



Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



School Newsletter – November 2015

Dear parents,

It is hard to believe that there are now only four more weeks remaining in the first term of this school year. It has been a very busy term so far and I have no doubt that the next few weeks will fly. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the school activities that have taken place since the start of September and also to mention some of our upcoming events in the school.

Bryan Collins
Principal

Important Dates for your Diary

- Dec. 16th - Carol Service 7.30pm
- Dec. 22nd - Christmas Holidays (12.30pm)
- Jan 6th 2016 - Start of Spring Term

New Board of Management

The process of forming a new Board of Management for our school is now almost complete. At a recent meeting of parents, Ciara Foley and Neil Martin were elected as parent nominees on the new board. Also included in the board will be two teachers, two Patron's nominees and two community nominees. The first meeting of the board will take place on December 8th in the school.

School Extension Announcement

Last week we finally received confirmation from the Department of Education & Skills that our long-awaited school extension is on the construction list for 2016. All of the architectural drawings, tender documents and statutory certificates have been approved by the Department and planning permission has been secured from Louth County Council. Funding will be provided for a 7 classroom extension and sports hall and the current school building will also be renovated and modernised. The project will take approximately 18 months to complete.

I would like to acknowledge the support of a number of local public representatives who have been supportive of this project over the last few years. I will of course keep parents up to date with developments over the coming months.



Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all parents who came along to the parent-teacher meetings last week. We hope that the meetings were constructive and informative. Your child's teacher may have offered some advice about homework and how best you can support your child's learning at home. It was also an opportunity for you to ask questions of your child's teacher and to get a progress report. As these meetings are quite short, parents are encouraged to arrange additional meetings if they have any concerns about their child's academic or social development at school. It is always a good idea to telephone the school to arrange a mutually convenient time for any meetings with a class or special education teacher.



Remembering Easter 1916

As part of the commemoration ceremonies for the Easter Rising of 1916, two soldiers from the Irish Army visited the school earlier this month to talk to the pupils about this special event. During their visit the Proclamation was read and the school was presented with the Irish Tricolour which will be flown for the first time on March 16th 2016.



Family Information & Consent Form Reminder

Please return the above form to the school as soon as possible if you have not already done so – Thank you.

Enrolment of New Pupils

Intention to Enrol forms are available in the school office – parents who have children of school-going age next September should fill out a form as soon as possible.



First Penance & First Communion

The Catholic pupils in both second classes have now enrolled for First Penance and First Communion. The date that the children will receive the sacrament of First Penance is Feb 23rd at 7.30pm and the First Communion ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 7th. The children who are preparing for these two sacraments attend a special Sunday Mass once a month with their classmates and their teachers. A meeting for parents will take place in our school on February 3rd at 7.30pm.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Following the enrolment ceremony for Confirmation earlier this month, the Catholic pupils in sixth class are continuing their preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation which they will receive on Saturday, April 30th 2016. This is a very special day for the children and their families and we hope that over the coming months the children grow to understand more fully the significance of receiving this sacrament. A special meeting for parents has been arranged for Scoil Mhuire gan Smal, Cartown on February 16th at 7.30pm.

- Pledge Sunday – Feb. 7th at 10.30am



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION FIVE WEEK DRAW

Thank you to all our school families that are supporting the **Five Week Draw** organised by the Parents Association in our school. The winner of €100 in Week 1 was Margaret O'Neill with the seller's prize of €20 going to her daughter Aoibhe-Lily.

Congratulations Margaret & Aoibhe-Lily!!

The draw for Week 2 will take place next Friday in the school.

Please support the work of the Parents Association by entering the draw.



Rising Stars Golf Coaching

The pupils in first class and both second classes have just finished a programme of golf coaching lessons designed by LD Golf. This company organises a professional golf coach to teach the basic golf skills to school children over a specific period of time. Even though LD Golf works with schools all over Ireland, we are one of the first schools in Louth to try it out and it has been a great success. In the photo we can see the pupils of Mrs Collins' second class with some of the specialised equipment used in the lessons.

MATHLETICS

Don't forget to enrol your child in the excellent online Maths programme, Mathletics.

Over 150 of our pupils used this programme to improve their Maths skills last year and we hope even more will sign up to the programme in 2015/16. The signup fee is €6 for the year and usernames and passwords will be distributed over the next few weeks.

School★Stars

*Well done to all of our talented pupils who performed in the School Stars competition at the TLT this year. We were delighted to learn last week that four pupils have qualified for the final in the TLT on this Tuesday night. Congratulations and best of luck to **Rachel Akano, Ruairi Holohan, Aoibh Murray and Josh Keating.***

NNRIT & Standardised Testing

In the summer term standardised testing is carried out in all classes except Junior and Senior Infants. Pupils are tested in Numeracy and Literacy using tests which are extensively used in other primary schools around the country. The results of these tests are communicated to parents in end of year reports. Parents also receive an information leaflet to help interpret the results. The outcome of these tests also inform teachers planning for the next school year.

