Cothú agus saibhriú gach páiste, trí mheán na Gaeilge, chun barr a gcumas a bhaint amach

Scéal Oilibhéir

Nuachtlitir 7-6-2019

Éide Scoile | *School Uniform*

Tá cead ag na páistí éadaí spóirt na scoile a chaitheamh gach lá anois. Tabhair faoi deara gur éadaí spóirt na scoile atá ceadaithe agus nach bhfuil cead geansaithe peile nó briste spóirt eile srl. a chaitheamh. Bí cinnte de le do thoil áfach go bhfuil uachtar gréine orthu, fiú mura bhfuil an ghrian ag taitneamh ar maidin.

Children may wear their school tracksuits from now on. Please note however that it is the school tracksuit that's permitted and that football jersies and different tracksuit bottoms etc. are not to be worn. Please do ensure however that they wear sun cream, even if the sun isn't shining in the morning.

Earraí Scoile 2019 -2020 | *School Supplies 2019-2020*

Beidh na leabharliostaí ullamh ar ball ach díreach chun réamhfhógra a thabhairt do dhaoine, beidh na hearraí scoile le híoc mar chuid de seo. **Ní síntiús deonach é seo**, is cuid den leabharliosta é. Íocann sé as costais cosúil le cóipeáil, árachas 24 uair a' chloig, trealamh ealaíne, srl. Beidh clúdach litreach bán ag dul abhaile roimh dheireadh na bliana agus is féidir é a chur ar ais aon uair roimh 14 Meán Fómhair. Tá na táillí thíos. Má tá deacracht ag éinne an costas seo a íoc, is féidir labhairt le hAntóin go ciúin faoi agus tiocfar ar shocrú.

€60 an páiste|*€60 a child* €120 do bheirt|*€120 for two children* €170 do thriúir nó níos mó|*€170 for three children or more*

The booklists will be ready shortly but just to give some advance notice, the payment of school supplies will be a part of this. ***This is not a voluntary contribution****, it is part of the booklist. It pays for expenses like photocopying, 24-hour insurance, art equipment, etc. A white envelope will go home before the end of the year and can be returned any time before the end of the year and can be returned until 14 September 2018. The fees are above. If anyone has any difficulties paying this cost, you can speak to Antóin in absolute confidence and we can come to an arrangement.*

Rang a Cúig ag dul ag campáil | Rang a Cúig *go camping*

Chuaigh Rang a Cúig go Cnoc na Learóige ag campáil aréir. D'fhoghlaim siad an-chuid agus bhain siad taitneamh as. B'í seo an chéad oíche as baile do chuid de na páistí agus ba cheart dóibh a bheith an-bhródúil astu féin. Gabhaimid buíochas le Múinteoirí Shane agus Anne-Marie as a gcuid ama a thabhairt suas le dul in éineacht leo.

Rang a Cúig *went camping last night in Larch Hill. They learned lots and really enjoyed themselves. This was the first night away from home for some of the children and they should be really proud of themselves. We're very thankful to* Múinteoirí Shane *and* Anne Marie *for giving up their free time to accompany them.*

Lá Spóirt | *Sports Day*

Beidh ár lá spóirt againn ar an Aoine 14 Meitheamh. Tosóidh na himeachtaí ar a 10:15 agus beidh fáilte roimh thuismitheoirí sa pháirc óna 12.30 ar aghaidh. Beidh nóta ag dul abhaile ag míniú faoin dath T-léine atá le caitheamh ag do pháiste. Táimid ag súil le go mór le hiarracht speisialta a fheiceáil i Rásanna na dTuismitheoirí. Rachaidh na páistí abhaile tar éis bhronnadh na mbonn, timpeall ar 13.30.

Our school sports day is on Friday 14 June. The events will start at 10:15 and parents are welcome to join us in the field from 12.30 onwards. There will be a note going home about the colour of T-shirt your child is asked to wear. We are hoping for a special effort in the Parents' Race! Children will go home after medal presentation c13.30

Éadaí Scoile Athláimhe| *Second Hand School Clothes*

Má tá aon chuid den éide scoile atá róbheag do do pháiste, má tá caoi mhaith orthu agus má tá tú sásta é a dheonadh ar Chumann na dTuismitheoirí, is féidir iad a fhágáil ar an stáitse aon lá an tseachtain seo chugainn ag tosú ar an Luan. Beidh siad á ndiol sa chlós ansin an tseachtain seo chugainn agus rachaidh an t-airgead chuig an gCumann.

