



Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



School Newsletter – November 2019

I hope that you and your children had a wonderful Halloween Break. We are now coming towards the end of 2019 with only seven weeks until the Christmas break. This is always a very busy time of the year and it looks like this year will be no different.

We have organised the Parent Teacher meetings for next week. We hope that parents get good feedback from their child's teacher and that any concerns can be satisfactorily addressed. At next week's meetings the appointment times are 10 minutes in duration but if you feel that you need more time with your child's teacher, please communicate this to the teacher, in advance, so that an alternative arrangement can be made.

As our new school hall is now fully open and operational, we are in a position to hold Christmas Concerts again. The dates for this year's school concerts are Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 17th & 18th.

Important Dates for Parents

- Nov 4th (Mon): School reopens for remainder of Term One
- Nov 13th & 14th (Tues & Wed): Parent Teacher Meetings 2pm-5pm
- Dec 13th (Fri): **SCHOOL CLOSED** - Teacher Training Day (New Language Curriculum)
- Dec 17th (Tues): Christmas Show at the Barbican for Junior & Senior Infants.
- Dec 17th & 18th (Tues & Wed): Christmas Concerts in the School.
- Dec 20th (Fri.): School closes for the Christmas Holidays at 12.30pm.
- Jan 6th 2020 (Mon): Start of Spring Term

Official School Opening & Blessing Ceremony



We had a wonderful day at the official opening and blessing of the new school buildings by Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh Michael Router on Oct 21st last. Bishop Michael planted a tree to mark his visit and also blessed the original corner stone of the building which was previously blessed by Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Tomás Ó Fíach. The pupils in the school choir sang beautifully for the invited guests and there was also a celebration of instrumental music, art and gaelic games. Many thanks to Mrs McCluskey, Ms Duffy, Mrs Sweeney, Ms Brannigan, Mrs Ryan and Mrs Fahy for all their work in preparing the pupils. It was great to see so many parents and grandparents at our special day and we are delighted that everyone had an opportunity to have a look around our beautiful new school buildings.



If you have not yet downloaded the free **Texaparent app**, please do so as it saves the school money on text messaging and you can also see a school events calendar on your phone.



Chess Club

We hope to get the school chess club up and running over the next few weeks. Priority will be given to pupils who played chess last year. A note will be going home to pupils in 2nd to 6th classes shortly. If oversubscribed, a waiting list will be put in place. Chess Club will be on Wednesday & Thursday 3-4pm.



There has been huge interest in the Brick4Kids workshops which are going on at the moment. There are sessions for pupils in Junior & Senior Infants from 2-3pm each week and for the older pupils there are sessions on Mondays and Thursday from 3-4pm.



MUSIC EDUCATION

Tin Whistle Classes

The music classes organised and taught by Mrs Cassidy on Tuesday afternoons are proving to be as popular as ever and it's great to see so many pupils learning how to play the tin whistle at such an early age.



This year we have introduced Speech & Drama as one of our extra-curricular activities. We are very fortunate to have experienced teacher, Ruth Lonergan, in the school every Monday afternoon to do activities with the pupils. Ruth takes pupils from Junior & Senior Infants between 2-3pm and older pupils between 3-4pm.



FIRE SAFETY

The pupils in Mr McCann's 3rd Class were given a talk on Fire Safety by members of Drogheda Fire Brigade in October.



Congrats to Artist Amelia

Following Lauren Martin's success in the Texaco Children's Art Competition earlier this year we were delighted to learn that we have another brilliant artist in our school.

6th class pupil, Amelia Campbell, was a prize winner in a special Feadh Cheoil na hÉireann Art Competition organised by Louth County Council. Amelia's work of art was printed in the form of a commemorative Feadh 2019 Book Mark and these were available during the summer festival of music in Drogheda. Particularly impressed with Amelia's design was none other than President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, when he was presents with some of her book marks during his visit to Drogheda. Ann Marie from Louth County Council called to the school last month to meet Amelia and to also congratulate her mum, Rachel, and class teacher, Ms Brannigan.



