

## October Newsletter

**N.B. School Closure:** The school will be closed on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The teachers will be attending a whole-school professional development course for the new Primary Language Curriculum/ Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile. Please note this closure is not in your school calendar.

The new Primary Language Curriculum is being introduced on a phased basis. It's an integrated curriculum which means it has the same structure for both English and Irish:

- Oral Language      Teanga ó Bhéal
- Reading              Leitheoireacht
- Writing                Scríbhneoireacht

The following is the timeframe for its introduction:

2016/17	Infants to 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oral language/ Teanga ó Bhéal will begin to be implemented
2017/18	Infants to 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reading/ Leitheoireacht and Writing/ Scríbhneoireacht will begin to be implemented
2018/19	Infants to 2 <sup>nd</sup>	From Sept 2018 here will be full implementation
2019/20	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup>	Implementation for 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> classes begins

### ENROLMENT 2017



**We are currently enrolling for September 2017. If you have a child who is eligible please contact the office with relevant details by October 28<sup>th</sup>. Because the available space in the building is limited, we need to know the numbers for next year in advance so we can plan ahead. Also, if you are aware of a child who hasn't siblings in the school already, perhaps you would let the family know. We appreciate your co-operation in this important matter.**

### MATHS WEEK IRELAND 2016



Maths Week Ireland takes place from Oct 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. Your child will be engaged in various Maths activities throughout the week. You can get involved too by playing maths games with your children. You will find lots of tips and resources at [www.ncca.ie/parents](http://www.ncca.ie/parents). You can also log on to [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) for free maths activities or check our website for links to great maths websites in the Gamezone.

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM



**This will take place on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the school hall.** The Parents' Association has a very important role to play in the life of Gowran National School. Occasions like our Sports Day, the 6<sup>th</sup> class Farewell Night, the new infants Parent's Day and many others are greatly enhanced by the contribution of volunteer parents. Fundraising is also important to provide much needed funds for the upkeep and development of facilities in the school. Manpower is needed to keep the association running and the current committee invites new members or volunteers. If you think you could help out in any way, please come along. Any help – long or short term - would be appreciated.

The PA of Grennan College has organised a talk called, "**Parenting – The Challenges and the Rewards**", at 7.30pm on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>. The speaker is **John Lonergan**, former governor of Mountjoy jail who is renowned for his thought provoking, yet practical advice and is well worth hearing. This is suitable for parents of children of all ages.

**SCHOOL POLICY** The Board of Management has recently ratified a new policy on the division of classes. This is available on the school website in the Policies section.



**RECORDER** We extend a warm welcome to our new recorder teacher Mr. Tommy Grace who has taken over from Margaret O' Faoláin. A sincere thank you to Margaret for her dedication and for sharing her expertise with us over many years.

#### **EARLY COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS**

Reminder: If you are collecting children early for any reason e.g. a dental appointment, please call to the office and sign them out before calling to the classroom. (This will not apply to pupils leaving early on match days.)

**CRUMLIN HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER** A huge thank you to all who contributed so generously to the recent No Uniform Day. €950 was raised for this very worthy cause.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FUNDRAISER** The children have been busy designing individual cards for Christmas. A printed sample will be returned to each child to bring home, along with information about ordering packs of cards for Christmas. Please note that while most pupils are participating, there will be no obligation whatsoever to buy.



**HOPE FOUNDATION** Leaflets from the Hope Foundation inviting participation in the Shoe Box Appeal are currently being distributed. This project aims to give needy children in war-torn countries a shoe box of presents for Christmas. The boxes need to be

returned by Monday, Nov 9th at the latest. See [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie) for further details.



#### **HEADLICE**

Unfortunately, the appearance of headlice has been reported in some classes. In order to minimise the spread of these, we ask your co-operation in checking your child's hair immediately and treat if necessary.



#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Parents' Association AGM

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Parents' Association Hallowe'en Cake Sale + clothes recycling collection

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> – Nov 5<sup>th</sup> Midterm Break

November 10<sup>th</sup> New Language Curriculum training – school closed

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> Parent Teacher Meetings – 3.15 pm



**FINALLY, CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YOUNG IRELANDS ' JUNIOR CAMOGIE TEAM ON THEIR IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY IN WINNING THE JUNIOR COUNTY FINAL RECENTLY. WELL DONE TO ALL OUR PAST PUPILS WHO WERE INVOLVED!**