



Dear parents,

Believe it or not, this school year is absolutely flying by and we really won't feel it until we're preparing for the Christmas break. The pupils have been extraordinary since we returned to school at the end of August. They have all adapted so well to our new daily routines and have followed the rules for handwashing and sanitising without any fuss. Their behaviour has also been exemplary and we're relieved that they have adjusted so easily to being back at school after such a long time away from formal education.

Even though there were many benefits to being at home with their families, it's clear that most of the children were so looking forward to reuniting with their school friends and returning to school.

We are delighted to have them back and we are very relieved that the first term has gone so well for everyone. Great credit is due to parents who have behaved so responsibly in keeping children who are unwell at home, and in so doing, safeguarding the health and wellness of everyone in the school.

We very much appreciate the efforts that our school families have made to follow the HSE Guidelines over the last few months.

We look forward to your continued support and cooperation for the remainder of the school year.

*Bryan Collins
Principal*

Remembering Caretaker Eamon



We were all saddened to hear of the recent death of former school caretaker, Eamon Murphy. The pupils and staff in our school have very fond memories of Eamon who looked after our school building and grounds so well for over 20 years.

At Eamon's funeral Mass a beautiful poem composed by Mrs McCluskey on behalf of the pupils in the school was read by Fr Paul and the senior pupils formed a guard of honour to pay tribute to Eamon as he made his final journey. We will miss him dearly – *Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam.*

School Memories of Eamon

We all are gathered here today
To say our last goodbye
To our dear caretaker Eamon
And we'll try hard not to cry

For Eamon had a special place
In each and every heart
And here in Scoil Naomh Feichín
He played a special part

He kept our school so spick and span
And cut the grass as well
He fixed and mended broken things
And made the place look swell!

But he also took some time out
Of his busy working day
To chat and laugh and joke with us
And make sure we were okay

Sometimes he needed extra hands
With jobs around the place
And we'd happily volunteer to help
With smiles upon our face
But Eamon's work was not just done
From nine to three each day
At Christmas, Confirmation and Communion
time
He'd go out of his way

He'd make our school look lovely
So that these days we could enjoy
And make these times so special
For every girl and boy

Our Eamon also loved the taste
Of sweets and treats and cakes
He loved nothing more than a cup of tea
With some buns just freshly baked

He also loved to have such fun
At the Christmas party night
He was the best dancer on the floor
With his big smile shining bright

And so today we gather here
With sadness in our hearts
And we wish that you were still with us
And we didn't have to part

But we know that you will watch us
From your heavenly home above
We'll remember you in our prayers each
day
And we'll send to you our love.

***Slán Eamon.....from all the children in
Scoil Naomh Feichín***

New School Admissions 2021

Enrolment applications for new junior infants and other classes will be accepted from December 8th 2020 until January 31st 2021. Some parents have already completed and returned an Intention to Enrol Form for their child and we will be in contact with these parents with more information about the enrolment process.

All Irish primary schools have been required, by legislation, to update their Admissions Policies this year.

The process for the enrolment of new pupils is therefore different than previous years.

The school will publish an Admissions Notice on the school website at the end of November so please alert any parents in the area that you think may want to enroll their child in our school for the new school year 2020/21.

Further information on the enrolment process will be published on the school website shortly.

www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie



Return to School Declaration Form

Please remember that before a child can return to school after an illness, one of their parents must complete the **Return to School Health Declaration Form**. This is an online form available on the home page of the school website and can be completed in a few seconds.

The link to the form is here. <https://forms.gle/h53GK8TuojnpcQqA7>



Parent-Teacher Meetings

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, face-to-face meetings between parents and teachers cannot be arranged at the moment. We plan to have some form of virtual parent-teacher meetings early in 2021 and we'll have more information about those after the Christmas holidays.

In the meantime, if any parent has a particular query or concern and wants to arrange a quick chat with their child's teacher, please phone the school office (041-9822589) and the teacher will return your call. Class teachers will contact you if they have any concerns about your child's learning or their wellbeing in school. If you don't hear from your child's teacher this month, you can rest assured that your child is happy at school and is doing well.

School Uniforms

We are very proud of our beautiful school uniform and the pupils look very smart when they wear it.

Please remember that your child should wear their school uniform **every day** unless their teacher has arranged a sports or PE activity. Occasionally, uniforms may need to be washed during the week and in these circumstance it's okay for a pupil to wear their tracksuit to school. However, if your child's uniform is clean and dry it should be worn every day.



Credit Union

Our friends at Termonfeckin Credit Union arrange to collect weekly savings from pupils in our school **every Tuesday**. Savings books are returned later in the week. If you would like your child to start saving with the local Credit Union let the class teacher know and the relevant forms will be sent home.



