



# Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



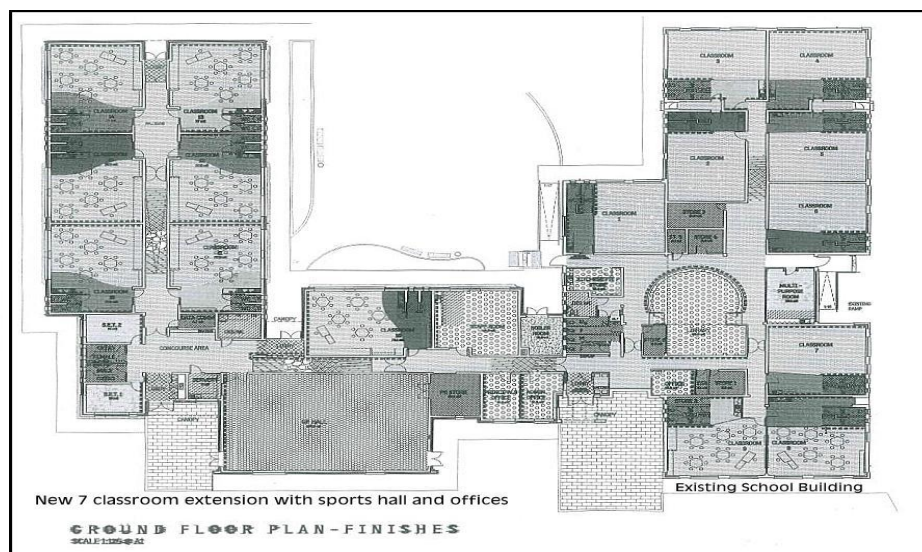
## School Newsletter – Jan 2018

*Happy New Year to all of our school families !!*

2018 will be a very exciting year for our school with the ongoing work on our long-awaited school extension which is due to be finished at the end of the year. Once work on the new building is complete, the existing school will be completely refurbished and we will then be in a position to remove all temporary classrooms. The new facilities will be state of the art and we are all very much looking forward to moving in to the new accommodation and particularly having a multi-purpose sports hall and a purpose built school library which will be in the existing school hall.



## School Construction NEWS



## Catholic Schools Week 2018

Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families

28 January – 4 February 2018

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2018

The daily themes are:

Monday: Our Family at Home

Tuesday: Our School Family

Wednesday: Grandparents: A Special Part of Our Family

**Wed – Jan 31<sup>st</sup> GRANDPARENTS DAY for pupils in Second Class**

Thursday: Our Parish Family Friday: Our World Family

Friday: Our World Family

On this Sunday we will have a special FAMILY MASS in Termonfeckin to launch Catholic Schools Week.

The pupils from both of our parish schools are invited to come along with their families to 11am Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Termonfeckin.

Ireland has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the World Meeting of Families 2018. From Aug 21-26, families and others from all over the world will gather in Dublin to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. This event presents a special opportunity for school families to not only celebrate the fact that parents are the primary educators of their children, but also the vital role that Catholic schools play in assisting parents in their duty to raise their children.

This year a special programme has been devised for all schools. The theme of this programme is Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families. It invites Catholic schools to reflect on and to celebrate the relationship that exists between home, school and parish through participation in four sub themed catechetical moments.

Moment One: Catholic Schools – Families of Hope (Nov 2017)

Moment Two: Catholic Schools – Families of Faith (Jan-Feb 2018)

Moment Three: Catholic Schools – Families of Love – (Lent 2018)

Moment Four: Catholic Schools – Families of Joy – (May/June 2018)

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

Sincere thanks to all those families who donated non-perishable food items for our annual collection for the local branch of **St. Vincent de Paul**. All of this food was divided up into several hampers and distributed to families in the Termonfeckin area.

We also organised a raffle among the pupils before the holidays and **€626.85** was raised which we donated to **Drogheda Homeless Aid**. Thank you all for your wonderful support.

### **ENROLMENT OF NEW PUPILS**

We are now requesting fully completed enrolment application forms from parents/guardians who wish to apply for a place for their child for the start of the school year 2018/19. Forms are available from the office and must be returned by **February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the latest.**

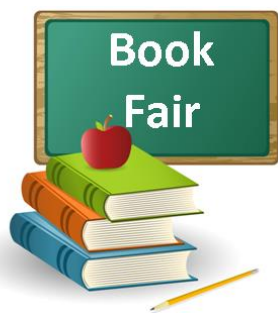
We also have some places available for pupils who wish to enrol in other classes.

As we will have additional classrooms in our expanded school building we will have more capacity to enrol pupils who would like to attend school in Termonfeckin over the coming years.



### **Credit Union Quiz 2018**

80 pupils from both of our parish schools will be competing in the preliminary round of the annual Primary Schools Quiz organised by Termonfeckin Credit Union. This year Scoil Mhuire gan Smal, Cartown are hosting the quiz which takes place on Monday next, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. The winning teams in the U-13 and u-11 sections will go on to represent Termonfeckin Credit Union in the regional final in March.



