



## Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



### School Newsletter – April/May 2017



It's hard to believe that we are now into the final term of this school year, with only 8 weeks remaining until the start of the summer holidays. We hope that all of our school families enjoyed the Easter break and that the children made the most of their two weeks free of school work and homework. Our school calendar for May and June is extremely busy so the next two months will absolutely fly. I have highlighted some of the important events below so that you are aware of them and in this newsletter I look back on some of the highlights of last term.

**Bryan Collins**  
Principal

#### Important Dates This Term

- May 1<sup>st</sup> (Mon): Public Holiday – school closed
- May 13<sup>th</sup> (Sat): First Communion Mass at 11am
- May 27<sup>th</sup> (Sat): Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> (Fri): School Closed
- June 5<sup>th</sup> (Mon): Public Holiday – school closed
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> (Fri): End of Year Mass at 10am
- June 27<sup>th</sup> (Tues): School closes at 12.30pm for summer holidays.

#### ENROLMENT OF NEW PUPILS

There are still places available in some of our classes for new pupils to enrol in our school for the new school year. So, if you know anyone that would like to enrol their child in Scoil Naomh Feichín, please ask them to contact the school and request an application form as soon as possible.



#### Leinster Primary Schools Tennis League

We were delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this year's Leinster Primary Schools Tennis League. We entered a mixed team of boys and girls and played our matches at Naas Tennis Club on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Our squad on the day was made up of Peter & Anna McNulty, Jake Fahey, Angel Ortega, Hugo & Alice Johnston, Molly Rock & Kaitlin Briscoe. In our section were teams from Churchill NS, (Kilkenny), Kilashee NS (Kildare) and Curraghera NS (Meath). Our players played really well on the day but unfortunately the team did not qualify for the final this year. For us to enter a team again next year, we need to have more tennis players in our school so please encourage your children to try tennis out over the summer months. We will also be running some tennis coaching in the school over the next 6 weeks with the junior classes. Many thanks to Margaret Drew (tennis coach) and Peter McNulty who helped organise the team.



Sixth class teacher, Mrs McCluskey, is currently preparing her pupils to receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. As usual our school will join with Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Cartown for the parish Confirmation ceremony. Altogether 71 pupils will be confirmed on that day. Consequently, access to the church will be limited. More information will be circulated to 6<sup>th</sup> class families this week.



#### FIRST PENANCE

Congratulations to the pupils in Ms Clayton's 2<sup>nd</sup> class who made their First Confession on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The children are now eagerly looking forward to their First Communion Day on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Spelling Bee

Our annual school Spelling Bee will take place during the first week in May. Pupils from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class will compete to become their class Spelling Champion and trophies will be awarded to the winners at the end of the school year. In addition, our 6<sup>th</sup> class winner will go forward to represent our school in the County Louth Spelling Bee Final which will take place in Dundalk Grammar School in a few weeks.

The pupils in 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes will be doing their annual standardised tests in Maths & English in mid-May. Results will be included in the end of year school reports.



### LEGO CLUB

Many thanks to Mrs Ryan for organising and running the Lego Club during the spring term. The children who participated really enjoyed the afternoons designing, constructing and completing their challenges with their friends. See some of their work on the Lego Club page on the school website - <http://www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie/lego-club.html>

### School Chess Club

Our after-school chess club has finished up for the summer and we have also nearly completed all of the matches in our chess championships. Trophies will be awarded at the end of the year to the class champions in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. We were delighted to see almost 60 pupils playing chess in our school this year. Meanwhile, our school chess team is currently involved in the local primary schools chess league. We had a 3-2 win over Gaelscoil an Bhradáin Feasa, Mornington in our first match and St. Joseph's CBS were our opponents in our second league match which we lost 2-3. Finally, we have also arranged friendly matches for our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class chess players with our friends in Scoil Mhuire gan Smal, Cartown.

### SCHOOL EXTENSION UPDATE

Even though we are moving towards the construction phase of the long-awaited school extension project, the recent progress has been painfully slow. At this stage we are dealing with quite small issues but hopefully the Department of Education and Skills can issue the relevant letter to the contractor recommended by the Design Team to allow work to commence without too much further delay.



For the last few years we have invited an excellent theatre company from the UK to put on shows for our pupils. Some of the productions we have enjoyed were **Alice in Wonderland**, **The Railway Children** and **Oliver**. This year's show is **Treasure Island** and there will be two performances on Tuesday next, May 9<sup>th</sup>. The cost per child is €3. Families with 2 or 3 pupils in the school are asked to contribute a total of €5.

