading "Holes." In History we have been learning about the 1916 Rising. In Geography who have been discovering and researching various famous Heritage sites around the world. We are all looking forward to our remaining GAA matches and our school tour.

Junior Room News: The Junior Room children have been busy helping Helen with our school garden planting out our seedlings. In S.E.S.E. the Junior and Senior Infants are learning all about the theme of 'Homes' and 2nd and 3rd classes have been learning all about the importance of 'Air'. In Maths the Junior Infants are learning all about 'Money', Senior Infant is starting with 'Capacity', 2nd class have just finished 'Time' and 3rd class are busy with 'Division'. We are all looking forward to our school tour to Turoe Pet Farm next month.

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your work with your child in the past few months. It is hard to believe we have 5 weeks of school left. Those weeks will consist of plenty of outdoor activities, completing academic programmes in the classroom, end of year testing, sports day, graduation and school tours. Despite these events we will do our best to keep to routine as much as possible up to our final day.

We hope to see you all at some stage at one of the events listed above over the next few weeks before the school year comes to an end on June 23rd. Please get in touch if there are any concerns or questions about end of year activities or the next school year. Thanks again for all your support so far this year.

Regards,

Conor Burke

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