



Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



School Newsletter – October 2016

As we approach the midterm break I would like to take this opportunity to bring you some recent news from our school and give you details of upcoming events.



Midterm Break: Oct 31st – Nov. 4th

School Closes at 3pm on Friday Oct. 28th

Parent-Teacher Meetings:

Wed & Thurs. Nov. 16th & 17th (3pm-5pm)

School Closure: Mon. Dec 12th

The Department requires all teaching staff to attend full day training in Navan Education Centre for the implementation of a New Primary Language Curriculum.

Christmas Concerts Dec 13th – 16th

Tues. Dec. 13th @ 7pm - 2nd, 3rd, 5th & 6th Classes

Wed. Dec. 14th @ 7pm – 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Classes

Thurs. Dec 15th @ 1pm – Jun. Infants/Sen. Infants/1st Classes

Fri. Dec 16th @ 1pm – Jun. Infants/Sen. Infants/1st Classes

Christmas Holidays Dec 22nd – Jan 9th 2017

School Closes at 12.30pm on Thursday Dec 22nd
Spring Term starts on Monday Jan 9th 2017.



PARENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We encourage as many parents/guardians as possible to go along to the AGM of the Parents Association on Tuesday, Oct 18th at 8pm. The Parents Association makes a very important contribution to the effective operation of our school and the work of the parents on the committee is very much appreciated. We would like to thank the current committee members for their wonderful support over the last three years and we look forward to working with a new group of parents later this year.

School Extension Update



Finally some good news regarding the proposed school extension and refurbishment project.... The Department of Education & Skills has officially informed the Board of Management that *"it is in order for the project to proceed to Stage 3 (Tender Action)"*. This means that that our architects will immediately forward detailed tender documents to the pre-qualified contractors. Once the tenders are returned, a preliminary tender report is submitted to the Board of Management who then forward it to the Department for consideration. When the Department has examined the report, a letter subsequently issues to the board and a contractor is appointed to carry out the work. We are very hopeful that all of the above will be carried out in an efficient manner and that there will be no further delays with this project. Many thanks to all those who wrote letters and emails, signed the petition and made representations on the school's behalf – your support is invaluable.



Preparing for the Sacraments

On Wednesday Oct 26th there will be a meeting for parents who have children preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. This meeting will take place at 7.30pm in our school.

Parents of children preparing for First Penance and First Communion attended a meeting last Wednesday and a number of parents volunteered to assist Fr Aidan and the teachers in preparing for these sacraments over the next few months.

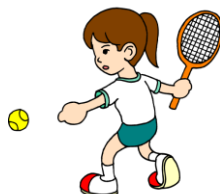
First Penance will take place on March 28th at 7.30pm and First Communion will be on Saturday, May 13th 2017.





School Awarded Fifth Green Flag & Drogheda Corporation Trophy

We were absolutely delighted to be informed that *Scoil Naomh Feichín* was one of the schools awarded a Green Flag for BIODIVERSITY. This is the school's fifth environmental flag and it recognises the huge effort of the Green School Committee over the last two years. An Taisce has previously awarded the school with Green Flags for Water Conservation, Energy Awareness, Litter Prevention and Travel. Green School Co-ordinator, Mrs Cassidy, attended the Green School Awards Ceremony in The Helix, DCU, along with three members of the hard-working Green School Committee. In the Louth County Council Grow Awards for Primary Schools, *Scoil Naomh Feichín*, was announced as the overall winner in the South Louth area. The Drogheda Corporation sponsored cup was presented to the winning school at the end of year county environment awards held in Dundalk. The role of school caretaker, Eamon Murphy, in maintaining the school grounds to such a high standard was a significant factor in the judges' decision.



Tennis Coaching

Hope everyone got the Junior Events Calendar from Termonfeckin Tennis Club this week. Our local tennis club has been awarded ***School Friendly Status*** and as a result we were delighted when two tennis coaches organised a tennis blitz in our school on Monday. All of the pupils from 1st class to 4th class were involved and it was a great day. The tennis club at An Grianán is a wonderful facility and tennis is a great game for children to play. For more information on coaching and membership, contact Peter at 086-3431437.