If you have any pieces of the school uniform that your child has outgrown, if they are in good condition and if you are happy to donate it to Cumann na dTuismitheoirí*, you can leave it on the stage any day nexy week, starting Monday. They will be sold next week in the yard and the money will go towards the* Cumann.

runai.scoil.oilibheir@gmail.com cumann.na.dtuismitheoiri.so@gmail.com

Cothú agus saibhriú gach páiste, trí mheán na Gaeilge, chun barr a gcumas a bhaint amach

Spórt

Comhghairdeas ó chroí leis na páistí ar fad a bhí páirteach sna bliotsanna cispheile an tseachtain seo caite agus buíochas ollmhór le Múinteoirí Caitríona agus Conal as an obair ar fad leo.

Big congrats to all the chidlren who took part in basketball blitzes last week and huge thanks to Múinteoirí Caitríona and Conal for all their work..

Beárbaiciú Bliantúil | *Annual Barbecue*

Tá an Beárbaiciú Bliantúil á éagrú ag Cumann na dTuismitheoirí don Satharn seo 8 Meitheamh 14:00 – 18:00. An costas atá air ná €10 don duine fásta agus €20 don teaghlach. Níl cead ag páistí teacht leo féin – An duine fásta atá freagrach as sábháilteacht na bpáistí a thagann in éineacht leo. Beidh aíonna againn ó shuíomhanna oideachais eile lán-Ghaeilge sa cheantar agus beidh deis ag daoine, idir óg agus shean, úsáid a bhaint as a gcuid Gaeilge i dtimpeallacht thaitneamhach, (agus timpeallacht the le cead na haimsire!). Beidh ceol beo, Zú leictreach, draíodóir agus imeachtaí eile spraoi ann do na páistí agus má bheireann tú leat do chuid deochanna féin, do phluid agus do chuid earraí picnic, beidh togha an bhia agatsa! Bígí cinnte am dúnta Charrchlós na Mílaoise a sheiceáil!

The Annual Barbecue is being organised by Cumann na dTuismitheoirí *for this Saturday 8 June 14:00 – 18:00. The cost will be €10 per adut and €20 for a famiy group. Children may not attend unaccompanied – Children are the responsibility of the adult accompanying them. We will have guests from other all-Irish educational settings in the area and people, young and old, will have a chance to use their Irish in an enjoyable (and hopefully warm!) environment. We'll have live music, an Electric Zoo, a magician and other fun activities for the children and if you bring your own drinks, blankets and picnicware you'll have the best of food! Please remember to check the closing time for the Millenium Carrpark.*

Síntiús Deonach don Bhliain 2019 | *Voluntary Contribution for Calendar Year 2019*

Gach bliain bailímid síntiús deonach ó na teaghlaigh sa scoil. Is rud **DEONACH** é seo agus níl aon iachall ar éinne é a thabhairt. Ag an am céanna is rud an-tábhachtach é don scoil agus cabhraíonn sé ar an-chuid bealaí. Cuireann sé ar ár gcumas na himeachtaí breise ar fad a dhéanaimid a eagrú agus na rudaí buiséadacha aon uaire eisceachtúla i gcostas reatha na scoile a chlúdach. Seo thíos samplaí de chuid de na rudaí breise atá i gceist. Bíonn tuismitheoirí na scoile seo fial flaithiúil i gcónaí, lena gcuid ama, lena gcuid saineolais agus lena gcuid airgid. Is go hiomlán fút féin é an méid a thabharfaidh tú. Molaimid €50 an teaghlach ach glactar go buíoch le pé méid a oireann duit. Má tá sé ar do chumas €250 nó níos mó a thabhairt, tá sé de cheart ag an scoil airgead breise a fháil de bharr cúinsí cánacha. Má tá tú sásta síntiús deonach a dhéanamh, iarrtar ort an t-airgead a chur sa chlúdach litreach gorm atá imithe abhaile leis an bpáiste is sine. Iarrtar oraibh gach clúdach litreach a chur ar ais bíodh sé lán nó folamh. Coimeádfar síntiús gach éinne príobháideach. Tabhair faoi deara le do thoil, gur bailiúchán bliantúil é seo, do bhliain an fhéilire 2019. Cé go mbímis á bhailiú níos déanaí i mblianta eile, i dtreo an tsamhraidh, tá súil againn go mbeidh sé níos éasca do thuismitheoirí am seo na bliana ach beidh fáilte roimh an síntiús ag am ar bith sa bhliain.

