



Scoil Naomh Feichín Termonfeckin



School News – September 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope that all of our pupils have settled back to school after their summer break and that families are starting to get into a good routine. I am very impressed with our 30 new Junior Infants – even though they have only been with us for a few days, they have adapted well to their new surroundings and seem very happy. I am sure that they will all have a great first year in our school.

I am sending this newsletter home to you so that you are brought up-to-date with everything that is going on at the moment in the school. I will also include details of some of the activities that are planned over the coming months.

On the attached the page is a copy of the *School Calendar* for this school year. Some parents like to have a copy at home, particularly when making holiday plans. The *School Calendar*, along with lots more information, can be found on the school website – www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie



Junior Infant Pupils on their First Day in Scoil Naomh Feichin

- **Teachers & Classes:**

Junior Infants	Mrs Cassidy
Senior Infants	Mr McCann
First Class	Ms Carroll
First Class	Ms H. Campbell – <i>Mrs Sweeney is on Maternity Leave</i>
Second Class	Ms Clayton <i>Mrs Collins is on Maternity Leave</i>
Third Class	Mr Casey <i>Ms Carolan is on Maternity Leave</i>

Congratulations to Ms Carolan who had a beautiful baby boy during the summer holidays.

Third Class	Ms Healy <i>Ms R. Campbell is on Sick Leave.</i>
Fourth Class	Mrs Ryan
Fifth Class	Ms McAuley
Fifth Class	Mrs Hurley
Sixth Class	Mrs McCluskey
Learning Support & Resource Teachers	Mrs Fahy Mrs McManus Ms Duffy

- **Road Safety – Dropping Off & Picking Up**

We would appeal to all drivers to be extra cautious in and around the school when dropping off and picking up children. As we have now 20 members of staff, it is important to leave sufficient spaces free for people working in the school to park each morning. The entry and exit of the car park should also be kept free – parents are requested to drop children off and then drive away as there is frequently congestion in this area in the morning and afternoon when drivers leave cars unattended. Drivers are encouraged to be extra vigilant and observant at 3pm when hundreds of pupils are leaving the school at the same time.

I have ordered a new consignment of Hi-Viz vests and we will distribute these to the junior infants over the next week or two. We will also be reminding children who are walking or cycling to school to be very careful on their journey.

- **School Opening and Closing Times**

As you are aware, classes begin each morning at 9.20am. There is a free-play assembly period in the playground each morning from 9am-9.15am. Teachers and SNAs provide supervision at this time. Teachers collect their classes after the school bell rings at 9.15am. The Board on Management would like to remind parents that there is no supervision of pupils before 9am.

Junior & Senior Infant classes finish for the day at 2pm (from next week) and all other classes finish at 3pm. Parents should make every effort to collect their children on time and if delayed, please telephone the school.

- **Attendance & Punctuality**

Good school attendance is very important. If your child is absent for any reason, please write a note to explain the reason for absence. The Department of Education requires schools to forward attendance details at the end of every school year. All pupils should be in the school playground by 9.15am each morning to line up with their classmates.

- **School Uniforms**

A large number of jumpers, cardigans and coats are mislaid every year. Please ensure that names are written on labels on school jumpers, jackets and tracksuits. It is impossible to return lost property unless the owner's name is visible. There is a **Lost Property Box** in the hall - please check there if your child has mislaid anything.

- **School Text & Email**

Almost all families have provided up-to-date contact details for text and email messaging. We find the text service is essential and really useful for busy parents. There is a small charge for this service - €5 per family. Most families have already paid this fee before the summer holidays.

Please let us know if you change your mobile number during the year

- **Visiting the School**

For child protection reasons, it is school policy that all visitors to the school should check-in at reception. Parents who would like to arrange a meeting with their child's teacher should telephone the school to arrange an appointment. Our scheduled **Parent/Teacher Meetings** will be in November - (*Junior Infants after Christmas*) – however if you have any questions or concerns about your child at school, academically or socially, please arrange to speak to your child's teacher.

- **Extra Curricular Activities**

A programme of activities available for pupils after school hours will be arranged over the next week or two. GAA training will commence shortly as there are league matches for boys and girls teams coming up soon. We also plan to arrange Chess, Art, Tin Whistle and Dance classes this term. More details available soon.

- **Credit Union Savings Club**

Information about the Credit Union Savings accounts for our pupils is on the attached page.

- **A Message from Fr Aidan**

BLESSING SCHOOL BAGS AND ALL THEIR WONDER!

Both Parish schools have returned after the summer break and loads of great things will happen over the coming months. For example: you are invited to join others at the Parish 11am Mass on Sunday 11 September in the Church of the Immaculate Conception for the '*Blessing of School Bags*' .

Children of all ages are invited to come with their parents to this Mass, bringing their school bags (including pencils, pens, lunchbox etc if you like !!) and sit up near the front of the church. During Mass we plan to celebrate this prayer with the help of the younger members of our Parish, asking God to bless and guide the children through the new school year as they carry, pull, or maybe even sometimes drag their school bag to class ☺

Hope to see you there.....

A Service for the Start of a New School Year will take place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Termonfeckin, on Friday Sept. 16th at 10am. All of our school families are invited to attend.

Bryan Collins
Principal
