



Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



School Newsletter – November 2018



Welcome back to everyone after the midterm break. Hopefully you all enjoyed the week off and are now looking forward to the remainder of the first term. As you can see from the picture there has been lots of work done on our school extension project over the last few months. Fortunately, we were able to begin the school year in September in our new 7 classroom extension which was fully kitted out with new furniture and IT equipment. The builders are now working on the remainder of the project which is the refurbishment of the original school building. Three classrooms are almost ready to be occupied and we are hopeful that we can move the pupils, who are currently in the temporary classrooms (prefabs), into these new classrooms before the end of November. With a little luck the entire project will be completed by the end of February 2019.

School Staff

There are a number of new teachers in our school this year due to Career Breaks and Maternity Leaves.

Mrs McGuinness (1st Class) is filling in for Ms McAuley who is on Career Break.

Ms Cartmill (Sen. Infants) is filling in for Ms Campbell who is on Career Break.

Ms Brannigan (5th Class) is covering Ms Carolan's Maternity Leave.

Ms Thompson (Learning Support) is covering Mrs Fahy's Maternity Leave.



Shortage of Substitute Teachers

Parents should be aware that there is currently a chronic shortage of qualified substitute primary teachers in our country. We always endeavour to source a suitably qualified teacher whenever one of our staff is absent due to illness. However, this is not always possible.

Set Down Area

Until work is complete on the large playground to the south of the school, the pupils will continue to use the staff car park as an assembly and play area. Members of school staff are temporarily parking across the road in the church car park and we are very grateful to the Parish Priest and the Parish for this facility. Some additional road markings are to be painted in the set down area outside the school and we are also awaiting the installation of the Pelican Crossing on the main road.

We would like to remind parents who are dropping their children to school that the area outside the school wall is a Set Down / Drop Off Area. In the interests of road safety and in consideration for other road users, please do not park in this area.

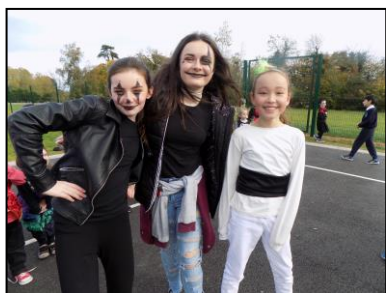
First Days at School for Our New Junior Infants

It's wonderful to see how well our new Junior Infant pupils have settled in to their new classes. This year we have two Junior Infant classes and they are under the care of Mrs Cassidy and Ms Cartmill. The children were so lucky that our new classrooms were ready just in time for their arrival. After the initial few days the children got into the routine of lining up in the morning and are enjoying their time in school with their friends. In our school we use a teaching methodology called Station Teaching where we timetable a number of our Special Education team to work collaboratively with the pupils in the junior classrooms for a period each day. The class is divided up into small groups and teachers lead the learning with each group. We have found this initiative, along with Guided Reading, to be very successful over the last few years. Thank you also to Mrs Cassidy and Ms Cartmill for organising an Information Meeting for Parents at the start of the school year.



Halloween Fun

Most of the pupils and members of staff got into the Halloween spirit on the last day before midterm when we organised a fancy dress fundraiser for Spinal Injuries Ireland. During the day we had a Spooks Parade in the playground and there were also class parties and lots of fun. We are delighted to report that €430 was raised through the generosity of school families. Thank you.



ENROLMENT CEREMONIES

- Enrolment Ceremony for children preparing for the Sacraments of First Penance & First Communion
Sunday Nov 11th at 11am Mass in Termonfeckin Church.
- Enrolment Ceremony for children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
Sunday Nov 18th at 11am Mass in Termonfeckin Church.
- Tues. March 12th 2019 (7.30pm) – First Penance in Termonfeckin Church
- Sat. May 11th 2019 (11am) – First Communion in Termonfeckin Church
- Sat. May 25th 2019 (11am) – Confirmation in Termonfeckin Church

School Mass

Thank you to our new Parish Priest, Fr Paul Byrne, for organising such a lovely School Mass to mark the start of a new school year.



Parent Teacher Meetings

Appointments for Parent Teacher Meetings will be forwarded to parents this week. We hope that you are able to attend at the allocated time. Please let us know as soon as possible if this time is not suitable.

School Book Fair

The annual School Book Fair will be held in the school at the end of November.

Food Dudes

The school has applied to be involved in the Food Dudes Health Eating Programme again this year. This will be starting very soon.

A Great Send Off for Caretaker Eamon Murphy



Retirement of Caretaker Eamon Murphy

Having served about 20 years in our school as caretaker, Eamon has decided to retire following his 75th birthday. All of the pupils and school staff gave him a great send off at the end of October. We sincerely hope that Eamon enjoys his well-earned retirement and we wish him well for the future.

CHESS IS BACK



We will soon be organising the School Chess Club which will start over the next few weeks. Please return the ***Expression of Interest*** notes to Mr Collins as soon as possible.



Instrumental Music

Mrs Cassidy has already begun teaching tin whistle in her classroom after school each Tuesday. Great to see that this activity is as popular as ever....

News from the Parents Association

The Parents' Association would like to extend a huge Thank You to **Cllr. Oliver Tully** for his very generous donation towards the cost of a new defibrillator in our school. In more defibrillator news, we have secured training on the new AED for up to 12 people and have reserved several places on the training for parents and members of the local community. The training will take 3-3.5 hours. If anyone is interested in taking part in this training, please make contact with a member of the PA Committee (details below).

Our next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, November 22nd and Monday, December 10th at 8pm.

We would love to see you there.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

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SPORT AT SCOIL NAOMH FEICHIN

School Gaelic Football News

In the absence of Mrs Fahy and Ms McAuley, the boys and girls Gaelic football teams are being looked after by Mr Collins this year. In October both of the teams played in the autumn school leagues organised by Cumann na mBunscol. Even though the boys performed well in their group matches they failed to qualify for the knockout stages of the competition. However, the girls' team was superb, winning all of the group matches and qualifying for a county semi-final versus Ballapousta NS. Unfortunately, the girls from Ballapousta made the most of their home advantage and earned a narrow win over our girls. Great to see such interest from the Termonfeckin girls this year.



Well done to our talented young school hurlers, Darragh, Paidí, Cathal and Seán who starred in the St Fechin's team which won the U11 Louth hurling shield in September.



Congratulations to the St Fechin's U12 Girls Team and the Ladies Team which were crowned County Champions recently.



Brilliant performances by our 3rd & 4th class boys and girls teams at the FAI FUTSAL tournament at DkIT last month. The girls won all of their matches and the boys had all wins and one draw in their group.



Mr McCann was in charge of our school's Cross Country Running team (above) which participated in the Primary Schools Championships at St Joseph's CBS, Drogheda in October.