Gaelic Football Coaching

Our school has a very strong tradition of Gaelic games and we're delighted that Sean Hand has been carrying out weekly coaching in Gaelic Football with a variety of classes since the school reopened at the end of August. Sean is a qualified GAA coach and these coaching sessions are completely funded by Louth GAA. Due to COVID restrictions all coaching this year must be carried out in the sports field or in the school playground.



Christmas Annuals

Each year we offer parents the opportunity to buy some Christmas Annuals through the school. These are always very popular and as we order a large quantity of them we get them at a reduced rate. There are two different Christmas annuals for each class group to choose from. One is published by Folens and the other by educate.ie. These are great stocking fillers and the children thoroughly enjoy the puzzles, games and interesting articles. Parents who want to buy these annuals, please look out for the order form which will be sent home this week.

Annuals are €3 each but if you buy more than one then the price per annual is €2.50.



Science Week in 5th Class

All of the classes got involved in special activities for Science Week 2020. There were all kinds of exciting experiments going on in different classrooms and some of the classes participated in virtual workshops. Here are some pictures from the **Scratch Coding** workshop which both 5th classes (Mrs McManus & Ms Clayton) thoroughly enjoyed.



We were fortunate to have invested in a class set of chromebooks earlier this year and we hope to use these more and more as the technology is now becoming increasingly important in our modern education system. The use of these devices increases the opportunities that pupils have for collaborative and independent learning.

The teachers are involved in continuous professional development on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are up-to-date with the very latest teaching methodologies.

The introduction of Seesaw into our school has been a huge success and we are now working on developing the use of G Suite and Google Classroom in our senior classes.



Amazing Fundraising by Caoimhe Johnson

Congratulations to Caoimhe Johnson (5th Class) who raised no less than €1,200 for the Gary Kelly Centre last month. Caoimhe enlisted the support of her school friends and their families as well as her neighbours and friends to raise much needed funds for an organisation that's close to her heart. She also did some brilliant project work outlining the work carried out at the centre and she shared this with her classmates and teacher. I have no doubt that brother Tadhg and Caoimhe's parents Mark & Emma couldn't be more proud of wonderful Caoimhe.



News from the Parents Association

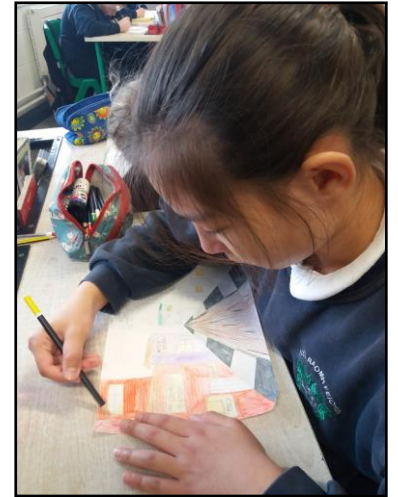
- Due to Covid restrictions, the AGM of the Parents Association could not take place. The three officers are happy to continue in their roles for 2020/21 year.
- Insurance cover for the students was arranged with Allianz, with a large number of students availing of this cover.
- Unfortunately the traditional tea/coffee reception held to celebrate the First Communion could not take place, but the committee made sure the occasion was celebrated by the children of 3rd class by providing treats for the class party.
- Following a brainstorming session, the committee decided on a novel fundraising idea for Christmas this year where each class has designed their own unique **Tote Bag**. All profits made from the sales of the bags will be used to support the teaching and learning of our children. The committee is hoping for the continued generous support of the parents to raise as much money as possible. All orders with the correct money should be sent in to the school in an envelope no later than **Monday November 16th**. No orders can be accepted after this date.
- The committee would be delighted if any parent or guardian would like to participate in events to support the school, and welcome any assistance or ideas. Please contact Amanda Duggan (Chairperson) 0879149340, Rowena Gilmartin (Treasurer) 0876642160 or Kath Kearns (Secretary) 0876997610



Please support our Parents Association and our School by ordering your Bag for Life for your child's class.



School Art
Gallery
Nov 2020
*Some of the brilliant
artwork on display
around the school this
month*

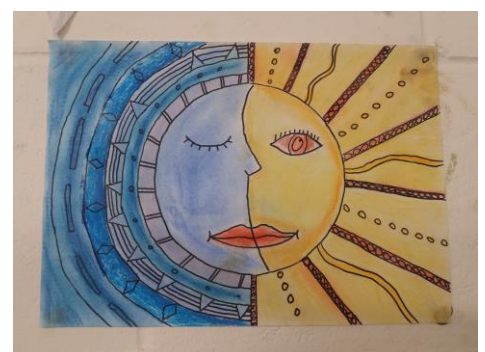




**New Bakery
in Senior Infants**
Following the first production
run of *School Cookies* in
Senior Infants,
Mrs McCluskey's little bakers
were so delighted that they
ate the entire stock of school-
made cookies themselves !!!