* Céimeanna sábháilteachta| *Safety measures* * Ranganna Rince|*Dance Classes* * Costais spóirt|*Sporting Expenses*
* Costais taistil d'Imeachtaí Cultúrtha|*Travel Expenses for Cultural Events* * Trealamh spóirt|*Sporting Equipment*
* Ceardlanna|*Workshops* *Cóiriú an AED agus Oiliúint na Foirne |*Upkeep of Defib and Staff Training*
* Turasanna ar Draíocht|*Trips to* Draíocht *Oiliúint bhreise agus uas-sciliú na Foirne | *Extra training and upskilling for Staff*
* Infheistiú suntasach agus uasghrádú ar an TFC|*Significant ICT Upgrades and Investment* *App *Aladdin* | *Aladdin App*
* Rudaí agus trealamh don Ghairdín | *Items and equipment for garden*

*Every year we collect a voluntary contribution from each family in the school. This is **VOLUNTARY** and there is no obligation on anyone to give anything. At the same time, it is crucial for the school and helps in many, many ways. It allows us to organise those extra activities that we do and to cover the one off/exceptional budgetary items in running costs of the school. Above are some examples of the things in question. The parents of this school are always extremely generous – with their time, with their expertise and with their money. It is entirely up to yourself how much you'd like to contribute. We suggest €50 per family but we gratefully accept any figure that is suitable for you. If you are able to donate €250 or more, the school is entitled to claim extra money back due to tax arrangements. If you are happy to make a contribution, you are asked to enclose it in the blue envelope which has gone home with every eldest child. We ask that all envelopes are returned sealed whether they contain money or not. All contributions will be kept strictly confidential. Please note, this is an annual collection for the calendar year 2019. Although we previously collected it later in other years towards the summer holidays, we hope that it may be easier for parents to contribute it at this time of year but we will gratefeully accept this contribution at any time of year.*

Acmhainní Tacaíochta do Thuismitheoirí | *Support Resources for Parents*

Ár mbuíochas le Gaeloideachas, tá dhá acmhainn den scoth ar fáil do thuismitheoirí le tacú le Gaeilge sa bhaile. Féach an dá nasc thíos.

We're grateful to Gaeloideachas *for two brilliant resources for parents to support Gaeilge at home. Please see the links below.*

https://irishforparents.ie/
http://gaeloideachas.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/A5-booklet-11.pdf

Cothú agus saibhriú gach páiste, trí mheán na Gaeilge, chun barr a gcumas a bhaint amach

Dátaí don Dialann | *Dates for the Diary*

08-06-2019	Beárbaiciú Bliantúil | *Annual Barbecue*	Scoil 13:00-18:00
11-06-2019	Cuairt na Naíonán Nua | *New Infants visit*	Scoil
14-06-2019	Lá Spóirt na Scoile|*School Sports Day*	Páistí abhaile thart ar 13:30
26-06-2019	Oíche Ghradaim Rang a Sé|*Rang a Sé Graduation Night*	19:30 sa Scoil

Bord Bainistíochta Nua i Mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2019 | *New Board of Management October 2019*

Beidh tréimhse an Bhoird Bhainistíochta seo thart an Deireadh Fómhair seo chugainn. Tá ochtar ar an mBord:

(i) Beirt ainmnitheach dhíreacha de chuid an Phátrúin.

(ii) Beirt tuismitheoirí a thoghfar as measc thuismitheoirí na leanaí atá cláraithe agus a bhfuil tús curtha acu lena bhfreastal ar an scoil (duine amháin díobh ina máthair, an duine eile ina athair, arna dtoghadh ag comhlacht ginearálta thuismitheoirí na leanaí atá cláraithe agus a bhfuil tús curtha acu lena bhfreastal ar an scoil).

(iii) Príomhoide na scoile.

