



SCHOOL NEWS

January 2019

Update on Building Project

The estimated finishing date for the building work to be completed at our school is March 1st 2019. Once work is fully complete we will then have access to a number of additional classrooms as well as a new school library, learning support rooms and a large playground space. Our school gym will also be available for PE and other school activities as the class that is currently using this space will be relocating to a new classroom.

New School Playground

We have decided that now is an ideal time to purchase and install new play equipment and a new soft play space in the enclosed area at the rear of the school. The company that we have engaged to carry out this work is **Kompan** Ireland Ltd, based in Galway. This company is Ireland's premier provider of public playground equipment and safety surfacing solutions and it has built hundreds of playgrounds around Ireland. Kompan's equipment is designed to be inclusive and to allow children to play together irrespective of ability.

The play equipment that has been designed for our school includes:

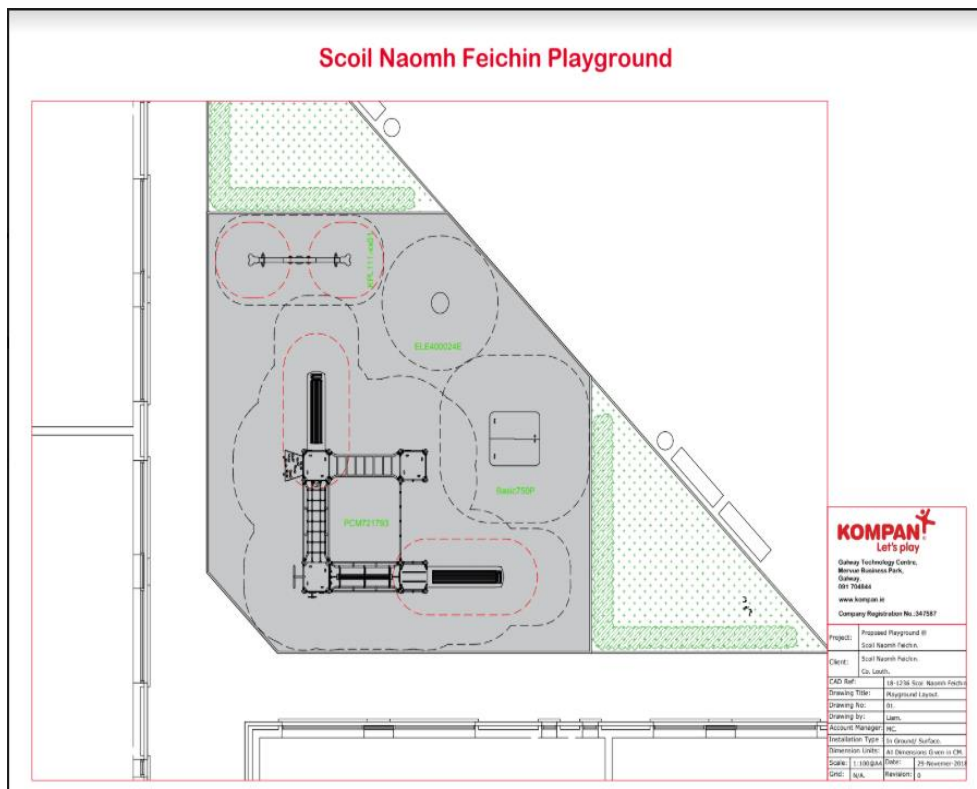
- a) Four Tower Play Structure, Plastic Slides, Rope Bridge, Monkey Bars, Fireman's Pole, Educational Play Panels, Climbing Wall.
- b) Playhouse
- c) See Saw with Springs
- d) Spinner
- e) 120 square metres of Flexotop Wetpour Ground Surface



The installation date will be in early February and the total cost of all of the above is € 31,000.

Funding this new amenity for our pupils will be challenging but we see it as a worthwhile investment in the future of our school and a wonderful addition to our education complex. With such an emphasis on increasing physical activity and promoting healthy lifestyles we are confident that this will enhance the well-being of all of the children in our school for many years to come.