**Fleadh Cheoil
na hÉireann
2019**
DROICHEAD ÁTHA

SPORT AT SCOIL NAOMH FEICHÍN



Garda Sports Day 2019

Many thanks to Mrs Fahy, Ms Calyton & Ms Jeanne Lynch who took all of the 6th class pupils to the annual Garda Sports Day in the Gaelic Ground in Drogheda on Oct 24th. The Termonfeckin boys and girls did really well in the various events and had a brilliant day of fun and sport.



All Ireland Champions 2019

What a achievement to have two of our past pupils, Ceire Nolan & Orla McEvoy, in the Louth Ladies Gaelic Football team which won the All Ireland Junior title this year.



Boys & Girls in Gaelic Football Action

Both the girls and boys teams participated in the Cumann na mBunscol Primary Schools Autumn Leagues last month. Even though it was very early in the year, both teams did very well and the players thoroughly enjoyed representing the school on their respective teams. Well done to all the players and to team managers Mrs Fahy, Ms Clayton & Mr Collins. Gaelic Football coaching for 6th class pupils, funded by Louth County Board, has been going on for the last few weeks.

Martial Arts

Just before the midterm break the pupils in 6th class tried out Martial Arts with instructor, Phil Smith. Thank you to Mrs Fahy for organizing this activity for the children.



Futsal Soccer Tournament in DkIT, Dundalk

In late October, two representative teams made up of girls and boys from 3rd & 4th classes participated in a special Futsal Soccer Tournament organized by the FAI. Mr McCann managed the boys' team while Mr Collins took charge of the girls' squad. Altogether 25 children were involved.

Soccer Coaching for Girls

This year our school is involved in an FAI coaching initiative to help promote soccer for girls and to that end, FAI soccer coach, Brian Donnelly, has been doing coaching sessions with the girls of 3rd, 4th & 5th classes over the last two months. Our new sports hall has come in very useful on day when it's too wet to go outside.



New Board of Management

The 4 year term of the existing Board of Management of our school comes to an end on November 31st. The board is made up of two Patron's Nominees, Fr Paul Byrne & Mrs Denise McDonnell, two Parents' Nominees, Mrs Ciara Foley & Mr Neil Martin, two Teachers' Nominees, Mr Bryan Collins & Mrs Claire McCluskey and two Community Nominees, Mrs Mary Joy & Mrs Denise Redmond. The members of this board have worked tirelessly over the last four years to ensure that our school was run in a professional manner. As a school community we are very grateful for their voluntary service and for generously giving their time to make our school in what was a very busy period. A new board is now in the process of being formed and will be in place for the start of December. Earlier this month two parents' nominees were elected – Ms Deirdre Murphy & Mr Neil Martin.



Brillinat Support for Charities

So far this year our school families have donated very generously to support the work of the following organisations.

Spinal Injuries Ireland - € 538

Laura Lynn Children's Hospice € 619.

Thank you all for your support and a special thank you to the pupil's in Ms Clayton's 6th class who organised the Laura Lynn fundraising raffle.

New Parents Association Committee

At a recent meeting of parents a new committee was elected to oversee the work of the Parents Association over the next few years. The former committee members, Melissa Murphy (Chairperson), Ann Marie Martin (Secretary) and Treasa McGlew (Treasurer) have worked very closely with the school and have been of tremendous support in many, many ways. It would be difficult to imagine our school running effectively without the amazing support of the Parents Association. We are very thankful for all of their efforts over the last few years.

We look forward to working with the new Parents Association Committee which is made up of Amanda Duggan (Chairperson), Rowena Moore and &&&&&&. We hope that all parents in our school support the efforts of the Parents Association and assist in any way possible to improve our school for every one of our pupils.

Pupils & Staff Celebrate the Opening of Our New School Buildings

Pupils and Staff planted a tree to help us remember the year we moved into our new school building. We also arranged for a special visit from an Ice Cream Van, with ice creams for every, to mark the occasion.