(iv) Múinteoir amháin eile ar seirbhís ar fhoireann na scoile, a thoghann an fhoireann teagaisc lena n-áirítear an Príomhoide.

(v) Beirt chomhaltaí breise a mholann na hainmnithigh sin thuas.

Déantar gnó an Bhoird trí mheán na Gaeilge. Buaileann an bord le chéile gach 4-6 seachtainí le linn na scoilbhliana agus bíonn cruinnithe fo-choiste ó am go chéile freisin. Bíonn an chuid is mó de chruinnithe Boird idir 19:30 agus 21:30. Ní toscairí a gcuid toghthóirí iad comhaltaí boird agus gníomhaíonn an Bord mar Aonán Corparáideach. Smaoinigh le do thoil ar tú fhéin a chur ar aghaidh, is ról an-tábhachtach é ina bhfuil, i measc rudaí eile, na gnéithe seo a leanas;

- Cinntiú go bhfuil an Scoil á rith go héifeachtach agus go sábháilte,
- Cinntiú go bhfui cúrsaí airgeadais i gceart,
- Polasaithe a fhorbairt a chothaíonn agus a chosnaíonn sainsprid, fís agus luachanna na scoile,
- Tacú le soláthar oideachais chun gach páiste a chothú agus a shaibhriú, trí mheán na Gaeilge, chun barr a gcumas a bhaint amach.

Tuilleadh eolais le fáil ag
https://www.education.ie/ga/Scoileanna-Col%C3%A1ist%C3%AD/Eolas/Boird-Bhainist%C3%ADochta/Lamhleabhar-Rialachais-do-Bhunscoileanna-2015-2019.pdf

The Board of Management:

The present Board's term will conclude next October. It comprises eight members:

(i) Two direct nominees of the Patron.

(ii) Two parents elected from parents of children who are enrolled and have commenced attendance at the school (one being a mother, the other a father, elected by the general body of parents of children who are enrolled and have commenced attendance at the school).

(iii) The Principal teacher of the school.

(iv) One other serving teacher on the staff of the school, elected by vote of the teaching staff which includes the Principal teacher.

(v) Two extra members proposed by those nominees above

All of the Board's business is conducted through the medium of Irish. The Board meets every 4-6 weeks during the school year with occasional sub-committee meetings also. Most Board meetings are from 19:30 – 21:30. Board members are not delegates of their electorates and the Board acts as a Corporate Entity. Please think about putting yourself forward, it is an important role involving, amongst other things;

- *Ensuring that the school is run safely and effectively,*
- *Ensuring that the finances are in order,*
- *Developing polices that protect and promote the school's ethos, vision and values,*
- *Supporting the provision of an education that nurtures and enriches every child, through the medium of Irish, to achieve their potential.*

More information can be found at
https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Boards-of-Management/Governance-Manual-for-Primary-Schools-2015-2019.pdf

Turasanna Scoile | *School Tours*

Naíonáin Shóisearacha **Naíonáin Shinsearacha**	19.6.2019	Lullymore Farm	€20
Rang a hAon **Rang a Dó**	26.6.2019	Causey Farm	€20
Rang a Trí **Rang a Ceathair**	26.6.2019	Clara Lara ***Sa bhaile ar 16:00 *Not home until 16:00*	€25

runai.scoil.oilibheir@gmail.com cumann.na.dtuismitheoiri.so@gmail.com

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Scoil Oilibhéir

An Chúil Mhín
Cluain Saileach
Baile Átha Cliath 15
D15 PX99

Príomhoide: Antóin Ó Cléirigh

Príomhoide Tánaisteach: Lára Ní Riain

6.6.2019

Trialacha Caighdeánaithe agus Torthaí

A Chairde,

Bhíomar ag déanamh na dtrialacha seo le linn na Bealtaine, ó Rang a hAon go Rang a Sé, i léitheoireacht **an Bhéarla, sa Ghaeilge agus san Uimhearthacht.**

Do na páistí i Rang a Dó, Rang a Ceathair agus Rang a Sé, éilíonn an ROS go ndéantar na torthaí seo a thuairisciú do na tuistí agus cé nach gá dúinn, i Scoil Oilibhéir, le fada an lá anois, taímid ag tuairisciú na dtorthaí seo do gach rang. Rinneadh é seo tríd an gCárta Tuairisce Bliantúil ach i mbliana beidh na torthaí seo ag dul abhaile sna tuairiscí tríd *Aladdin Connect* agus tá sé tábhachtach go bhfuil na sonraí cearta againn dó seo.

