

Scoil Naofa Iosaif  
Bothair an Chlochair  
Cinn Mhara  
Co. Na Gaillimhe

H91 X673



St. Josephs NS  
Convent Road  
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Dear Parents, Guardians,

As we move into November, I'm delighted to share the highlights from what has been a truly wonderful autumn at Scoil Iosaif Naofa. Our students, with their exemplary behaviour, and our hardworking, dedicated staff make this school an inspiring place to be. From engaging in a variety of extracurricular activities to showing enthusiasm for learning, every day brings something special.

Here's a glimpse of what's been happening and what's coming up as we wrap up this term:

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## Building a School Identity Through Gaeilge

This year, as part of our **School Self-Evaluation (SSE)**, we are focusing on **Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiúil** (Informal Irish). This initiative aims to make the Irish language a natural part of school life, helping to build our unique school identity and celebrate our cultural heritage.

### Here's what's been happening so far:

- **Daily Use of Gaeilge:** Our staff are integrating Irish into informal interactions and daily routines, from morning greetings to casual conversations.
- **Language-Rich Environment:** We've introduced bilingual signage, and students are leading small language activities to practice Irish throughout the day.
- **Extracurricular Gaeilge:** Sports, arts, and other activities are incorporating Gaeilge, boosting students' confidence and making the language fun and approachable.

I am thrilled to see the positive feedback from parents and the growing enthusiasm from students. They are truly embracing Irish as part of their daily lives, and it's having a noticeable impact on school spirit and engagement.

## Spotlight on Our Active School's Committee

At Scoil Iosaif Naofa, we're passionate about keeping our students active, healthy, and engaged in physical activity—and our **Active School's Committee** is leading the charge! This dedicated group, made up of teachers, and student representatives, is focused on making fitness a fun and natural part of our daily school life.

The goal of the Active School's Committee is simple: to inspire and motivate every child to stay active in ways they genuinely enjoy. We believe that physical activity is key to both physical and mental well-being, and we're committed to making fitness something our students look forward to each day. Here are just a few of the initiatives they've launched and the exciting plans on the horizon:

**Morning Movement Sessions:** To start the day with energy, we've continued a quick fun run movement routine for all classes. Whether it's dancing, stretching, or simple exercises, these sessions get our students energised and ready to learn.

**Active School Flag:** We are currently working toward renewing the **Active School Flag** accreditation, which recognises schools that promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. The committee is actively engaging students in the process, making it a school-wide effort that we can all be proud of.

### **Why We're Committed to Active Fun**

The Active School's Committee believes that making physical activity enjoyable builds lifelong healthy habits. Our focus on "active fun" means that each initiative and activity is tailored to create positive experiences around movement, whether through games, friendly competitions, or simply the joy of moving with friends.

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## **September & October Highlights**

I'd like to acknowledge some of the fantastic events and activities from the past two months, where our students have shown such energy, talent, and dedication:

- **Cross Country Events** (24th Sept & 1st Oct): Students participated in two meets with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship.
  - **Library Visit** (11th Sept): Classes visited the county library, engaging in literacy programs and exploring Irish-language materials.
  - **Gort Community School Hurling & Camogie Blitz** (18th Sept): Our 5th and 6th classes participated, and we integrated Gaeilge into the coaching.
  - **Mini 7's INTO Competitions:** Both the girls' (25th Sept) and boys' (30th Sept) football teams represented our school wonderfully, using Irish phrases to encourage each other along the way.
  - **Creative Drama Workshop** (Sept-Oct): Our 3rd and 4th classes enjoyed drama workshops, adding an Irish language twist that encouraged creative expression.
  - **Grandparents' Day** (7th Oct): A heart-warming celebration where Junior and Senior Infants shared Irish songs and phrases with their grandparents.
  - **EU Code & Maths Week** (14th - 18th Oct): Students participated in engaging coding and math activities, with some Irish terms woven into the lessons.
  - **Halloween Dress-Up for Charity** (25th Oct): Students had a fantastic time dressing up and raised funds for Temple Street and Crumlin hospitals, showing how fun and generosity go hand in hand.
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## November Initiatives and What's Ahead

This month, we have some exciting initiatives lined up:

- **Food Dudes Programme:** This programme promotes healthy eating habits, and we're integrating Irish where possible to add to the language learning experience.
- **Seamount College Musical (7th Nov):** Students from 3rd to 6th classes attended Whizz Musical, bringing a dose of culture and creativity to their month. It was lovely to see so many of our past pupils taking to the stage. Maith sibh! (Well done).
- **Parents Association Meeting (12th Nov):** We'll discuss holiday events and additional ways to support the SSE and other school initiatives.

Our school's orchestra continues to grow as well, with talented students joining every month. We're always looking for new members—if your child is interested in music, please encourage them to speak to their teacher about joining this wonderful group.

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## Special Thanks to Staff and Parents

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated staff, whose commitment makes each event, lesson, and activity truly impactful for our students. I also want to thank our parents for the ongoing support, especially regarding the SSE focus on Gaeilge. Your encouragement helps us build a school community that is rich in both learning and cultural pride.

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## Closing Remarks

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributes to the vibrant, welcoming, and inspiring environment here at Scoil Iosaif Naofa. The spirit of collaboration and community is alive in our classrooms, on the playground, and at every event. I look forward to seeing the continued growth and achievements of our students as we head toward the end of this term.

Thank you for your support, and as always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or feedback.

Le gach dea-ghuí (With every good wish),

**Dominic Gallagher**

**Príomhoide**

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