



Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



School Newsletter – April 2019

With the Easter Holidays just a few days away, it's time to have a look back at what's been going on in the school over the last few months. We also have some exciting plans for the final term of the school year.

Easter School Holidays & Other Important Dates

- April 12th (Fri): The school closes at 12.30pm for the Easter Holidays.
- April 29th (Mon): First day of the summer term.
- May 6th (Mon): Public Holiday - School Closed
- May 11th (Sat): First Holy Communion – 11am
- May 14th (Tues): School Photographer (First Communion pupils and other pupils who want photographs taken)
- May 24th (Fri): European Elections – School Closed as it is being used as a Polling Station.
- May 25th (Sat): Confirmation – 11am
- May 28th (Tues): School Photographer (Confirmation pupils and other pupils who want photographs taken)
- May 31st (Fri) & June 3rd (Mon): Public Holiday Weekend – School Closed on Friday & Monday)
- June 10th (Mon): Information Meeting for Parents of New Junior Infants 2019/20
Afternoon for ordering School Uniforms & Tracksuits for the new school year.
Junior Infants Vision & Hearing Tests
- June 11th (Tues): Junior Infants Vision & Hearing Tests
- June 12th (Wed): Junior Infants Vision & Hearing Tests
- June 26th (Wed): Summer Holidays start at 12.30pm



New Playground Equipment

The newly installed new playground equipment has been a huge hit with the pupils. The children of all ages are really enjoying the time they are spending on the slides, monkey bars, see-saw, rope bridge, climbing wall, playhouse, spinner, fireman's pole and interactive games. Thank you most sincerely to the families who have contributed so generously following our request for donations. So far almost €7,000 has been raised which is wonderful. Your support is very much appreciated.

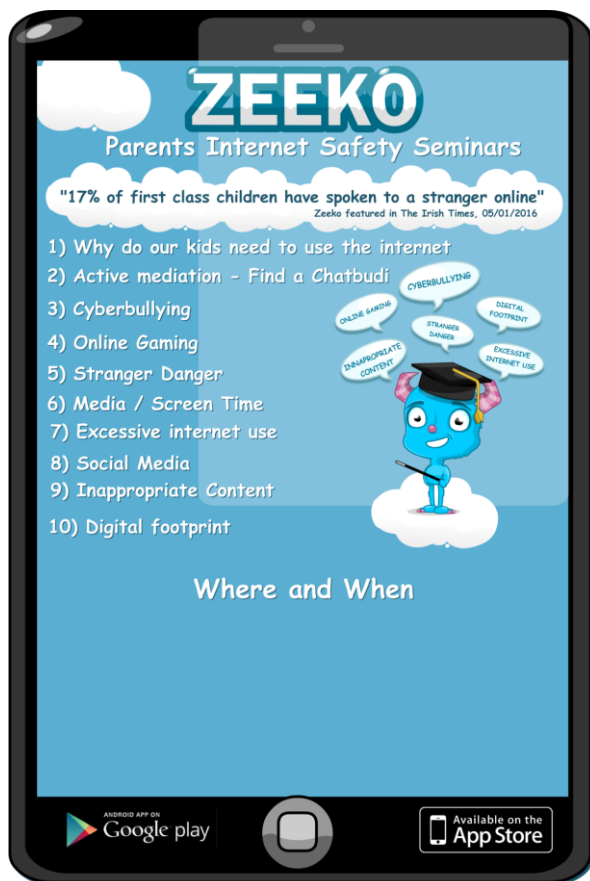
Two Important Evening Meetings for Parents/Guardians

April 30th (Tues) 7-8pm: Parents Internet Safety Talk

Open to all parents/guardians who want to learn how to keep their children safe online. During that school day there will be specially arranged workshops for pupils from 2nd-6th classes facilitated by ZEEKO.

May 8th (Wed) 7.30-9pm - Supporting Parents to Support their Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Parent's Association would like to invite all parents/guardians to this workshop run in conjunction with the National Parent's Council and St. Patrick's Mental Health Services. This programme supports parents to encourage and promote positive mental health and wellbeing in their children. The programme also explores how the building of resilience in children helps them to manage and cope with the day to day stresses of life as they occur.



Internet Safety Workshops

Tues. April 30th at 7pm

The Board of Management and Parents Council have agreed to share the costs related to providing these special Internet Safety Workshops for all of the pupils in our school from 2nd to 6th class.

During the school day on April 30th the pupils in each of these classes will be taken for a 1 hour session where topics such as internet safety, online gaming, social media, inappropriate content, digital footprint and cyber bullying will be dealt with.

We have employed an educational training company, Zeeko, who are specialists in the field of internet safety. As well as working with the pupils throughout the school day, the staff of the school will also receive training and support when the pupils have gone home at 3pm. The staff training will go on for about an hour.

On that same evening the facilitators will return to the school at 7pm for a presentation and talk specially designed for parents/guardians of primary school children.

Please come along if you can on that evening.

Helping Parents to Support their Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Wed May 8th at 7.30pm

Please support this talk arranged by the Parents Association in our school.