Unfortunately, there is no funding available from the Department of Education & Skills or from Louth County Council for this new playground equipment so we are very much dependant on funds raised locally. The Board of Management and Parents Association have both committed to supporting the project.



At the end of 2018, the Parents Association organised a Pupils' Christmas Card fundraiser which was well supported by our school families and we hope that other fundraising activities arranged over the coming months will generate money to go towards the cost of the above play equipment. The Board of Management has also contributed funds from its savings account to help fund the project.

Over the next few months if there are any parents, businesses or individuals in our community who would like to show their support for our school by donating money to help pay for this new playground equipment, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme

Last term all of the pupils were involved in a healthy eating initiative called Food Dudes. The aim of the programme is to encourage young children to eat lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. Please continue to give your child wholesome fresh food in their lunch every day, thereby promoting a healthy balanced diet.

Support for Homeless Aid
Just before Christmas a special Pupils' Raffle raised €403 for Drogheda Homeless Aid. Thank you for your support.

School Book Fair
Once again our annual School Book Fair was a great success and a significant sum of money was raised to buy new books for our School Library.

Vaccinations
The HSE school vaccinations team will visit the school on Fri. Jan. 18th to offer the 4 in 1 booster vaccine (diphtheria, polio, tetanus and whooping cough) and the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) to pupils in Junior Infants.

Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE) & Stay Safe Programmes

The Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Programme in our school will provide opportunities for children to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way. At primary level, RSE aims to help children learn, at home and in school, about their own development and about their friendships and relationships with others. This work will be based on developing a good self-image, promoting respect for themselves and others and providing them with appropriate information. Our school can provide general information and a safe space for whole-class discussions but parents, as the most important educators of their children, are best placed to share their values and give your children the individual attention needed at each stage of development.

More information about the content of the RSE Curriculum for each class group will be circulated to parents before teachers do these lessons with their classes later this term.

Per Cent for Art Scheme

The Board of Management is interested in hearing from any parents who would like to be involved in a group to discuss the selection of an **Art Installation** for our school. As part of the new school building project, the Department of Education & Skills has committed to pay a significant grant to be spent on commissioning an artist to create, make, provide and install an original piece of art.

More details on

<https://www.education.ie/en/School-Design/Per-Cent-for-Art/>

Please contact the school principal, as soon as possible, if you would like to be involved in this process.

Bryan Collins

Principal

Jan 8th 2018





Jan. 2019

Visits by Parents/Guardians to our School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Communication between teachers and parents/guardians about their children's progress and welfare at school is a vital component in a constructive and positive school environment.

As well as the official Parent-Teacher Meetings, additional meetings can be arranged at other mutually convenient times to discuss matters relating to pupils and their school day. The teachers in our school are always willing to meet with parents who have concerns relating to their children and are very happy to provide feedback on progress at school.

If a parent wishes to speak to a teacher about their child, the parent should telephone the school to make an appointment to see the teacher. Alternatively, they should write a brief note to the teacher in the child's Homework Diary. This will enable the teacher to prepare for the meeting and consequently be in a better position to provide more helpful information.

When visiting the school, parents/guardians should always enter by the **Main Reception Door**.

Pupils who are leaving school early need to be signed out at the Reception Office by the person who is collecting them.

Parents and other visitors to the school should not access the school building by any other door including the door adjacent to the staff carpark. The school needs to be a secure and safe environment for everyone and with such an emphasis on Child Protection & Safeguarding nowadays, we are obliged to enforce this policy. All members of school staff have been Garda Vetted and have many years of experience working with young children.

While we welcome parental involvement and are more than happy to arrange meetings with parents who have any concerns whatsoever, we need to do this in a more structured way. Before and after school, teachers are usually busy in their classrooms preparing work for the next day, correcting activities, maintaining records, clearing up their classrooms, etc. However, teachers are often in a position to come in early or stay on after class to speak to a parent who has made this arrangement.

If a parent arrives at the school without an appointment or without making a prior arrangement, it will not be possible for them to meet with a teacher or the principal.

I hope that you will support this school policy and that you understand the reason why we think it is an appropriate approach to parent-teacher communication in our school.

Bryan Collins
Principal