

# SCOIL NAOMH FEICHÍN

## SCHOOL NEWS – OCTOBER 2022



### A Great Start to the New School Year

We're now well into the new school year with six weeks of the winter term already completed.

The pupils have settled in to their new classes really well and we're delighted to see so many happy young faces on the way into the playground each morning. We have been particularly impressed with our new junior infants who have made a great start to their primary school lives and already feel very much at home in our school. Their teacher, Mrs Cassidy, and classroom assistant, Ms Hanratty, are both doing tremendous work with our youngest pupils.

A number of other new pupils have enrolled in the school this year and we're delighted to extend a very warm "Céad Míle Fáilte" to all of those children who joined Scoil Naomh Feichin from other schools and from abroad. We are particularly thrilled that we now have a child from the Ukraine and we hope that she'll be very happy with us and is already making lots of new Irish friends.

The pupils in our new special class have also settled in well and we're delighted to welcome them to the school. There are 5 pupils in this class at the moment and they travel to and from school on a minibus every day. **I'd like to ask all parents to ensure that adequate space is left for this minibus to park and drop off pupils – parking cones are placed in the restricted area every morning and afternoon.**

### Dates for Sacramental Ceremonies 2022-23

- Nov/Dec (dates to be confirmed) - Enrolment ceremonies for children who are preparing for First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation.
- March 7<sup>th</sup> (Tues) 2022 @ 7pm – First Penance Ceremony
- May 7<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 2023 @ 2pm – First Holy Communion Ceremony
- May 27<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 2023 @ 2pm – Confirmation Ceremony



### Parent Teacher Meetings 2022-23

At a recent staff meeting we agreed the dates of the parent-teacher meetings for this year.

- November 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2022: Parent – Teacher Meetings for Pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes
- February 2023: Parent-Teacher Meetings for Pupils of Junior Infants – 4<sup>th</sup> Class

Parents will be provided with the opportunity to come and speak to their child's teacher/s face to face or alternatively, if more convenient, the teacher can arrange a telephone call with a parent.

Any class teacher who has a concern about the progress of a child in their class will make contact with that child's parent prior to formal parent-teacher meetings, if necessary.

Parents who have any concerns about their child should make contact with the class teacher at any time to arrange a meeting or to discuss any concerns that they may have.

### **OCTOBER IS ANTI-BULLYING & FRIENDSHIP MONTH**

Lessons, projects and activities are being arranged throughout the month of October to reinforce the message that **BULLYING IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE**. Pupils will also learn what to do if they are being bullied themselves or if they witness bullying behaviour.



## Road Safety Matters



The safety of our pupils as they make their way to and from school, could not be more important. Already this year, a pupil from our school was knocked down by a car on his way home from school. Fortunately, the incident involved an experienced driver who was travelling at low speed, so the child was not badly injured.

Unfortunately, most drivers do not drive as slowly.

Road safety messages and lessons are continually being covered at school and these messages should also be reinforced strongly at home. Children who cycle to and from school can be especially vulnerable due to the volume of traffic on the road.

All children who walk to school need to be regularly reminded about road safety.

## “An Bád Dearg”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TlyPuD5wWE>

Congratulations to the Farrell brother, Dylan & Matthew, who were the winners of the competition to name our new art installation project. Both boys received vouchers for “Smyths Toys” as their prize.



We're really happy with this new addition to the school playground and the children are thrilled when they have an opportunity to interact with it and play in and around the boat structure. The project was funded by a government grant and additional contributions from the Board of Management and Parents Association.

Breda Marron was the talented local artist who worked with the school community over a period of two years to create “An Bád Dearg” which is inspired by the ship wreck on Baltray beach and featuring ceramic models of little tern birds created by pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> class. The inclusion of sensory planting around the structure has added a biodiversity dimension and is a haven for all sorts of bees and butterflies over the summer months..... such a wonderful addition to our school environment.

## Covid-19 Precautions

We're not sure, as yet, what impact Covid-19 will have on our school community over the coming weeks and months. While we've had no reported cases among our pupil population so far, a small number of our school staff have contracted Covid-19 recently.

Therefore, we all need to continue to be vigilant and maintain high standards of hygiene, at all times. The school building is cleaned thoroughly each day and the government has provided some additional funding for PPE and sanitiser products. We will take every precaution and action necessary to protect our school community during this school year.

