



## School Newsletter – November 2021

See below for the text of an email sent to all school families today. You will need to check your email account to access the guidance video and attached documents. If you didn't receive this email from the school, please let me know by sending a message to – [principal@scoilnaomhfeichin.ie](mailto:principal@scoilnaomhfeichin.ie)

*Bryan Collins (Principal)*

### ▪ **Health Advice for Parents**

Click the link below for a short guidance video for parents with information on when to keep your child home from school and what to do if they display COVID-19 symptoms.

<https://youtu.be/OLVQFBNf3b4>

On the attached poster you can see the list of symptoms to check for before sending your child to school. If your child has any new onset symptoms and feels unwell or seems off form, please do not send them to school and contact your GP for advice, if necessary.

### ▪ **Child Protection & Safeguarding**

Children First Awareness Week took place last week - 1st to 7th November 2021.

Children First promotes the protection of children from abuse and neglect, by setting out what individuals and organisations need to do to keep children safe, and how to deal with concerns about a child's safety or welfare.

Society has a duty of care towards children, and everyone should be alert to the possibility that children they are in contact with may be abused or at risk of abuse or neglect. If you are concerned about a child or young person, you should contact Tusla social work department.

Organisations classed as providers of relevant services under the Children First Act 2015 are required to complete a risk assessment and must have a Child Safeguarding Statement in place.

More information on keeping children safe in our communities is available at [gov.ie/childrenfirst](http://gov.ie/childrenfirst)

- ✓ All teachers in Scoil Naomh Feichin are Mandated Persons.
- ✓ The DLP (Designated Liaison Person) in Scoil Naomh Feichin is Mr Collins.
- ✓ The DDLP (Deputy Designated Liaison Person) in Scoil Naomh Feichín is Mrs Hurley.
- ✓ Attached to this email is a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. This is due for review at our Board of Management meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2021. This document is also available on the school website – [www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie](http://www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie)
- ✓ On November 15<sup>th</sup> the Board of Management will also be reviewing the school's Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures. This policy is also uploaded onto the school website.

### ▪ **Friendship & Anti-Bullying Month**

Over the course of the next few weeks, the class teachers will be covering the themes of Friendship, Relationships and Safety. Some of these topics are covered in the Stay Safe Programme which is part of our school curriculum. There are also lessons on "Relating to Others" in the school's SPHE (Social, Personal & Health Education) Programme.





*Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Class pupil, Ellie Martin – a prize winner in the prestigious 2021 Texaco Children's Art Competition.*



*Congratulations also to 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils, Jack Doggett, Nicole Dutier and Ruby Sunshine Sarsfield O'Neill who were 2021 winners in the Drogheda Lions Club Poster Competition.*

### ▪ **Admissions Process for New Pupils 2022-23**

Scoil Naomh Feichín will be publishing its annual School Admissions Notice next week. The admissions process will run from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 until January 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

Parents who have already submitted *Intention to Enrol Forms* for 2022-23 will be contacted directly by the school.

Any other parents who would like to enrol their child/ren in Scoil Naomh Feichin should request an *Enrolment Form* from the school office as soon as possible.



The school office can be contacted by phone or email – 041 9822589 / [office@scoilnaomhfeichin.ie](mailto:office@scoilnaomhfeichin.ie)

### ▪ **Substitute Teacher Crisis**



There has been considerable publicity in recent weeks on the significant difficulty that schools are experiencing when sourcing substitute teachers. The level of teacher absence in Scoil Naomh Feichín has always been very low but over the last two years, teachers have not been permitted to come to school if they have any Covid-related symptoms. This has inevitably resulted in our school needing more substitute teachers than in pre-Covid times.

Up to this point we have managed to ensure that all absences have been covered by either a substitute teacher or by redeploying teachers within the school. However, it is now proving almost impossible to source substitute teachers and inevitably, this is putting our school, and all schools in our area, under immense pressure.

As you know, contact tracing and testing has been withdrawn from schools and schools now have little or no support from the HSE. We are very much relying on parents when it comes to following public health guidelines and we will continue to deal with situations where pupils contract Covid-19 as sensitively and responsibly as possible.

We have never considered sending pupils home from school but if the situation continues to deteriorate over the coming months, and we have no competent person to take a class, we may be left with no option.

We will continue to do everything we can to ensure that there's an uninterrupted school year for your children and we hope that we can maintain a sufficient staff levels so that each class has a qualified teacher every day.

### ▪ **Parent Teacher Meetings – February 2022**

We had hoped to organise face-to-face Parent Teacher Meetings this term but we have now decided to hold these meetings at the start of the spring term, probably in the first two weeks of February. Of course if any of our teachers feel that they need to discuss your child's progress at school or have any concerns before that time, they will get in contact with you.



### ▪ **School Planning Workshop – Friday, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>**

Pupils will have a half day on Friday next, November 12<sup>th</sup> as the teachers in our school are required to engage in training related to the introduction of the new Primary Language Curriculum in Irish & English. Pupils will be going home at 12.15pm on that day.

### ▪ **Basketball & GAA Coaching Programmes**

Over the last two months we've had two excellent coaches coming into our school every week to do coaching sessions in Gaelic Football and Basketball with individual class groups. The basketball coaching is jointly organised by Drogheda Wolves Basketball Club and Louth Sports Partnership and one of the Drogheda Wolves foreign players, Tiago from Portugal, is with us every Thursday to do six sessions with the pupils.



Louth GAA fund the Gaelic Football Coaching and Seán has been teaching the basic skills of the game to the pupils in Mrs Dowd's and Ms Clinton's classes every Friday.

### ▪ **Spooks Parade**

Great fun, as always, during the spooks parade just before the Halloween Midterm Break.





### ▪ Little Tern Art Project



Above are some pictures taken of the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils during their painting and ceramic workshops which is part of the school's *Per Cent For Art Project*. The little tern birds which the pupils have created will form part of the outdoor learning and play space when it is completed.

Local artists Breda Marron & Roisín Gregory worked with both 6<sup>th</sup> class groups over a number of days. The goal of the workshops was to guide the students to explore the possibilities of clay and use their imagination and their knowledge about the Little Tern Birds to create their own colourful bird creations, which will be added to the sensory garden surrounding the outdoor sculpture.



### ▪ Per Cent for Art Project 2021

Work is well advanced on the school's Per Cent for Art project which is being led by Drogheda artist, Breda Marron. Her concept of an outdoor learning and play space was the one selected by the school's Art Advisory Committee made up of parents, teachers and community representatives.

Local building contractors, Nicholls Construction Ltd., are currently carrying out the groundworks surrounding the installed boat structure which forms the centrepiece of the art installation.

The project is part funded by the Department of Education with additional funding being made available by the school's Board of Management and Parents Association.

