



# Gorey Educate Together National School

*Scoil Náisiúnta Foghlaim le Chéile, Guaire*

Principal's Newsletter

17th January 2023

Tel: 053 94 89662

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www.goreyeducatetogether.ie

*Educate Together -  
Equality-Based Schools*

Stay Safe Topic	Number of Lessons			
	J. Infants S. Infants	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup>
Feeling Safe and Unsafe	3	3	3	3
Friendship and Bullying	3	5	6	6
Touches	2	2	2	2
Secrets and Telling	1	1	1	1
Strangers	1	1	1	1

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We will teach the updated personal safety education programme called **Stay Safe** over the next several weeks.

The aim of the Stay Safe programme is to teach children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous.

It deals initially with common situations which most children may experience at some stage or other, e.g. getting **lost** or being **bullied**. The programme also teaches children the safety skills necessary to protect themselves from **physical or sexual abuse** and emphasises the importance of telling a trusted adult about any problems they have.

The Stay Safe programme is part of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum which all primary schools are required to implement. Co-operation between parents and teachers is essential to the success of this programme. It is important that parents are aware of the content of the Stay Safe lessons and are able to discuss the lessons with their children. Your child may bring home worksheets which will inform you on the topics being covered in class and how you can reinforce the messages at home.

**Please familiarise yourself with the content of the updated Stay Safe lessons by reviewing the lesson plans, videos and other resources at [STAY SAFE - The Child Abuse Prevention Programme | PDST](#)**

Kind regards, Raymond Swan, Principal

**Monday 30th January:** School Closed. (Department of Education Curriculum Training for Staff.)

**Monday 6th February:** School Closed. Public Holiday.

**Enrolment:** Families can now enrol new Junior Infants for September 2023. Please enrol via the school website [www.goreyeducatetogether.ie](http://www.goreyeducatetogether.ie). The enrolment period continues until January 30th.

**Swimming** lessons for the children in our special classes continue on Mondays. (Coral Leisure, Arklow.)

**Tag-Rugby** coaching with Georgia Harris, Leinster Rugby, continues on Mondays/Tuesdays at the school for our 5th and 6th classes.

**Hurling** coaching for Junior & Senior Infants, with Seamus Byrne, Tara Rocks GAA Club restarts this Wednesday for 4 Wednesdays.

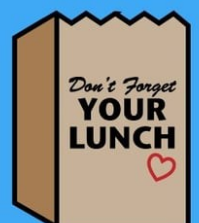
(Mini-hurls provided by the school.)



**Music Generation** lessons for 2nd classes continue on Fridays. (Diarmuid Comerford.)

*Parents - please speak with your child about their lunch.*

*Please ensure that they bring enough lunch to school every day.*



## After-School Activities

**Mondays: Fit Camp** Full

**Tuesdays: Science** Full

**Wednesdays: Basketball** begins  
Wednesday 25th January Full

**Thursdays: Tennis** New term begins this  
Thursday 19th January. Online booking:  
[Schools Zone Coaching Course at Gorey Edu-  
cate Together National School. \(jsta.ie\)](https://www.goreyeducatetogether.ie/schools-zone-coaching-course-at-gorey-educate-together-national-school)

**Thursdays & Fridays: Spanish** Beginning  
Thursday 26th January. To book, contact  
Ruben Cerrato (Spanish & PE teacher)  
[spanishgorey@gmail.com](mailto:spanishgorey@gmail.com) or call 085 122  
0709

**Fridays: Music (Keyboards.)** Continues  
on Fridays, 1.30pm and 2.30pm groups. See  
[www.creativekeyboards.ie](http://www.creativekeyboards.ie)

**Fridays: Astronomy Club** Full

**Homework Club:** Continues on Mondays,  
Tuesdays and Thursdays. 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes,  
2.30-3.30pm. Organising teachers: Laura  
Dagger & Oisin Dunbar. (Laura and Oisin are  
contactable via Class Dojo.)

**Tuesdays - New - 'Sunshine Studio  
Drama Club.'** Open to 1st-3rd classes only,  
2.30pm-3.15pm. Beginning Tuesday 24th  
January, €25 for 5 Tuesdays. To book, send  
cash and child's name to the school office.  
All funds raised will go to the school's PTA for  
school activities and equipment. **All the  
activities in this after-school club will be  
led by 3 children from our 6th classes.**  
(And a parent volunteer will act as  
supervisor.)

**HELP US CLEAR THE AIR AT SCHOOL**  
HEALTHY AIR, HEALTHY KIDS

Air monitoring at schools has shown elevated levels of toxins during pick-up times as parents idle their cars while they wait for their kids.

Exhaust fumes from cars are linked to increases in asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease and even cancer.

Children are especially at risk because their lungs are still developing and they inhale more air per pound of body weight.

**IF YOU'LL BE WAITING MORE THAN 10 SECONDS  
TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE**

**THIS SIMPLE STEP CAN**

- Reduce children's Exposure to pollutants
- Save a little money
- Help the Environment

Take our pledge to stop idling at [ITURNITOFF.COM/SCHOOLS](http://ITURNITOFF.COM/SCHOOLS)

SUSTAINABLE AMERICA PRESENTED BY SUSTAINABLE AMERICA SUSTAINABLEAMERICA.ORG SAVORS U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Fund



## Rainbows Ireland

Supporting Children and Young People with  
Bereavement and Parental Separation

We hope to begin another Rainbows programme during February. If you haven't already been in touch and are interested in the programme please email us by Monday 23rd January.

Rainbows helps children deal with bereavement (not restricted to immediate family) and loss in a friendly and supportive way. Please check the Rainbows Ireland website for more details. <https://www.rainbowsireland.ie/>

Email: [rainbows@goreyeducatetogether.ie](mailto:rainbows@goreyeducatetogether.ie)

*- Majella McGovern,  
organising Special Needs Assistant*

We are delighted to announce that Gorey Educate Together has successfully applied for an artist in residency programme through the TAP Teacher Artist Partnership. The Teacher Artist Partnership is a Department of Education-approved continuous professional development course for teachers and artists working in partnership in primary schools. The programme supports and enhances arts education in primary and special schools, to develop the creative potential of every child.

Our two third classes will welcome local artist Nonie Stafford, who is a full-time artist, graphic designer, muralist and calligrapher. She will be working with our third class pupils over a period of seven weeks (one hour per week) on a project, based on the theme of the Book of Kells. We will be learning about calligraphy, typography and Celtic design which will closely link with the children's History theme for this term. Our project will culminate in a small exhibition of the children's work in the school, and we hope pupils from other classes and parents will get the opportunity to see and discuss a selection of the children's finished pieces.

We are very excited about this upcoming project and we look forward to seeing our little artists at work!

*- Padraig Parle,  
organising teacher*