



Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



School Newsletter – Jan 2015.

Dear parents,

Even though this term may seem relatively short as Easter holidays begin in mid-March, it will be a very busy few months here at our school. As there is very little to report since we returned after the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the things that will be happening during this term.

Bryan Collins
Principal

- **Enrolment of New Pupils:** Enrolment Application forms for New Junior Infants must be returned to the school office by Friday, Feb. 5th 2016.



- *Catholic Schools Week will take place from Jan. 31st – Feb 6th. We will mark the start of Catholic Schools week at the 10.30am Mass on Sunday Jan. 31st. A number of teachers and pupils will also attend a special service with Archbishop Eamon Martin in Dundalk on Jan. 28th.*

- **Jan. 15th & 18th (Fri. & Mon.)** – HSE Vision & Hearing testing for Junior Infant pupils.
- **Jan. 29th (Fri.)** – HSE Vaccinations for pupils in current Junior Infants class.
- **Feb. 1st (Mon.)** – Annual Credit Union School Quiz (Qualification Round takes place at 3.15pm in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Cartown - 40 pupils from 4th, 5th & 6th classes in each school participating).
- **Feb. 2nd (Tues.)** – Board of Management Meeting at 8pm.
- **Feb. 3rd (Wed.)** – Meeting for parents/guardians of pupils in second class who are preparing for First Penance & First Communion this year. The meeting is in our school at 7.30pm.
- **Feb. 7th (Sun.)** – Pledge Sunday: Pupils who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited, along with their families, to the 10.30am Sunday Mass.
- **Feb. 14th (Sun.)** – Pupils in second classes and their families are invited to attend the 10.30am Sunday Mass to help them prepare for the Sacraments of Penance and First Communion.
- **Feb. 15th (Mon.)** – MARATHON MONDAY: - (An Active School Activity)



All of the children in the school will be involved in running a full marathon today (weather permitting). Each child will run a part of the race and then pass the baton on to the next child until the full 40kms has been run. The pupils in Junior & Senior Infants, First & Second Classes will run 100m each, the 3rd & 4th class pupils will run 150m each and the 5th & 6th class pupils will run 200m. Each child will be asked to bring in €1 which will be donated to CHILDLINE. There will also be a competition to guess the time that it will take to finish the marathon. It will be €1 per guess and there will be a Smyths Voucher for the time closest to the finish time.



- **Feb. 16th (Tues.)** – Meeting for parents/guardians of pupils in sixth class who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. The meeting takes place in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Cartown at 7.30pm.

- **Feb. 18th – 19th (Thurs. & Fri.) : Midterm break** ~ school closes at 3pm on Wednesday, Feb 17th .



- **Feb. 23rd (Tues.)**
First Penance Ceremony in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at 7.30pm.

- **March 13th (Sun.)** – Pupils in second classes and their families are invited to attend the 10.30am Sunday Mass to help them prepare for the Sacrament of First Communion.



- **March 15th (Tues.)** – ANNUAL SCHOOL SKIPATHON - (*An Active School Activity*)

Skipathon



For the last few years we have organised a skipathon in our school. All of the children are involved and there are team and individual prizes. In the team competition each team is made up of pupils from Junior Infants to 6th class (two pupils from each class in each team). Each team member skips for 60 seconds and the team with the highest number of skips is the winner. We also have an individual skipping prize for the best skipper in each class. Skipping is an excellent way to keep fit and we hope that by promoting this activity we can improve the level of fitness in our pupils.
Please encourage your child to practice skipping at home over the next few months.

- **March 17th – April 3rd : EASTER BREAK** ~ our school will close at 12.30pm on Wednesday, March 16th .

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who supported the following school activities. Your generosity and support are really appreciated.