Trialacha Nua in 2019

Ar an-chuid bealaí, tá na trialacha caighdeánaithe an-simplí ach bíonn deacrachtaí ag tuismitheoirí uaireanta na torthaí a thuiscint. In Scoil Oilibhéir, úsáidimid na Trialacha Dhroim Conrach. Déantar iad seo a dhearadh san Fhoras Taighde ar Oideachas agus tagann treoracha dochta do na múinteoirí faoina gceartú. I mbliana, tá trialacha nua, thuas-chun-dáta ón Foras Taighde ar Oideachas a ndearnadh caighdeánú orthu in 2018 agus a léiríonn na hathruithe is déanaí sa ghnóthachtáil náisiúnta sa mhata agus sa Bhéarla

Cad ba chúis le hathfhorbairt na dtrialacha?

- Thug an taighde le fios go n-éiríonn trialacha níos éasca thar am agus na páistí ag dul i dtaithí orthu
- Tá feabhas ar na leibhéil ghnóthachtála go náisiúnta a chiallaigh go raibh na torthaí sna scoileanna agus go náisiúnta an-chlaonta le déanaí, i gcomparáid le noirm na dtrialacha

Cad is ciall leis seo do do pháiste?

- Mar go bhfuilimid ag baint úsáide as na trialacha nua i mbliana, táthar ag súil go mbeidh na torthaí níos cruinne i gcomparáid leis na noirm nua
- **Do pháistí áirithe, d'fhéadfadh go gciallóidh sé seo go dtiocfaidh titim nó ardú ar a dtoradh** (i gcomparáid le blianta eile) ní cúis bhuartha é seo.
- Tá sé tábhachtach go gcuimhníonn tú **nach féidir toradh na bliana seo a chur i gcomparáid le toradh na bliana seo caite.** Is trialacha nua iad seo, le noirm nua. Is féidir féachaint ar an litir seo ón bhForas Taighde ar Oideachas chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil http://www.erc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Letter-for-parents-GAEILGE.pdf
- Smaoinigh freisin le do thoil (mar a deir an Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Churaclam agus um Mheasúnú (CNCM) **nach trialacha éirime iad seo.** Is bealach amháin iad seo chun laigí agus láidreachtaí a aithint le go dtabharfaí treoir do thuismitheoirí. Níl sna trialacha seo ach ceann amháin de na bealaí ar fad atá in úsáid chun súil a choimeád ar dhul chun cinn do pháiste.

Cothú agus saibhriú gach páiste, trí mheán na Gaeilge, chun barr a gcumas a bhaint amach

Ní trialacha dheireadh na bliana iad seo, d'fhéadfadh go mbeadh (go háirithe sa mhata) ceisteanna ann a bheadh níos oiriúnaí do rang níos ísle nó níos airde