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## **Attendance & Punctuality**

A high level of attendance at school usually results in improved results and achievement levels. It cannot be stressed enough how important it is for you child to attend school every day, unless they're unwell. This is particularly important as we emerge from Covid-19 as many pupils have missed a considerable amount of learning time at school. Of course, children should not be sent to school if they're sick but when they are well enough to attend school they should be in class every day.

The daily attendance at school is monitored by Tusla and Education Welfare Officers and the school is required to submit the attendance records of all pupils who are absent in excess of 20 days in any school year. Therefore, it is our practice to send letters to parents whose children have been absent for 15 days to remind them of this fact.

If a child is ill or there is another understandable reason for their absence from school, there is never a problem. Parents/guardians are reminded that a reason for absence for each child has to be entered in the school database each day so please always make the teacher aware why your child is not at school.

Out of respect for children and teachers who have already started morning lessons, please ensure that your child is at school before classes commence each morning. When a child arrives in to class late, it breaks the concentration of the other pupils and is quite disruptive. Fortunately, the vast majority of pupils arrive at school punctually every morning. Pupils who arrive late for class should enter by the front reception door as the gates to the playground need to be closed at 9.20am.

## **Healthy Lunches**

The importance of a healthy diet for young children cannot be understated and that is why our school is a "Healthy Eating School".

Most children arrive at school each morning with healthy, nutritious lunches and drinks of water. This healthy lunch really helps your child to concentrate at school. It also provides your child with the energy they need to play with their friends at recreation time. Every day the class teachers monitor the lunches of the children in their classes to ensure that each child is following the "Healthy Eating School Policy". The children are provided with time to eat their lunch before they go outside to play and no food is taken into the playground.

We have been so impressed by the quality of the lunches provided to most of the children and we ask parents to continue this practice over the course of the year.

## **Attendance Matters**



Don't forget that the Leanbh Children's Festival takes place in Drogheda from Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. This arts festival for children and families will thrill, engage, excite, create cultural experiences and facilitate learning for young people aged 0 – 12yrs. Click the link below for more details and for information about bookings.

<https://www.droichead.com/show-detail/?id=873638770>



## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES at Scoil Naomh Feichin

- **BASKETBALL** – Drogheda Wolves Portuguese basketball star, Tiago, is back with us for coaching sessions with 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes starting this week.



- **GAA** – Games Development Officer with St Fechin's GAA visits the school each week for skills training sessions with the boys and girls in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes. The school teams have already been in action in the Cumann na mBunscol gaelic football competitions with both the girls and the boys teams finishing runners up in their respective qualification groups and progressing to the knock-out rounds. Ms Clayton & Mrs Fahy are working with the teams again this year and there will be lots more matches over the coming months.



- **Music Workshops & Music & Dancing Classes –**



Great to see so many of our younger pupils learning to play the tin whistle and guitar in the after-school classes with Mrs Cassidy & Mrs McCluskey. Irish dancing is also proving very popular as well with Ms Branigan taking a group of young dancers every Tuesday after school. This year we also have the wonderful Maria Sheil doing her Music Workshops with the pupils in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes every Friday morning. It's fantastic to see how engaged all of the children are and how much they enjoy Maria's visits to the school. We hope to follow up this series of workshops for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> with workshops for pupils in Junior & Senior Infants later this term.

- **Speech & Drama** – After school on Monday afternoons, Ruth Lonergan teaches her Speech & Drama classes in the school hall. These classes are proving to be as popular as in previous years.

- **Chess** – We're hoping to bring chess back to the school after a prolonged break due to the impact of Covid-19. More information about the school chess club will be circulated soon.



### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 (Thurs) --- Fundraiser for past-pupil Adam Sheridan & family
- Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 (Fri.) ---- School closed for Staff Training Day (Inclusion & Autism)
- Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 (Fri.) – Spooks Parade / School closes at normal times (2pm & 3pm)
- Oct 31<sup>st</sup> to Nov 7<sup>th</sup> --- Halloween Midterm Break

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Say NO to Bullying  
& YES to Friendship



*Bryan Collins – Principal  
Oct. 2022*