Lenten Fundraising for the MMM

There has been a brilliant response again this year to the imaginative fundraising ideas that the pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th classes have come up with to raise money for the work of the Medical Missionaries of Mary. Our school has been raising funds to support this wonderful charity for several years.

This year the pupils have organised a Pyjama Day, Games Day, Bun Sale, Raffle and on **this Thursday** Mrs McManus' 5th class will be putting on a Day at the Movies for the pupils. The pupils are asked to bring in €2 for some movie treats which they can have when they are watching specially selected children's films in their classrooms.

We also plan to have our annual Easter Egg Raffle with tickets on sale at 20 cents each.

And of course the highlight of the week will be the EASTER BONNET PARADE on Friday morning. This is always a fantastic celebration of the children's (and parents) creativity.

THURSDAY
MOVIE & TREATS DAY

FRIDAY:
EASTER BONNETS & EASTER EGG RAFFLE





Grace wins School Stars Competition 2019

We were all absolutely thrilled when our very own, supremely talented, singing sensation, Grace Looney (4th class) was crowned as this year's SCHOOL STAR WINNER at the TLT last month.

Grace performances all through the heats, quarter final and semi-final were outstanding but she saved her very best performance for the Grand Final in front of a sold out theatre. Not alone did Grace make it to the final but there were two other very fine singers also representing our school, Saoirse Rae Brannigan and Joy Chuks.

When Grace was announced as this year's winner the whole venue erupted as she was a very popular and worthy champion in a competition which showcases the most talented musicians, singers, dancers and comedians in the north east.

Not alone did Grace win a trophy and cash prize for herself but our school also benefitted to the tune of € 1,000. This money will be spent on promoting music and drama in our school over the next few years.

Well done Grace and Congratulations to you and your family !!

SPORT AT SCOIL NAOMH FEICHIN



Termonfeckin Schools Tennis Team which is currently competing in the Leinster Primary Schools Tennis League.



Scoil Naomh Feichin Girls Gaelic Football Team



Scoil Naomh Feichin Boys Gaelic Football Team



Coaching of Gaelic Games

In March, April, May & June our local GAA club, St Fechin's, has provided the school with two young coaches, David Stephenson & Roisin Kavanagh, who are coaching our pupils in the skills of Gaelic Football & Hurling.



Other School News

Chess News

The school chess club is now closed for the summer but we have had a wonderful five months of chess playing in the school. Approximately 50 pupils have played chess this year and our school team performed very well in the Primary Schools Chess League. Presentation of prizes to our class winners will take place before the summer holidays.

Book Rental Scheme

Several parents are availing of the Easy Pay Facility to take the pain out of paying for school books for the new school year. Mrs Hurley runs the Book Rental Scheme in our school and parents/guardians are advised to pay the school book rental fee as soon as possible. The cost is €95 per child with reductions for siblings. This covers school books and workbooks, art and craft supplies, printing and photocopying for the year.

There is also a small additional charge for the Textaparent Service (€ 5) – this is an essential communication tool and we hope that all parents will support the service. Please download the free [Textaparent App](#) on your phone as this saves the school money and reduces the cost of texts.

Instrumental Music Classes

Mrs Cassidy's tin whistle classes will continue for another month or two. Well done to all of our musicians and we look forward to hearing some more new tunes before the end of the year.

School Summer Camp

After a break of one year, the Termonfeckin Summer Camp is back! The camp will take place from 1st-5th of July from 10am to 2pm daily. Children aged between 4-8 years of age can attend and application forms are available in the school or by ringing the following numbers – 087-6552094 / 087-7946524.

**texta
parent.ie**



Robotics – Electronics - Engineering

Thank you to one of our parents, Kimmitt Sayers, who has been working with Mrs McManus' 5th class on a Robotics and Engineering project for the last few months. The pupils participated in the Vex Robotics competition in DKIT earlier this term and won 1st prize in the Design Category for their robot. The children have had a wonderful experience learning how to code and programme their robot and they now have a new miniature electronic car which they are trying out over the next few weeks – A new Generation of Young Scientists.....

School Building Work Update

We are finally at the point where the building work on our school has been completed. There is some landscaping to be done around the school and we hope to get that finished over the Easter holidays. There are also some snagging jobs which are ongoing. However, apart from giving the school a good clean and clearing out the remaining furniture from the new gym, we are more or less finished. The staff car park is now open to staff members and visitors to the school so that will free up some additional parking in the church car park and it won't be necessary for drivers to park on the road. We would remind drivers that they must not block the drop off lane outside the school and that traffic must be allowed to flow freely. We hope that the traffic lights will be connected up soon – we are waiting for one of the electricity supply companies to do this.

Access to the School Building & Grounds

Parents and visitors to the school must use the main reception door. Please ring the bell for assistance. There are now quite strict regulations in the area of Child Protection & Safeguarding and consequently visitors to the school must be accompanied by a member of staff when in the school building or grounds. In addition, pupils must be signed in and out if they arrive or depart outside of normal school hours.