



# Scoil Naomh Feichín

## Spring 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming Events	
January 27 <sup>th</sup> (Monday)	Teacher Training Day for New Maths Curriculum (School Closed)
January 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> (Wed & Thurs)	Parent – Teacher Meetings
Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Monday)	St Brigid’s Day (Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> ) – Public Holiday (School Closed)
February 17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> (Mon – Fri)	Midterm Break - one week (School Closed)
February 26 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)	School Planning – (pupils finish class at 1pm)
March 17 <sup>th</sup> (Monday)	St Patrick’s Day – Public Holiday (School Closed)
April 11 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)	End of Spring Term
April 28 (Monday)	School Reopen for Summer Term

### School Attendance

This year we are again focusing on improving school attendance numbers. Our average attendance over the last 12 months has increased from 92% to 94% so we are making good progress. Our new objective is to increase this to 96% of pupils at school every day for the remainder of this school year.

### Admissions for 2025/26

The final date for applying of enrolment in our school for the school year 2025/26 is Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. Application Forms received after this date will be accepted but places will only be offered if they are still available. Unfortunately, there are no available places in our special classes for 2025/26.

### Christmas Fundraising 2025

Sincere thanks to our wonderful Parents Association and to everyone who supported the Mega Christmas Raffle. Almost €4,500 was raised for school projects. The Pupils’ Raffle raised €750 for the local branch of St Vincent de Paul.



### Enrolment Ceremony

On Tuesday last, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, a special enrolment ceremony was arranged for the children who are currently preparing for the sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion. Most of these children are from Mrs Dowd’s 2<sup>nd</sup> class group. Fr Paul presided over a wonderful ceremony and the children were so well prepared by their teacher and their parents. Many thanks to Mrs McCluskey who was on hand to help with the music and singing. The Sacrament of First Penance will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm while First Holy Communion will be on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

### Little Music Makers

We are delighted to welcome back Maria Sheil and her “Little Music Makers Workshops” this term. Before the Christmas break she worked with the Junior & Senior Infants and this time around the lucky pupils are in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes. This is an amazing opportunity for the pupils to work with Maria and they are really enjoying the experience.

### Basketball Coaching

The game of basketball is growing in popularity in our school due to the weekly coaching sessions by Drogheda Wolves star and Portuguese player, Francisco Diaz. The pupils are really enjoying being introduced to the skills of basketball and hopefully we will have more sessions booked in for the summer term



### School Uniform Update

The Board of Management has discussed proposed changes to our school uniform for 2025/26. The recent survey of parents showed that 50% (approx.) of parents who responded were reasonably happy with the status quo and about 50% of parents favoured a new style of uniform.

Having taken into account the opinions of our pupils, parents and school staff the board has decided the following –

Pupils can wear one or all of the following next year –

- (a) Traditional uniform of jumper, shirt, tie, pinafore, etc.....
- (b) Existing crested tracksuit
- (c) New quarter-zip tracksuit top with existing navy tracksuit bottoms. This newly designed top will be in the school colours of navy, green and white



### School Chess Club

It's really wonderful to see so many of the boys and girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes playing chess in the Chess Club on Thursdays. The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils are getting ready for the annual Primary Schools Chess League while we will also be entering a "Buds Team", made up of players from 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes, in the upcoming Ficheall Chess Tournament at Aston Village Educate Together NS.

### Credit Union Primary School Quiz

Two teams have been selected to participate in this year's Credit Union Primary Schools Quiz which will take place in The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk on Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>. Our school will be represented by teams in the U-13 and U-11 sections of the competition.

## Other School News

- The Board of Management carried out the annual review of our school's **Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures** at its January meeting.
- The board is considering an update to the school's Smart Device Policy to include smart watches.
- Parents can still sign up to the Collective Voluntary Agreement to delay providing a smartphone for their child until they finish 6<sup>th</sup> class. Almost 100 families in our school have already committed to this agreement.
- The school is currently involved in the tendering process for the supply and installation of Solar Panels. This scheme is fully funded by the government.
- In February, many of the classes will be covering lessons in the SPHE and RSE Programme where there may be sensitive issues. Parents will receive letters with more information before these lessons commence.
- The Board of Management Annual Report for the School Year 2023/24 is now available on the school website.
- The school is currently looking into the possibility of introducing the Free School Lunches for Pupils Scheme. We are speaking to a number of suppliers and will have more information about this later this year.
- The Food Dudes Programme will be returning to our school in March. Pupils will receive fresh fruit and vegetables for their lunch and hopefully this will promote healthier eating habits.
- Information about **Safer Internet Week** will be forwarded to parents later this week.
- A coach from Golf Ireland will be visiting our school to do some golf coaching with a number of our classes before the midterm break.

### Important Information from the HSE

The HSE has requested that parents/guardians be made aware of the following.....  
The sharing of class lists by schools to the HSE is now permitted under law. This will enable the administration of immunisation to children in schools and will also enable the HSE to carry out health checks in schools. For more information about this matter please see the letter below.

*Bryan Collins*  
Principal



Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The HSE's school health programme is part of Ireland's free universal programme of clinical care for all children.

It includes:

- eyesight and hearing screening
- vaccines
- dental checks

Scoil Naomh Feichín has facilitated the programme for a number of years through the:

- distribution of consent forms for participation
- use of the school premises by the HSE team

### **New legislation**

Every school has obligations under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). As part of this, I want to share a recent update to legislation. This update is about the sharing of pupil data with the HSE.

The Minister for Health has signed two new statutory regulations.

These are the:

1. Infectious Diseases (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2024
2. Health (Provision of Information for Health Examination and Treatment Service) Regulations 2024

### **Information request to the school**

A HSE school health team will contact the school when planning their visits. They will ask for information about children who are eligible for the programme.

Under the regulations, the school must provide the following information:

- the name, address, date of birth and sex of the pupil
- the mother's birth surname
- contact details (including the name, phone number and email address of their parent/guardian)
- the pupil's PPSN (if any)
- the name of the school which the pupil attends and the school roll number

The school has a legal obligation to provide the data to the HSE within 10 days of a request from them.

### **Why the information is needed**

The nurse uses these details to send in consent forms and any other relevant information to the school.

The data also helps to make sure the programme reaches as many children as possible. It allows the nurse to follow up with families who do not return the consent form, providing additional information to make sure children do not miss out on the service.

**You will continue to have the choice to consent to your child taking part in the services offered by the programme.** Please click this link if you would like additional information about the school health programme - <https://www2.hse.ie/babies-children/checks-milestones/health-checks/school-health-programme/>

Yours sincerely,

*Bryan Collins* (Principal)