After School Clubs

- Instrumental Music – Mrs Cassidy
- Gaelic Football – Mrs Fahy / Ms McAuley
- Art – Ms Healy
- Dance – Ms Niamh Gorman
- *****
- Chess – starting after Halloween

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Mrs Sweeney and Mrs Collins who welcomed two beautiful new baby boys into the world over the last few weeks.



Super Troopers

Ms McAuley's 5th class, Ms Clayton's 2nd class and Mr McCann's Senior Infants are trying out a new activity and health programme at the moment. The programme is called *Super Troopers* and it is supported by Laya Healthcare. It's described as a "health homework" programme and focuses on increasing physical activity levels among children while encouraging a healthy lifestyle. Each pupil gets to fill out an Activity Journal each day and there is also a Family Activity Wall Chart so that the whole family can get involved.



NEW FIRST AID SUPPLIES

The Parents Association kindly purchased a large quantity of First Aid supplies which will be used by the school during this school year. Committee members, Nicholas Duff and Áine O'Gorman, are seen here delivering the items to the school principal earlier this term.

Guided Reading



Ms Niamh's Reading Group



Mrs Branigan's Reading Group



A special Guided Reading Programme for Ms Clayton's second class, which has been going on for the last 6 weeks, has just finished. Every day the pupils in this class were taken in small groups to practice their reading using books from a graded reading scheme purchased by the Parents Association two years ago. By using this reading scheme we can ensure that pupils are reading books that are targeted at their individual reading levels. The outcome of this programme is greater reading fluency and comprehension – and the pupils love the books!! Thank you to Mrs Derry Branigan for acting as a support teacher during this programme. Also many thanks to the school staff involved – Ms Clayton, Mrs Fahy, Mrs McManus, Ms Niamh and Mr Collins.

Mr Collins' Reading Group



Mrs Fahy's Reading Group



Ms Clayton's Reading Group



Mrs McManus' Reading Group



Past Pupils Supporting Christina Noble Foundation

Two of our past-pupils who are in Transition Years at Our Lady's College, Greenhills, are going to visit our school next week to talk to the pupils about the work of the Christina Noble Foundation. Laura Rice and Roisín Maher will be travelling to Vietnam at their own expense next April to see the work being carried out by this organisation. They hope to raise some money before they go that they can donate directly to the volunteers who work with children in the Far East. To show our support, we are going to have a Halloween Fancy Dress Day on the day before Midterm Break, Friday Oct 28th. The children are encouraged to dress up that day and contribute €2 each (*max €4 per family*) to the Christina Noble Foundation.



**6th Class Pupils
at the annual
GARDA PRIMARY
SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY
Oct 12th 2016**

**Third Class Pupil
Maisie Kelly
helping other
children
by cutting
her hair.**

To support Maisie –

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/maisie-kelly

MS Readathon 2016

Our school will be supporting the MS Readathon again this year – please encourage your children to continue reading over the next few weeks.

Going to great lengths

By Gordon Hatch

While most nine-year-olds will be busy occupying themselves with how best to spend the upcoming weekend, Maisie Kelly will have her first ever hair cut and is donating it to charity along with the donations that she has received from her family and supporters.

Maisie, whose hair has been growing from birth, decided that she wanted to do something for the more unfortunate and donate her golden locks to the Rapunzel Foundation who create wigs for those who have suffered hair loss through the medical condition Alopecia.

The third class student attends Scoil Naomh Feichin and is also raising awareness and collection money for the Irish Cancer Society.

Speaking about the big day, Maisie is hopeful that her donation will help those less fortunate.

"I will have my first ever hair cut on Saturday 15th October. My hope is that the money I raise will help children sick with can-



Maisie Kelly from Termonfeckin who will get her hair cut for the Rapunzel Foundation and the Irish Cancer Society. Pic Jimmy Weldon

cer to get better treatment, some nice toys and have a bit of fun too! Please follow me on my webpage Just Giving and support my cause," Maisie said. For those who want to donate towards

Maisie's fundraising efforts they can by visiting www.justgiving.com/fundraising/maisie-kelly.