



Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



September News 2017

Fáilte ar ais - Welcome back to School

On behalf of the staff of our school I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our pupils and parents at the start of a new school year. I would especially like to welcome those pupils who are starting school for the very first time. We hope that our new Junior Infants settle in quickly and make lots of new friends. We are also delighted to welcome a large number of pupils who have joined us from other primary schools at home and abroad. We hope that all of our pupils have a wonderful year.

| SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017/18 | |
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| Oct. 27 th – Nov. 6 th | Halloween Midterm Break (1 week) |
| **Dec. 14 th – Thurs (NEW) | Staff Planning Day for New Language Curriculum (School Closed) |
| Dec. 22 nd – Jan 8 th | Christmas Holidays (2 weeks–school closes 12.30pm) |
| Feb 15 th & 16 th (Thurs/Fri) | Midterm Break – (2 days) |
| March 19 th (Mon.) | Public Holiday (1 day) |
| March 23 rd – April 9 th | Easter Holidays (2 weeks–school closes 12.30pm) |
| May 4 th & 7 th (Fri. & Mon.) | Public Holiday (2 days) |
| June 4 th (Mon.) | Public Holiday (1 day) |
| June 26 th (Tues) | School closes at 12.30pm |

*** Please note that we have just been informed by the Department of Education & Skills that all teachers in our school are required to attend an official planning day for the new Language Curriculum in Navan on December 14th. Consequently our school will be closed on that day.*

New Junior Infants

It's great to see that the children in our new Junior Infants class have settled in to school so easily and quickly. Lots of great pictures from the first day in the Gallery of the school website – www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie

Junior Infants & Parents – First Day at Primary School



New Member of School Staff

During the summer break we appointed a new Special Needs Assistant to our staff. Her name is Mrs Jeanne Lynch and we would like to extend her a warm welcome to our school community. It is also great to have three of our experienced teachers back with us again after their maternity leaves – I'm sure that Mrs Sweeney, Ms Carolan and Mrs Collins couldn't wait to meet their new classes and begin a new school year here at Scoil Naomh Feichín.

Meetings for Parents

Thank you to all of the parents who came along to the information meetings with some of the teachers of junior classes earlier this month. These meetings are especially useful for parents who want to take an active role in supporting their children with their homework activities and it really helps parents have a greater understanding of what the teacher is working on during the school day. The meeting for Junior Infant parents was especially important as some parents may not have had children attend primary school previously and so much has changed in primary school education over the last decade. Thank you to Mrs Cassidy, Mr McCann and Ms Carroll for arranging these meetings and also to members of the Parents Association who provided refreshments at the evening meeting for Junior Infants parents.



Mrs Cassidy's Meeting with Junior Infant Parents

Parent Teacher Meetings

We have scheduled Parent Teacher Meetings for Wednesday & Thursday Nov 15th & 16th.

However if you would like to speak to your child's teacher before that about any concern that you may have or to check on your child's progress at school, an appointment can be arranged with the class teacher or learning support teacher.

School Extension & Renovation Project

Construction work on our school building project has finally commenced. The site for the seven classrooms, sports hall, special education rooms, offices, staffroom and ancillary accommodation has now been cleared and foundations are being dug this week. The main contractor for this project is CJ Callan & Co., Ardee.

It is inevitable that there will be disruption to our school community over the next 12-18 months but we will do all we can to minimise the inconvenience for pupils, parents and school staff.



Safety during the Construction Phase

Safety in and around the school is a significant concern for us during the construction of our new building. At the initial site meetings with the main contractor, architects and safety consultants, we have stressed that everything possible must be done to ensure that the pupils in our school can access the school safely each morning and leave safely in the afternoon. We have insisted that there will be no deliveries to the site between the following times each day:

8.45am – 9.30am / 1.50pm – 2.10pm / 2.50pm-3.15pm

We recommend that parents who are dropping off the children in the morning to please use the drop off zone in the staff carpark. Please do not double park on the roadway. Parents also have access to the church carpark during dropping off and picking up times. We would ask parents and pupils to cross carefully from the school to the church carpark and to use the footpath on the school side of the road until they can cross directly across to the church carpark.

In addition, we are considering the option of a staggered finish to the school day with some of the classes who normally finish at 3pm finishing at 2.50pm to help lessen the congestion around the school at those times. We will monitor the situation over the next week or two and reassess the arrangements then.

Over the next few weeks all classes will be doing Road Safety lessons and activities.

DRIVERS – PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY WHEN APPROACHING THE SCHOOL – THANK YOU

Welcome Fr Duffy

On Tuesday morning the pupils attended a Mass in the church to celebrate the start of a new school year. Many thanks to Fr Duffy for his help in arranging this special Mass for the children. We wish him well for his year in Termonfechin Parish.



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We are very fortunate to have wonderful parents involved on the committee of our Parents Association. The Annual General Meeting of the PA will be coming up soon and we would encourage as many parents as possible to attend. Any support you can give the Parents Association is greatly appreciated. Please get involved if you can this year.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION AGM – MONDAY OCT 16th at 8pm



Chess Club

Over the last few years the game of Chess has become very popular in our school. We have run a very successful Chess Club after school hours and this year we will again arrange this for pupils in 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th classes. The 3rd & 4th class chess coaching will be on Tuesdays after school (3pm-4pm) while the children in 5th & 6th classes will be able to join the Chess Club on Wednesday afternoons (3pm-4pm).

The Chess Club will start after the midterm break. All of the pupils from 3rd class up will receive a note about this in mid-October.

We will also be entering a school team in the Drogheda area Primary Schools Chess League.



Garda Sports Day

The pupils in both 6th classes will be attending the Annual Garda Síochána Primary Schools Sports Day on Wednesday, October 11th. The event will take place as usual in Cumann Peile O'Raghallaigh, Drogheda. The children who will represent our school in the different event will be selected this week.

Tag Rugby

The pupils in 5th & 6th classes are currently involved in Tag Rugby coaching every week with Peter Kerr, a rugby coach from Boyne Rugby Club. Every Friday for the next 6 weeks the boys and girls will learn the basic skills and play non-contact fun games in the school field. This activity is free of charge and is funded by Boyne Rugby Club.



