



School Newsletter #26 2026

Wednesday 18th of March 2026

School Information



School email : info@scoiliosaoranmore.ie

School phone number campus 1 or campus 2: 091790312

Principal: Maeve Meenaghan

Deputy Principal: Ber Keane

Child safeguarding DLP : Maeve Meenaghan

Dates to Remember

Term 3 Begins: Monday 13th of April

Bank Holiday: Monday 4th of May

School Closure: Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th of May

School Closure: Tuesday 19th of May (staff will be participating in training on the redeveloped primary curriculum with Oide)

Bank Holiday: Monday 1st of June

Staff Meeting: Friday 12th of June - (School closes at 12pm)

Summer Holidays: Thursday 25th of June at 12pm

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

St. Patrick's Day Parade

We are delighted to share that our students were absolutely outstanding at the Scoil Íosa school parade yesterday. Their behaviour, enthusiasm and representation of our school community filled us with immense pride.

Thank you for your support in preparing the students and fostering the positive spirit that shone through on the day.

A huge thank you to Bank Lead Ruth Mc Donagh and all of their supporting band teachers who have put in trojan work over the last few weeks and months to prepare for St Patrick's Day.



Down Syndrome Awareness Day

To mark Down Syndrome Awareness Day, we will be celebrating by wearing bright or odd socks in school.

Children are invited to wear colourful or mismatched socks to celebrate uniqueness, inclusion and diversity. We will also be asking for a €2 contribution, which will go to Down Syndrome Galway to support the important work they do.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Loneliness for People with Down Syndrome." We will share some resources and ideas for classroom discussions to help explore Down syndrome and the

issue of loneliness experienced by people with Down syndrome and the wider disabled community.



UNDERSTANDING STANDARDISED TESTS IN IRISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS



As you may be aware, primary schools are implementing a revised Primary Mathematics Curriculum. Scoil Íosa have embraced this revised math's curriculum and are currently implementing some whole class practices that your child may have shared with you.

We want to keep you informed about an important transition period that may affect standardised testing.

- The new curriculum emphasises deep understanding, problem-solving and mathematical reasoning rather than rote learning and procedural drilling
- Current standardised tests were designed for the previous curriculum approach and do not yet reflect these new teaching methods
- The mathematical content remains largely similar – it is *how* children learn that has changed
- Your child is developing stronger conceptual understanding and flexible thinking skills
- Standardised test results during this transition may not fully capture this deeper learning
- We are prioritising long-term mathematical competence over short-term test performance
- The new approach better prepares students for post-primary mathematics and real-world problem-solving
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We continue to monitor progress through classroom assessment and remain confident this curriculum shift benefits your child's mathematical development. We welcome any questions you may have.

Standardised Testing - Term 3

**** In term 3 we will be administering Standardised tests in school- Spelling, Literacy and Numeracy Standardised tests are assessments conducted annually in Irish primary schools to measure a student's performance against predetermined standards. While they provide valuable insights into a student's academic progress, it's essential to understand their limitations. These tests are just one snapshot of a student's abilities, representing their performance on a specific day. Overall results are reported to the Department of Education in 2nd, 4th, and 6th class for statistical purposes and to inform special education teaching allocation. We also use them internally as one source of information when we are allocating our support teaching.

Below you will find the dates for the Standardized tests:

Tuesday 12th of May: Drumcondra Spellings - 1st to 6th classes

Thursday 14th of May: Drumcondra Literacy - 1st to 6th classes

Thursday 21st of May: Drumcondra Numeracy - 1st - to 6th classes (except 2nd classes)

Wednesday 27th of May: Drumcondra Numeracy - 2nd class

The tests are structured in a way that each child will sit and work completely independently. The teacher will not be able to answer questions. Parents play a vital role in supporting their children through these assessments. Reassuring your child before and after the tests, if needed, is essential. Let them know that these tests are nothing to worry about and are simply tools to help their teacher understand how to teach them best. Creating a positive and stress-free environment around testing can help children approach these assessments with confidence and ease. It's crucial to emphasise that standardised tests are not comprehensive assessments of a child's knowledge or strengths. They provide important but limited information, and it's essential to consider a child's overall progress and abilities beyond these tests. By understanding the purpose and limitations of standardised tests, parents can help their children succeed academically and foster a positive attitude towards learning.

Please see a further explainer from NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and assessment) in the link below:

https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

reader

ncca.ie

First Confession

Well done to all the pupils who made their First Confession last Thursday.



Comhghairdeas!

