



Scoil Naomh Feichín

Information Note for Parents – May 2024



First Holy Communion – May 11th

Congratulations to all of the boys and girls who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion last weekend. It was a really beautiful ceremony. Many thanks to Fr Paul, class teachers, Ms Clinton, Mrs Fahy & Mrs Maguire and our fantastic school choir and all of the teachers and SNAs who contributed to making the day so memorable.

A special thank you to the volunteers and helpers who offered their assistance in organising the reception for families after the ceremony.



Volunteers & Helpers at the First Communion Reception

SCHOOL UNIFORMS/TRACKSUITS 2024/25

Pupils have the option of wearing the school uniform or school tracksuit for the school year 2024/25. Some parents may wish to buy both the uniform & tracksuit for their child/ren. However, the formal uniform of sweater/cardigan, shirt & tie will not be compulsory for the new school year. A consultation process will be initiated in September to discuss any proposed changes to the school uniform for subsequent years.

Important Dates to Remember

- May 25th (Saturday) – Confirmation Day
- May 31st (Friday) – **School Closed** (Flexible Closure)
- June 3rd (Monday) – **School Closed** (Public Holiday)
- June 7th (Friday) – **School Closed** (Election)
- June 25th (Tuesday) – Final Day of School Year.

The School Calendar for 2024/25 is now posted on the school website – www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie
Please refer to this before you make any holiday plans.

Confirmation Day – May 25th

Most of the pupils in 6th class will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday next, May 25th at 2pm. Sincere thanks to the class teacher, Ms Branigan, who has prepared her pupils so well for this special day with the support and guidance of Fr Paul.

The Parents Association does a fantastic job every year by organising a lovely reception in our school hall for the families of 6th class pupils. This is a tradition which goes back many years and we hope it will continue. It has been customary that the parents of the pupils in 5th class volunteer to assist for a few hours on the day as there is quite a lot to be done. Without volunteers and helpers this reception will not be possible so please make contact with the PA as soon as possible to offer your support if you have not already done so.

To give you a taste of the day, here's a short video shot by Sarah Duff (volunteer) at this year's First Communion Reception.

<https://youtu.be/44MdCuSh-58>

GRADUATION DAY for 6th Class Pupils is Friday, June 21st – more details to follow.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2024

All places in this year's Summer Programme have now been allocated. The theme of this year's school programme which is organised in the school over the first two weeks of July is "Building Confidence & Connections". Unfortunately, the funding for the programme has been **reduced by 50%** and this will inevitably limit us when it comes to organising activities for the pupils.

Gaelic Games

Our boys and girls teams have been involved in Cumann na mBunscol games over recent weeks and there will be more fixtures arranged for teams between now and the end of June.



NEW SCHOOL YEAR 2024/25

- We will be welcoming 42 (approx.) new Junior Infants. The "Meet the Teacher Day" will be on Friday, Aug 23rd – more details will be sent to parents soon.
- Due to growing enrolment figures, our school will be appointing one additional mainstream class teacher and one special education teacher this September.
- As we will have one extra class teacher available to us for 2024/25, it will allow us to reduce further the number of multi-stream classes in the school.
- More information about class groups for 2024/25 will be available shortly.
- All remaining places in both of our Autism Classes have now been allocated for the year ahead.
- The school calendar for 2024/25 is now available and published on the website – www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie All pupils will return to school on Thurs. Aug 29th 2024.
- The introduction of a New Maths Curriculum will continue in 2024/25.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Annual Parents Association **SPONSORED WALK** will take place this year on **Friday, June 14th**. Please show your support for the PA and the school by sponsoring the pupils who participate.



Gaelic Football & Hurling Stars

Congratulations to three of our pupils who have been selected to represent primary schools in County Louth at some big matches this summer. Mary Jane Rafferty & Tadhg O'Neill will play in exhibition games organised by Cumann na mBunscol while Louis Maguire will be a player on a Louth primary schools team which take on Meath primary schools in a tournament at the end of June.

- **Tadhg O'Neill** ---- Leinster Senior Football Final & Gaelic Football Skills Competition Winner
- **Mary Jane Rafferty** – All Ireland Hurling Semi-Final & Camogie Skills Competition Winner
- **Louis Maguire** – Louth Primary Schools Team 2024
- **Abbie Walsh** – Gaelic Football Skills Competition Winner
- **Rory Mulholland** – Hurling Skills Competition Winner

Free Schoolbooks Scheme 2024/25 (reduced grant)

Primary schools all over Ireland were extremely disappointed to be informed earlier this month that there is a **cut of 17%** in the Free Books Grant for next year. The grant has been reduced to €80 per child. Obviously, it will now be extremely challenging to provide all textbooks, workbooks and stationery as well as providing for educational resources for our 300+ pupils. Our school may well need to dip into a contingency fund to make up the difference for next year. Sincere thanks to Mrs Hurley who has been coordinating this book scheme and procurement for many years.

ART & CRAFTS & PHOTOCOPYING

Parents are requested to contribute €30 per child to enable teachers to purchase art & craft materials for their pupils for 2024/25. Some of this money will also be used to help pay a significant bill for photocopying and printing of classroom resources.

STANDARDISED TESTING & SCHOOL REPORTS

The annual standardised tests are currently being administered to pupils from 1st class to 6th classes. Results of these tests will be available in the School Reports, which we hope to email to parents in mid-June.

SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS 2024

Some of the teachers in our school are running Summer Camps for pupils at the start of June. The Senior Camp will be on the first week in July while the Junior Camp is on the second week in July. More details from the teachers involved.