



16th January 2023



NUACHT NA CROISE NAOFA

Catholic Schools Week 2023

This year, Catholic Schools Week will take place from the 23rd - 29th January (next week). The theme of this year's Catholic Schools week will be "Walking Together in Faith and Love".

All classes will be doing special lessons throughout the week. As always, the highlight of the week will be Grandparents Day which, as mentioned in last week's Nuachtlitir, will take place on Friday 27th January. We will be attending Mass as a school at 10:30 and we invite Grandparents of children from Junior Infants to Rang 2 to join us in the halla after Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Afterwards they will have an opportunity to visit the classrooms and say hello! It promises to be a wonderful day.



PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Thanks to the generosity of one of our parents, our fantastic school library has some new comfy additions! The new beanbags and seating are being enjoyed by Ms. Rainey's Rang 2 here!



School Attendance Returns

The twice annual 'School Attendance Returns' are due and so I would like to take the opportunity to explain how the process works.

Attendance is recorded daily by the class teacher on our online roll books via Aladdin. The roll is taken at 9:50am each morning by the class teachers. If your child is absent, please enter reason for absences on the Aladdin system. You can also view the days your child has been absent on the Aladdin app.

There are two ways in which schools report attendances to TUSLA, the child and family agency.

1. School Attendance Reports

There are two reporting periods in the year, September to December and January to June. We submit the school attendance returns now for September to December and again in June.

On this form we are required to list any pupils, over the age of 6, who have missed 20 school days for any reason. As per the school's Attendance Policy, when a child misses 15 days of school, a letter will be sent via Aladdin to remind them of the days missed and to inform them of the necessity to inform Tusla should the number of days exceed 19 days. Explained absences, due to illness etc., are not a cause for concern and shouldn't cause any worry at all. While attendance is hugely important and good attendance correlates strongly with improved outcomes, there are also very valid reasons for children to miss school and this is understood.

It is rare that these reports lead to any follow up, unless it was significantly more days missed, but it is possible. If it is followed up, the Education Welfare Officer will ask if the absences were explained. A large number of unexplained absences may lead to further involvement from the Education Welfare Officer.

2. Discretionary Referrals

Discretionary referrals are made where a school is worried about the attendance of a pupil. This might be due to a lot of unexplained absences, a pattern of absence, significant ongoing issues with punctuality leading to a lot of missed learning time etc. A school will refer a child to the Education Welfare Officer where they have these concerns. The role of the Education Welfare Officer is primarily to offer support to families to improve attendance.

The school will always contact parents before referring to the Education Welfare Officer and support where possible.

Key things to note

- The aim of attendance and punctuality procedures are to ensure the child gets the best experience of education and maximises learning time.
- There is no need for concern if you get a letter following 15 days of absences. This letter is to inform you of days missed and also to inform you of our requirement to include your child on our bi-annual report should the number of days missed exceed 19.
- Be sure to enter your absence reason on Aladdin each time your child is absent, to keep that on record.
- Aim to have your child in school for 8.50am each day. We understand this isn't always possible, and understanding is always there for extenuating circumstances. Please get in contact with the office or your class teacher if there is an ongoing issue.

Friends for Life

As you know, since last year the Friends for Life Resilience programme has been running in the school.

Friends for Life aims to promote wellbeing, emotional intelligence and resilience within students. The children really enjoy the programme and it has been very successful thus far. Our wonderful teachers who have been so giving of their time to be trained in delivering this programme deserve great credit.

This month the Friends for Life programme will continue in Rang 1, Rang 3 & Rang 5. We would encourage parents to talk to your child about the topics covered in these lessons at home.