In addition to the above tests, a Non-Reading Intelligence Test is administered in 1st class and again in 5th class. By using the data from these tests, teachers are better able to support the learning needs of the pupils in their classes and pupils who would benefit from some additional learning support are identified.



SCHOOL BOOK FAIR (Nov. 23-27th)

Following a very successful MS Readathon where the children raised **€3,269.89** for charity, the School Book Fair will be taking place in our school all this week. Parent and pupils will have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of recommended children's books. Any books that are not available on the shelves can be ordered and will be delivered to the school over the next week or two. Parents will be able to visit the Book Fair each day from 3pm-3.30pm and on Wednesday from 8.45am -9.10am.

NEW LANGUAGE CURRICULUM

Following the introduction recently of a new school curriculum in Religious Education, we have been informed that an updated Language Curriculum will be launched in the new school year. School principals are being invited to an information seminar on this new curriculum over the coming weeks.

FIT KIDS PERFORMANCES

The children in Senior Infants and 4th classes are thoroughly enjoying the Fit Kids sessions every Friday with Jacinta and Niamh. They are working very hard on their routines at the moment as the performances for their parents and school friends are only a few weeks away.

There will be four performances in all on Friday December 11th – two for parents/grandparents and two for other pupils in the school.

More details about these shows will be available soon.



Christmas at Scoil Naomh Feichín

- We are hoping that **Santa** will have some time to drop into our school for a quick visit before the Christmas holidays – probably on Dec 18th.
- Well known children's author and storyteller, Liam Farrell, will also be coming in to the Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second Classes on December 21st to talk to the children about his book *"The Story of the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf"* – the wolf in the story will also be making an appearance!!!!

School Website

Don't forget to check the school website for information updates and also to see what the pupils in our school are up to.

Guided Reading



Guided Reading in Second Classes

The pupils in both second classes are currently engaged in a guided reading programme which will continue for a period of six weeks. During that time the children will have daily reading lessons in small groups of 5 or 6 pupils. Since reading levels vary within a classroom, guided reading enables the teachers to work with small groups of pupils at similar instructional reading levels and helps them achieve success. As well as five teachers we also have two community volunteers, Ciara Foley and Derry Branigan, working on this project. This is the second year that they have been involved and we are very grateful for their support and assistance.



SCIENCE WEEK VISIT TO DKIT

To mark the start of Science Week, Mrs McCluskey and her 6th class pupils attended a special Science Show at Dundalk Institute of Technology on Nov. 10th.

Quiz Champions

Congratulations to the boys and girls on our Cumann na mBunscoil school quiz team which won the regional qualifier competition earlier this month. The team then went on to compete in the Louth County Final in Knockbridge and were unlucky to be beaten by just one point by the eventual winners, St Peter's NS, Dromiskin.

The next school quiz competition is the Credit Union Primary Schools Quiz which will take place on Feb. 1st 2016.

School Quiz Team: Tom Feeney, Mark Holohan, Ava Briscoe, Megan Ruddy & Abby Rice.



Girls Gaelic Football

Well done to the girls Gaelic Football team which qualified for the Louth County Final after victories over Harestown National School and Scoil Mhuire gan Smal, Cartown. Our girls played really well in the semi-final but were up against a very strong team from Knockbridge National School. Unfortunately, the physical strength of the girls from Knockbridge was the deciding factor in the end and their team qualified for the county final. Ms McAuley, Mr Casey and Ms Campbell were all very pleased with the effort of their team and were delighted that the girls got to this stage of the competition.

Gaelic Football training will recommence for boys and girls in the spring term.



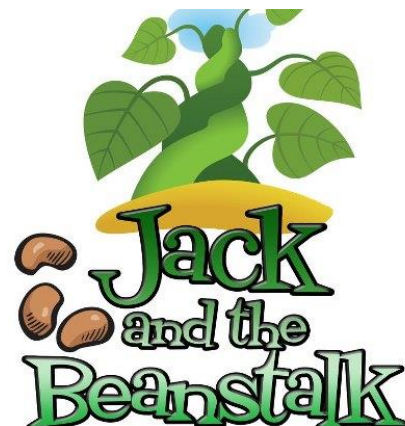
Drogheda Pantomime Society

As usual Drogheda Pantomime Society has made tickets available to our school for this year's show, *Jack & the Beanstalk*, which takes place in the TLT from Jan. 17th – 24th. There are nightly shows at 7.30pm and matinees at the weekends. If you are planning to go to the pantomime, please buy the tickets from our school as we get a commission from the sale of tickets.

Tickets Prices:

Adult €15 / Child €10 /

Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) €45



Cross Country Running

Five girls and five boys represented our school at the primary schools cross country running championships held at St Joseph's CBS a few weeks ago. The best runners from primary and secondary schools in the Drogheda area competed in this annual event and our runners represented the school very well on the day.