- **Parents Association Five Week Draw** ~ this was a huge success last term with the Parents Association raising €4,533 for school resources and activities. Thank you for your wonderful support.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection** ~ both schools in the parish got a great response for the food appeal and all of the food collected was donated to the local branch of St. V de P.
- **Drogheda Homeless Aid Raffle** ~ Thank you to all the pupils and parents who bought raffle tickets to raise funds for Drogheda Homeless Aid just before the Christmas holidays. Altogether €375 was raised by the school.
- **Lego Club** ~ Thank you to all our school families who donated lego sets and pieces to the newly-formed Lego Club. Mrs Ryan will be very happy to accept any more donations of Lego equipment during this term.



- **Junior Infants Parent-Teacher Meetings:**
Junior Infants teacher, Ms Carolan will be arranging to meet parents of pupils in Junior Infants before the midterm break in February. This will be an opportunity to discuss how the children in this class are progressing at school.

- **Guided Reading Programme**

The pupils in Mrs Sweeney's 1st Class are involved in a Guided Reading programme at the moment. This will run for a period of 5 weeks. From Monday-Thursday, the children are divided into small reading groups of 6 pupils who are reading at the same level. A teacher then works with each group for 35 minutes, focusing in on reading fluency, comprehension and oral language.

Guided Reading



MATHLETICS

It's wonderful to see that nearly 160 pupils in our school have now signed up to Mathletics this year. This is a great way for your child to work on their Maths skills at home and it really helps reinforce Maths concepts that they have learned in class. It's still not too late to sign up for the next 12 months. At only €6 for 12 months, we feel that it is great value for money. If you want to enrol your child, just send in €6 to the principal and he will arrange it.

MATHLETES / LearnStorm

Last year our school was involved in an inter-school Mathematics competition called Mathletes. Over the course of 9 weeks the pupils in 4th, 5th & 6th class had the opportunity to compete in online Maths activities against other pupils and schools all over Ireland. We were delighted when Scoil Naomh Feichín won the award for the best primary school in County Louth and we were really proud of our individual winners Abby Rice and Neda Totilaite.



This year the competition is back with a new name – **LearnStorm**. The competition will be launched on Jan. 29th and there has already been quite a lot of publicity about it. If you would like to find out more and are reading this on your computer, just click on this link to a recent RTE Nationwide report:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8OdLflnvWCqZmNEaGtuQnJDcnc/view>

After School Activities



Monday	Gaelic Football - coaching starting again in late February.	<i>Mrs Fahy / Ms Campbell Ms McAuley</i>
Tuesday	Instrumental Music Classes Modern Dance Classes	<i>Mrs Collins Ms Niamh</i>
Wednesday	Junior Chess Club	<i>Mr Collins</i>
Thursday	Senior Chess Club Fit Club Lego Club	<i>Mr Collins Mrs Cassidy Mrs Ryan</i>



ART CLASSES @ SCOIL NAOMH FEICHÍN

During the summer holidays last year a number of pupils from our school attended an Art Summer Camp at Listoke House, Ballymakenny, facilitated by artist Niamh Carroll (*B.A. Hons. In Visual Arts Practice*). Following our return to school in September, Niamh enquired if our school would like to host a series of Art Classes after school. At the time we were unable to arrange this but I would now like to gauge if there is sufficient interest in arranging these classes for our pupils.

The classes would take place on a Monday, 3.10pm-4.10pm, and would go on for about 6 weeks. All art supplies would be provided and the number in the class would be limited. The cost per class is €12 per pupil.

This activity is available to pupils in 3rd – 6th classes.

The content of the classes would be as follows:

- ✓ Artist referenced Piet Mondrain, Bridget Riley, Sinead Smith -
Students learn shape colour and composition using markers, rulers with a grid system.
- ✓ Collage with portraiture reference Andy Warhol, Picasso.
Students create their own fun portraiture.
- ✓ Create cartoon story (characters or comics)
Reference Roy Lichtenstein / Alan Nolan.

If you would like your child to be included in these art classes, please email the school at scoilnaomhfeichin@gmail.com or telephone the school office before the end of this week. You can also give your child a note for the attention of the school principal.

For more information about the artist, visit Facebook – Niamh Carroll Art. Niamh also teaches art classes at St. Mologa's National School, Balbriggan.

Bryan Collins
Principal
Jan 18th 2016