### Tin Whistle Classes

Many thanks to Mrs Cassidy for teaching the pupils tin whistle after school this year. Hopefully all of the young musicians are remembering to practice their tunes at home.



Jumble Sale to raise money for the work of the MMM.



### Thank You for your Support

During the Lenten period the pupils in our senior classes organised fundraising events and raised an amazing **€2,255** which will be donated to the Medical Missionaries of Mary.

### MMR / 4 in 1 Vaccinations

Nurses and doctors from the HSE will be in our school on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, to administer the MMR / 4 in 1 Vaccinations to the Junior Infant pupils.



# SPORT FOR ALL



*At Scoil Naomh Feichín we actively promote and encourage participation in sports as part of a healthy lifestyle. During the summer term there will be lots of opportunities for all of the pupils to be active and to play games with their friends.*



## Gaelic Games

Every year Mrs Fahy and Ms McAuley do terrific work with the Gaelic football teams in our school. The boys and girls teams participate in the Cumann na mBunscol primary schools leagues and the teachers arrange regular training sessions for the pupils in the senior classes. Ms Campbell and Mr Casey also help out with the teams. We are also very fortunate that our local GAA club, **St Fechin's GFC** are very supportive and the club arranges for coaches to come to the school to teach the basic skills of hurling and football to the younger children. Louth County Board also provide hurling and football coaches who help with the coaching of young players in school throughout the year.



## TENNIS

Tennis is a wonderful game for children of all ages. We are promoting the game by arranging coaching for four of the junior classes. We will employ a qualified tennis coach who will supply all of the equipment needed for the coaching sessions. We would love to see more of our pupils joining the local tennis club in An Grianán and making use of it over the summer months. Ideally we would like to enter the Leinster Primary Schools Tennis League every year but unfortunately we have a shortage of tennis players at the moment. So, please consider encouraging your children to play the game and get involved in the coaching programme at Termonfeckin Tennis Club.



## SOCCER

Our girls and boys participated in the FAI Primary Schools soccer tournaments in Dundalk earlier this year. Now that the weather is starting to improve and our school field is playable, Mr McCann is planning to start soccer coaching sessions after school.



## PITCH & PUTT

The pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> class get the opportunity to learn the skills of Pitch & Putt during the month of June with three coaching sessions arranged at Seapoint Pitch & Putt Club. The children really enjoy these sessions and have great fun playing with their school friends. All of the equipment is supplied by the Pitch & Putt Union of Ireland.

Many thanks to all at Seapoint Pitch & Putt Club for allowing us to use the course for this activity.



*We plan to run our Active School Week from June 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> this year. During that week there will be a huge variety of sports activities arranged for all of the pupils.*



# Parents Association



*The wonderful parents involved in our Parents Association have been working tirelessly throughout the year to support the work of the school. Over the next few weeks we will be arranging special events for the families of the children who will be receiving their First Communion and Confirmation. We sincerely hope that the parents on the Parents Association get lots of offers of support to help with the catering at these gatherings in the school after the church ceremonies.*

## CASH FOR CLOBBER

### Clothing Recycling.

The easy way to generate **cash** for your School.

*we weigh. we pay.*



### Cash for Clobber Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Cash for Clobber collection. As a result of the generosity of our school families and people in the local community, we managed to raise **€ 420** for school projects. We also had a sale of school uniforms and tracksuits that raised **€ 92.**



**National Parents Council Primary**  
*Supporting Parents Supporting Children*

National Parents Council Primary offers training to Parents and Parents' Associations nationwide. All of the training sessions can be delivered locally in your child's school – no need to travel! To book any of these sessions or to find out more see the Training & Online Resources section of our website [www.npc.ie](http://www.npc.ie)

It's as simple as that or if you prefer to talk to someone directly please contact Sharon in our Training section on 01 887 4475 who will be more than happy to assist you.

### Training Sessions on offer for 2017

- Parenting – Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships.
- Anti-Bullying Training for Parents
- Internet Safety Training
- Supporting Parents to support their children's mental health and wellbeing
- Parents' Association / Parental Involvement Training
- Transition from Primary to Post Primary
- Training for Boards of Management
- Whole School Evaluation

**To book any of these sessions for your Parents' Association see [www.npc.ie](http://www.npc.ie) or contact Sharon Hopkins on 01 887 4475.**

The NPC Conference will be taking place on Saturday the **10<sup>th</sup> of June 2017** in the **National College of Ireland**, Dublin 1.

We hope to see you and other parents from your child's school on the day; all parents and those interested in primary school education are welcome to attend.

*Melissa Murphy (Chairperson), Ann Briscoe (Secretary) & Ann Marie Martin (Treasurer)*

***Scoil Naomh Feichin Parents Association***