### **Scholastic Book Fair**

Thank you to all parents who supported our School Book Fair and to Mrs Hurley for organising it last term. As a result of the number of books purchased, the school now has € 1,191 of credit with the company to purchase books for our pupils to use in school.

### **CHESS CLUB**

Our school Chess Club is as popular as ever this year with 55 pupils playing chess after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We are currently running class leagues and each class champion and runner up will be presented with a trophy at the end of the year. The school will also be participating in the Drogheda Primary Schools Chess League and our players are looking forward to competing against players from other schools.

Scoil Naomh Feichin were runners up in the league in 2017.

The Chess Club will continue to run until the Easter Holidays at the end of March.



## News from the Parents Association



We would encourage parents to support the school's Parents Association by volunteering to become involved on the committee and supporting school projects. It's really important, especially now that we are expanding and upgrading the school, to have an active and well-supported Parents Association so please become involved if you can.

In Nov/Dec there was brilliant support for the **Five Week Draw** which raised **€3,500** for school projects. Thanks to everyone for getting behind this fundraising initiative and helping make it a success.

### Five Week Draw Winners

<u>Week 1:</u>	Julie Thorne €100	/	Mark Clifford (Junior Infants)	€20
<u>Week 2:</u>	Jackie Pope €100	/	Johnny Rooney (Junior Infants)	€20
<u>Week 3:</u>	Martin Kelly €100	/	Tony Kelly (Junior Infants)	€20
<u>Week 4:</u>	Patricia Johnston €100	/	Caoife Johnston (Second Class)	€20
<u>Week 5:</u>	Aine O'Gorman €100	/	Darragh O'Gorman (5 <sup>th</sup> Class)	€20
	Kieran Smith €100	/	Sophie McGuirk (4 <sup>th</sup> Class)	€20

We are currently discussing the possibility of purchasing a new **AED Defibrillator** unit for the school to replace the existing unit which is approximately 15 years old. We consider that this is a very important device to have available for use in and around the school. The Board of Management has committed to part-fund the new Defibrillator and also the cost of training for a number of school staff. In addition, we are extremely grateful to the school family who made a very generous donation of €250 towards the cost of a new defibrillator for the school – Sincere thanks from everyone at the school.

Melissa Murphy (Chairperson)

## **IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM**

- ❖ Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Family Mass 11am (Church of the Immaculate Conception Termonfeckin)
- ❖ Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Temperance Sunday – Pledge for Confirmation pupils
- ❖ Feb. 15 & 16 (Thursday & Friday) – Mid Term Break – School Closed
- ❖ Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> (Sunday): Family Mass 11am (Church of the Immaculate Conception Termonfeckin)
- ❖ March 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday): Public Holiday – School Closed
- ❖ March 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday): First Penance in Termonfeckin Church at 7.30pm
- ❖ March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Friday): School closes at 12.30pm for Easter Holidays.
- ❖ April 9<sup>th</sup> (Monday): School reopens for Summer Term



### **Junior Infants Parent Teacher Meetings**

*Junior Infants Teacher, Mrs Cassidy, will be arranging to meet parents of her pupils over the next two weeks to discuss the progress of her pupils and how well they are getting on at school.*







Please download the **textaparent app** so that you can receive messages from the school and also see the school calendar on your phone.

By downloading this **FREE app** you will help the school save money.

Thank you.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The school photographer will be visiting our school to take photographs of individual pupils and siblings on May 15<sup>th</sup> & May 30<sup>th</sup>. He will take pictures of pupils who have received their First Communion on May 15<sup>th</sup> as well as the Junior Infant Class. On May 30<sup>th</sup> he will take pictures of pupils who have been confirmed and also the 6<sup>th</sup> class groups.



## Tin Whistle Classes

Pupils are continuing to learn new tunes on the tin whistle every Tuesday after school. Many thanks to Mrs Cassidy for organising these music lessons for the pupils.

## Healthy Lunches

The children are doing really well so far this year and it's great to see so much fruit and vegetables included in the school lunches. The only drinks that are permitted are water and milk. Please keep up the good work and there is no doubt it will have a positive impact on the overall health of our pupils.



## Shortage of Substitute Teachers

There has been quite a lot of media coverage recently about the chronic shortage of qualified substitute primary teachers at the moment, particularly along the east coast. This is beginning to create problems for us at our school as it can be very difficult to source a substitute teacher in the event of a teacher being absent due to illness.

From time to time, no substitute teacher is available at all and we have to either split up the class and send small groups to other classrooms or arrange for one of the special education teachers or principal to teach the class for the day. None of these solutions are acceptable but nevertheless we are occasionally forced to do this.

Over the course of the year there are very beneficial courses and workshops which teachers can attend in the area of Child Protection and Teaching & Learning but unfortunately sometimes we have to withdraw from attending these courses as there is no one available to take a teacher's class.

The principal has written to the Minister for Education & Skills, the INTO, IPPN and IPPN to highlight this unacceptable situation. Unfortunately, there is going to be no easy solution, in the short term.

