

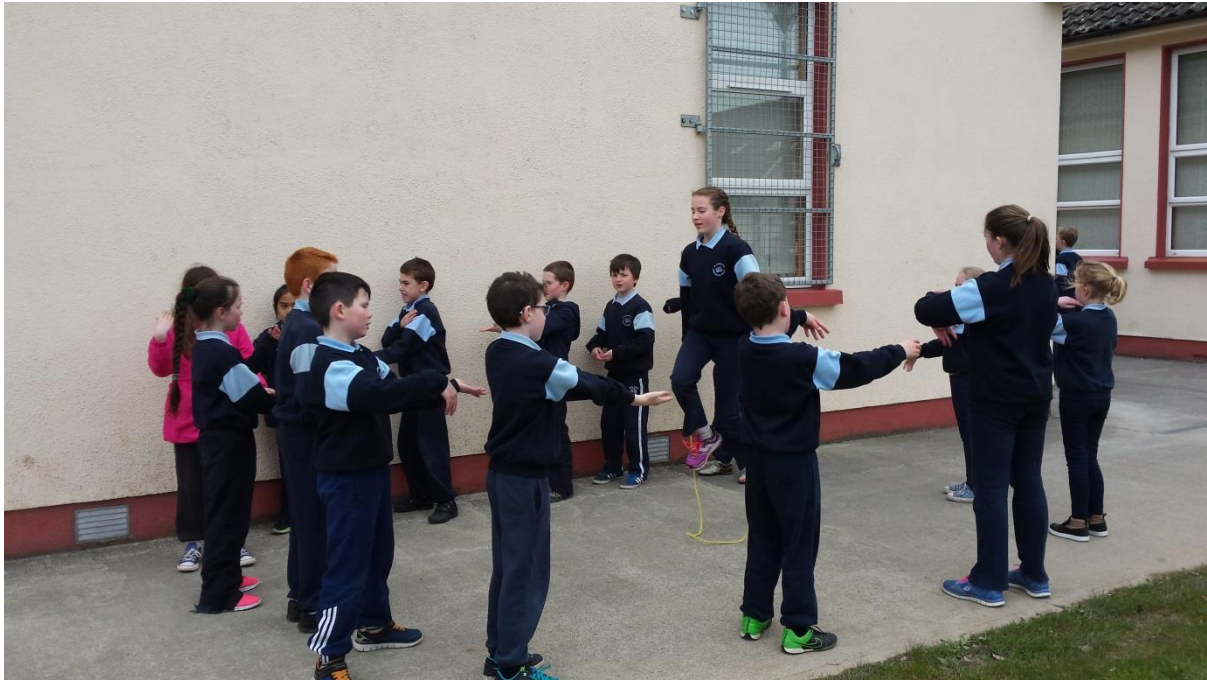
## **St. Mary's NS, Knockcroghery, Co. Roscommon**

Here in St. Mary's NS, Knockcroghery we are in the process of renewing our Active School Flag and trying to achieve our Gaelbhrtach. Teachers and playground leaders work together to find new and innovative ways to increase pupils' levels of interest in both the Irish language and their levels of activity on the playground. Introducing playground games through the medium of the Irish language was one way in which to do this.

Every month the playground leaders from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class are taught a new playground game in Irish by their class teacher. On Tuesdays and Thursdays they take the junior classes for playground games. On a rotation basis each group is taught the game. Games range from skipping activities to ball handling activities to simple games we all know e.g. QUEENIE-I-O; marlíní; preabadh na liathróide; cas timpeall; blind man's bluff.







The Irish used is language the children are familiar with ( na laethanta, na míosa, na huimhreacha) and as they play they are encouraged through Irish.

The games appeal to every child, even the not so sporty, and promote cooperative play. It is heart -warming to see the children continuing to play these games even on the days playground leaders are not involved. It is such a simple idea and involves using equipment that is in every school already – skipping ropes; marbles; a variety of balls and most importantly children willing to participate.

All games are available on DVD and in book format( Cluichí Clóis Leabhrán Eolais) from An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta 22 Plás Mhic Liam Baile Átha Cliath 2 Fón: + 353 1 6340831 Faics: +353 1 6341002 Ríomhphost: eolas@cogg.ie Idirlíon: www.cogg.ie