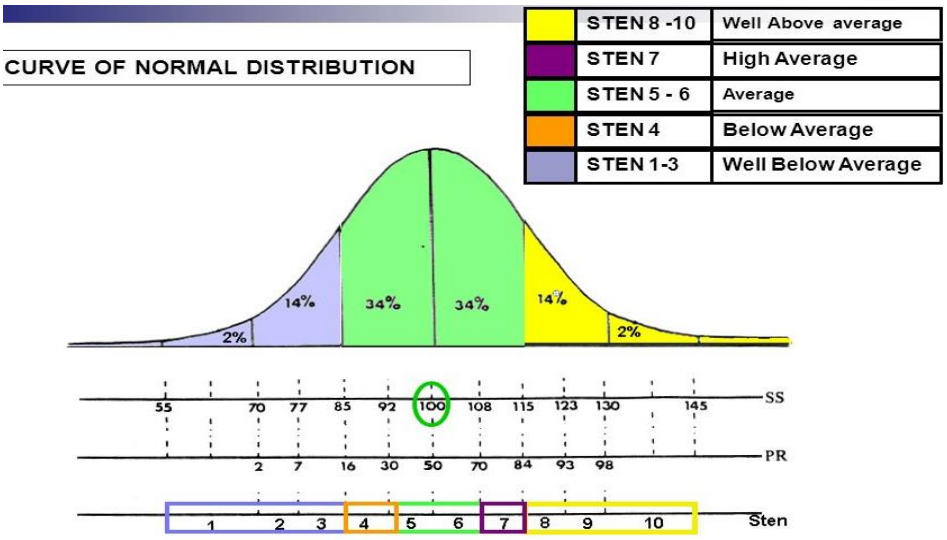
Gnásanna don Triail

Caithfidh múinteoirí cloí le treoracha soiléire – ní ullmhaíonn múinteoirí na páistí don triail agus ní mhúineann siad leis an triail ar intinn acu. Ní roinntear leabhrán na trialach le páistí nó tuismitheoirí nuair atá sé ceartaithe agus coimeádtar sa scoil é go ceann bliana i ndiaidh na trialach. Déantar na torthaí a stóráil go dtí go bhfuil an páiste 26 bliana d'aois.

Na Torthaí a Thuiscint STen agus Scóir Chaighdeánacha

Tá éagsúlacht idir triail caighdeánaithe agus triail thraidisiúnta sa bhealach go mbaineann triail chaighdeánaithe úsáid as dhá chóras scórála, STen ags Scór Caighdeánach. I Scoil Oilibhéir, úsáidimid STen do gach rang ach amháin Rang a hAon, úsáidimid Scór Caighdeánach i Rang a hAon agus táthar ag súil leis go leanfar leis an nós seo amach anseo suas tríd an scoil

- *Tá scór STen 5 nó 6 meánach agus faigheann timpeall ar 1/3 de na páistí in Éirinn an scór seo*
- *Tá 7 meánach ard agus faigheann timpeall ar 1/6 an scór seo*
- *Tá 8-10 i bhfad os cion an mheáin agus faigheann timpeall ar 1/6 an scór seo*
- *Faigheann 1/6 de pháistí 4, meánach íseal*
- *Faigheann 1/6 1-3, atá faoin meán*



Páistí agus a dTorthaí Trialach

Beidh na tuairiscí ag dul abhaile ar ball tríd Aladdin Connect. Is fútsa atá sé, mar thuismitheoir, smaoineamh ar mhaith leat na torthaí a phlé le do pháiste. **Molaimid go láidir nach ndéanann tú na torthaí a phlé le do pháiste ach ar bhealach an-ghinearálta.** Bheadh, "Ba cheart go mbeifeá an-bhródúil as na torthaí agus asat féin" nó "Bhain tú tairbhe as an obair ar fad" i bhfad nios oiriúnaí ná an iomarca anailíse. Bíonn páistí buartha mar gheall ar dhul suas nó síos agus ní haon chabhair é.

I mbliana ach go háirithe leis na noirm nua, an-seans go mbeidh athrú suntasach ar na torthaí (suas agus síos) agus d'fhéadfadh sé lagmhisneach a chur ar pháistí nach dtuigeann an córas scórála. Caithfidh tusa mar thuismitheoir cinneadh a dhéanamh faoin méid eolais atá le roinnt le do pháiste.

Níor cheart na torthaí seo a roinnt le haon duine eile, go háirithe le páistí sa rang céanna leo. Ní ábhar cainte iad na torthaí seo, go háirithe sna hardranganna, áit a gcruthaíonn siad an-chuid imní agus struis. Beag beann ar na torthaí, tá na páistí agus na múinteoirí ar fad tar éis a bheith ag obair go dian agus ba cheart go mbeidís bródúil as sin.

Cumarsáid le Múinteoirí

Má tá ceist ar bith agat faoi aon ghné de na trialacha seo, na bíodh aon drogall ort dul i dteagmháil leis an muinteoir ranga

Cothú agus saibhriú gach páiste, trí mheán na Gaeilge, chun barr a gcumas a bhaint amach

Rang a hAon

A Thuismitheoirí Rang a hAon,

Mar is eol daobh ón méid thuas, táimid ag úsáid na dtrialacha nua ó Dhroim Conrach i mbliana.