Comhghairdeas do na daltaí i Rang a Sé Ms. O' Driscoll a fuair ainmniúcháin chuig an bhFéile Náisiúnta Scoldramáíochta lena ndráma "**Aladdin**". Bhí siad ar fheabhas ó thaobh a gcumas Gaeilge, a gcuid iompair agus ó thaobh aisteoireachta. Bhí an mholtóir antógtha le caighdeán an Ghaeilge agus thug sé ard-mholadh dóibh. Tá na haisteoirí óga ag súil leis an gcomórtas náisiúnta i Muileann gCearr i mí Aibreáin. Maith sibh!

Congratulations to the pupils in Ms. O'Driscoll's Sixth Class who received nominations for the Féile with their drama "Aladdin". They were praised for their ability, their behaviour and acting. The adjudicator was very impressed with the standard of Irish and gave them high praise. The young actors are looking forward to the national competition in Mullingar in April. Well done!



Comhghairdeas le Donncha McKernan ó Rang a Sè as gradam don **Aisteoir Is Fearr** a bhuanach ag an bhFéile Scoldramáíochta Chonnacht in Indreabhán le déanaí. Bronnadh a thrófaí air ag an bPríomhoide Maeve Meenaghan agus an múinteoir ranga Ruth O' Driscoll. Éacht iontach, a Dhonnacha, ó thaobh aisteoireachta agus do chumas Gaeilge. Bhí tú ar fheabhas!

Congratulations to Donncha McKernan for winning the award for Best Actor at the Connacht Schools Feile Dramaíocht. His trophy was presented to him by Principal Maeve Meenaghan and



teacher Ruth O Driscoll. Excellent work, Donnacha, in terms of acting and your ability . Keep up the great work!

Student Council

Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council members. These students presented their manifestos to their class and we are very proud of the effort they put into their speeches and the respectful way the classes participated in the election process. Being chosen as a Student Council representative is a wonderful achievement and an important responsibility. We look forward to seeing the positive changes you will help create for the whole school community. Well done and best of luck in your new role!



Webinar

Join Us! FREE EVENTS FOR FAMILIES. Digital Health & Coding Online Talks

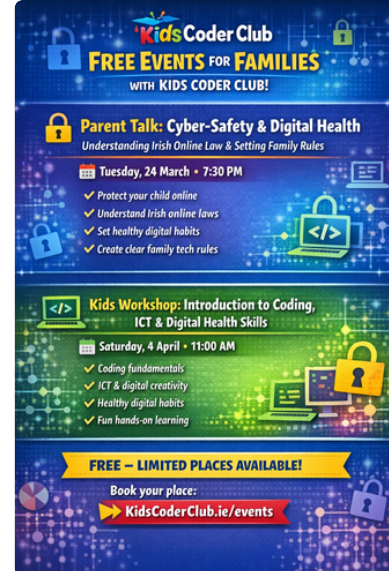
Tuesday 24th of March Parent – Cyber-Safety & Digital Health Talk

– Understanding Irish Online Law & Setting Family Rules!

&

4th of April - Introduction to Coding, ICT and Digital Health Skills

Book your place at <https://kidscoderclub.ie/events/>



KidsCoderClub
FREE EVENTS FOR FAMILIES
WITH KIDS CODER CLUB!

Parent Talk: Cyber-Safety & Digital Health
Understanding Irish Online Law & Setting Family Rules
Tuesday, 24 March • 7:30 PM

- ✓ Protect your child online
- ✓ Understand Irish online laws
- ✓ Set healthy digital habits
- ✓ Create clear family tech rules

Kids Workshop: Introduction to Coding, ICT & Digital Health Skills
Saturday, 4 April • 11:00 AM

- ✓ Coding fundamentals
- ✓ ICT & digital creativity
- ✓ Healthy digital habits
- ✓ Fun hands-on learning

FREE – LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE!
Book your place:
KidsCoderClub.ie/events

Easter Camps



Please see information in links below:

Easter Coastal Art:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Q95CgIG5F4HhI908Fro0b5JNAt3uoFG7M98XVHRwyE/edit?tab=t.0>

Easter Lego Camp:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13kM83U9InQJhL1iM3jLDZhKCncyzcgbtZ_ZsKL-uMyM/edit?usp=drive_web&ouid=115047867263971064227

Under Age Football

Please see information in the link below for under age football:

GAA Academies

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-DeVI84oHOMoknouc0qT7H1pYY-pgy2D0gHiti-2atE/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.2ewjf1uq|x5k>

Under 6 football- boys

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G-4mu8vsuadTXSoDHT1rYmyJWS6hySD418h17QfWSqI/edit?tab=t.0>

Under 7 football - boys

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Sr8Nto6hS7jjTyhlgSbRiBtGTOL_GribEKuQsrYG0Yo/edit?tab=t.0

Under 6 Football - girls:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/14NYWHISlupwFT0KB6-HjSOqHroAx8whRXJ_lvcNwB3s/edit?tab=t.0





Scoil Íosa