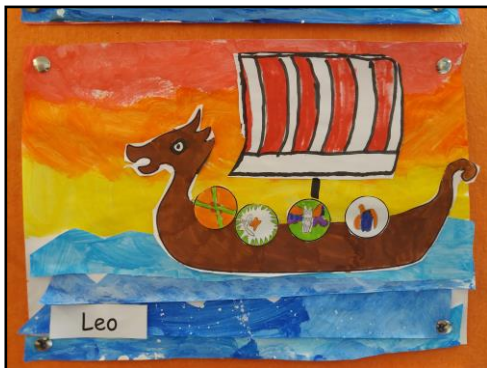


School Art Gallery Nov 2020





School Art Gallery Nov 2020





Important Information about COVID-19 for Parents

Please do everything you can to ensure that all of our pupils and staff remain healthy and well.

How to protect your child from COVID-19

To infect you, the virus has to get from an infected person's nose or mouth into your eyes, nose or mouth. This can happen if someone who has the virus coughs or sneezes near you or if you touch something they have been in contact with, such as an object or a surface.

It is important that you:

- ✓ Wash your hands properly and often
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Cover coughs and sneezes

When its okay to send your child to school

If your child is not a close contact, it is usually okay to send them to primary school if they –

- ✓ Only have nasal symptoms, such as a runny nose or a sneeze
- ✓ Do not have a [high temperature](#) and are not taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen - this can hide a temperature
- ✓ Do not have a new cough
- ✓ Do not live with anyone who is unwell and may have COVID-19
- ✓ Have been told by a GP that it's OK to go back to school or childcare if they have recently been unwell.
- ✓ Have got a [negative COVID-19 test result](#) and have not had symptoms for 48 hours
- ✓ have not had diarrhoea for 48 hours
- ✓ Are being tested as part of a [serial testing programme](#), but have no symptoms and are not a close contact. For example, some children in direct provision centres
- ✓ Are tested regularly because they are in a vulnerable group.

When to keep your child at home from school

Do not send your child to school or childcare if any of the following apply.

Your child has:

- ✓ A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- ✓ Any other common symptoms of COVID-19 - a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has recently become worse
- ✓ Been in [close contact](#) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
- ✓ Been living with someone who is unwell and may have COVID-19
- ✓ Other uncommon symptoms of COVID-19, such as sore throat or headaches diarrhoea
- ✓ Returned from another country in the last 14 days

What to do if your child is a Close Contact

If your child has been identified as a close contact, it means they have been in contact with someone who has Covid-19.

Your child must restrict their movements for 14 days, since they were last in close contact with the person who has tested positive for Covid-19. The HSE will tell you the date the 14 days of restricted movements will finish.

Restricting movements means avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.

During the 14 days restricted movements your child cannot:

- attend school, childcare or any group activities
- use public transport
- visit other people's homes or have visitors to your home

Your child can go outside to attend a medical appointment or to exercise as long as they keep 2 metres distance from other people.

What to do if your child is a Close Contact (Negative Test Result)

If your child, who is a close contact with no symptoms of COVID-19, receives a negative result, they still need to restrict their movements:

- for 14 days, or
- until the date you were told to restrict their movements. This is because it can take up to two weeks to develop infection of COVID-19.

What to do if your child is a Close Contact (Positive Test Result)

Your child will need to self-isolate (stay in their room) if their test result is positive (COVID-19 virus found).

People in your household will need to restrict their movements (stay at home) for 14 days. Household siblings cannot attend school and adults at home should not go to work.

You, or whoever is the main carer of the child in self-isolation, will need to restrict your movements for 17 days. This includes the 10 days that your child is in isolation and for 7 days after your child's isolation period ends.

Your child must self-isolate until:

- they have not had a high temperature (38 degrees Celsius or over) for 5 days AND
- it has been 10 days since they first developed symptoms

If your child has no symptoms, they can stop self-isolating 10 days from the date of their test

Safety Measures at School

It is not common for a child to pass the virus on to other children in school.

Children who do get the virus, usually get it from adults. This is particularly true for children under the age of 13.

Measures in schools to reduce the risk include:

- ✓ Hand hygiene
- ✓ Enhanced cleaning measures throughout the school building
- ✓ Reduced mixing between children
- ✓ Fewer objects going in and out of school

If your child has symptoms of Covid-19, please immediately isolate your child and ring your GP.

For more important information about how to protect your child from COVID-19 click this link - <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/protecting-your-child.html>

Please complete the [Return to School Declaration Form](#) if your child has been unwell and is about to return to school –

The form is available by clicking this link and is also on the school website

<https://forms.gle/h53GK8TuojnpcQqA7>