De bharr gurb í seo an chéad bhliain do na trialacha seo, tá go leor foghlamtha againn le mí nó dhó anuas faoin méid atá sna trialacha agus faoin eolas atá le fáil astu. An t-athrú is suntasaí ar na trialacha Mata agus Béarla ná gur scagthástáil iad na trialacha seo i Rang a hAon agus dá bharr seo, ní bheidh aon scór Sten ag dul leo. Ní bheidh aon STen le roinnt againn le tuismitheoirí nuair a roinntear na torthaí. An chúis leis an scagthástáil seo ná cabhrú linn tacú le páistí a bhfuil deacrachtaí acu sa Bhéarla nó sa Mhata.

Má léiríonn na torthaí go bhfuil deacracht ag do pháiste in aon cheann de na hábhair seo, beidh Múinteoir Lára nó Múinteoir Colleen i dteagmháil leat chun é a phlé. Lasmuigh de sin, glac leis gur éirigh le do pháiste an critéar a bhaint amach dá rangleibhéal (sa mhata agus sa Bhéarla). **An t-aon eolas atá ar fáil don mhúinteoir ranga ná gur nó nár éirigh leis an bpáiste an critéar a bhaint amach.** Léiríonn sé seo an bhfuil tacaíocht bhreise ag teastáil nó nach bhfuil. Mar a luadh thuas, dá mbainfeadh do pháiste tairbhe as tacaíocht bhreise, rachfar i dteagmháil leat.

Má tá ceist ar bith agaibh faoi seo, na bíodh aon drogall ort labhairt le Múinteoir Lára nó le Múinteoir Colleen

Cothú agus saibhriú gach páiste, trí mheán na Gaeilge, chun barr a gcumas a bhaint amach

Scoil Oilibhéir

An Chúil Mhín
Cluain Saileach
Baile Átha Cliath 15
D15 PX99

Príomhoide: Antóin Ó Cléirigh **Príomhoide Tánaisteach**: Lára Ní Riain

6.6.2019

Standardised Tests and Results

*During May, we did standardised tests with all pupils from 1st to 6th Classes in **English Reading, Gaeilge and Numeracy**.*

*For **2nd, 4th and 6th Class** pupils, the DES requires that results **must be reported** to parents. Although it is not a requirement,* Scoil Oilibhéir *has for a long time now reported the results of these tests to every class.This was done through the Annual End-of-Year Report Card, but this year we will use Aladdin Connect to report Standardised Test results to parents and it is very important that we have the correct details for this.*

New Tests in 2019

Standardised tests are straightforward in many ways but interpreting them can cause confusion for parents. In Scoil Oilibhéir, *we use the Drumcondra Tests. These are designed in the Educational Research Centre and are accompanied by strict instructions for correction for the teachers.*

This year, there are new, up-to-date tests from the ERC, which were standardised in 2018 and reflect recent changes in performance on English and Maths nationally.

Why were the tests redeveloped?

- *The tests were redeveloped as research suggested that tests generally get easier over time, as familiarity with content increases.*
- *There have also been national improvements in achievement levels, which have meant that results in schools and nationally, have been heavily skewed in recent years, compared with test norms.*

What does that mean for your child?

As this year we will be testing using the new tests (standardised in 2018), we would expect that the results will be more in line with test norms.

For some children this may mean their result in their standardised test (compared with previous years) may be significantly lower, or indeed significantly higher. This should not be a cause for alarm for parents.

It is important to remember that you cannot compare this year's result to last year's result. These are NEW tests, with NEW standardised norms. Please see the linked letter from the ERC, which explains in further detail the changes.
http://www.erc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Letter-for-parents-New-Drumcondra-tests.pdf

*Please remember that as the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) states, Standardised Tests **are NOT intelligence tests and** their main purpose is to help a teacher identify strengths and weaknesses in individual pupils and to offer some guidance to parents. Standardised tests are only one of a number of ways that we monitor and measure a child's progress.*

***They are not an "end of year" test**. Particularly in Maths, tests can contain questions which might be more suitable to a lower or a higher class level.*

Procedures for Testing

Teachers must adhere to clear directions. Teachers do not prepare children for the test – they do not 'teach with the test in mind'.

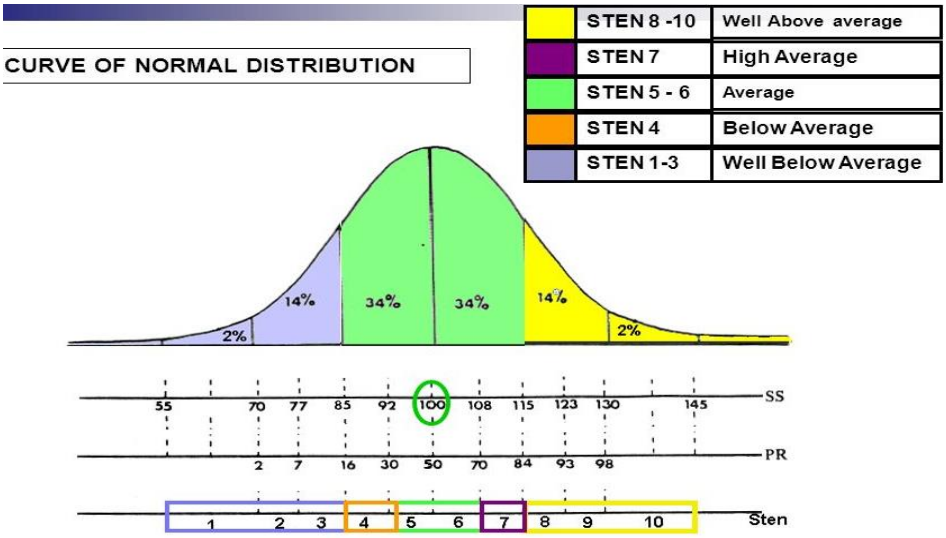
The Corrected Test Booklet is not shared with children or parents and is kept securely on file for 12 months. Test results are then recorded until a child is 26 years of age.

Understanding results – STens & Standard Scores

A standardised test differs from traditional tests. Standardised tests use two scoring systems.
In Scoil Oilibhéir we use a STen for every class except Rang a hAon. We use a standard score for Rang a hAon and we expect to continue this practice up through the school in the future.

- *A STen score of **5 or 6 is regarded as average** and it should be achieved by about **one-third** of children in Ireland*
- *A 7 is a high average, achieved by about one-sixth of pupils*
- *An 8-10 is well above average and also achieved by about one-sixth of pupils.*
- *One sixth of children score a low average 4*

- *Another one sixth score 1-3, which is rated well below average.*



Children & their Test Results

The reports will be going home soon thorugh Aladdin Connect. ***It is up to you, as a parent to decide if you wish to discuss the exact result with your child****.*

The school would ***STRONGLY*** *advise that you only discuss results in general terms with pupils – Comments such as "You should be very proud of your results" and "Your hard work paid off" might be more appropriate than too much analysis.*

Children are often worried about going up or down and this is no help.

Particularly this year with the use of the new tests, there may be a significant change in results (in either direction), it may be very disheartening to children who do not understand the scoring system.

It is up to you, as a parent, to decide how much information, if any to share with your child.

Results should not be shared with anyone else, especially those in the same class. *Test results should NOT be a topic of conversation particularly in the Senior Classes, as it can cause a lot of undue pressure for children.*

No matter the results, they have all worked hard and should be proud of this.

Communicating with Teachers

If you have any concerns or questions about the new tests, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher, or myself to discuss further.

First Clas

As you are aware from the piece above, we are using new Drumcondra Tests this year.

As this is the first year of these tests being available to schools, we have learned a lot in the past month about what's in the tests and the information to be taken from them. The most significant change in relation to the tests used for 1st Class in English Reading and Maths is that these tests are now screening tests, and as a result there will be no sTen score going with them. The school will have no sTen score to share with parents when we share results. The purpose of a screening test is to help us support children who might be facing challenges within English Reading and Maths.

If the results of the screening test indicate that your child is having a difficulty and requires further support in either of these areas, Múinteoir Lára or Múinteoir Colleen *will be in contact with you to discuss this further. Otherwise you can assume that your child has reach the criterion (in relation to English Reading and Maths) for the class level.* ***The only information that is available to the class teacher is whether the criterion was reached, or not****. Reaching the criterion, or not, indicates whether a child needs extra support, or not, and as mentioned above, if your child would benefit from further supports, you will be contacted by the class teacher.*

If you have any questions in relation to this, you feel free to discuss these with Múinteoi Lára *or* Múinteoir Colleen*.*

Le gach uile bheannacht,

Antóin Ó Cléirigh

Príomhoide