



## School Newsletter – November 2024

November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

Dear parents / guardians -

I hope that you and your children are enjoying the time away from school over the midterm break this year.

We had a wonderful day just before the break when the children arrived at school in the most incredible costumes for the annual Spooks Parade - it was great to see the teachers and SNAs joining in the fun as well.

I've uploaded this video with some highlights of the Spooks Parade - I hope that you enjoy it and get a sense of the atmosphere in the school on that day.

<https://youtu.be/qp0PBmxU-AY>

Here are a few items that may be of interest to you before we get back to school on Monday next, November 4th.

You can also keep up-to-date with all the school news by checking our website -

[www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie](http://www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie)

Any changes to the school calendar will be highlighted there as well.

### **School Admissions 2025/26**

The Admissions Notice for the new school year is now published on the school website. Unfortunately, we have no places available in our special classes for children with autism at the moment.

Parents who wish to apply for a place for their child in Junior Infants or other class groups should do so without delay.

All of the information you need is on the website.

### **New Maths Curriculum Planning Day (Jan 27th 2025)**

The school is required to close on January 27th (Monday) 2025 as this is the day we have been assigned for teacher training in the new Maths Curriculum. Children will not be attending school on that day.

### **General Election - School Closure (Nov 29th / Dec 6th 2024)**

Even though there has been no confirmation about the date for the upcoming general election, it is very likely to take place on Friday, November 29th or Friday, December 6th.

Our school has traditionally been used as a polling centre and if this is again the case for this general election, the school will be closed on that day.

We should have confirmation about the date next week.

## **Voluntary Collective Smartphone Agreement 2024**

So far we have had a very positive response to the idea of having a voluntary agreement to delay the purchasing a smartphone for pupils until they finish primary school.

When I checked, earlier this week, I saw that 90 families had already signed up.

The response from the other 3 primary schools in our area is also expected to be positive and we've got great publicity for the initiative on local and national media.

<https://m.independent.ie/irish-news/no-more-smartphones-in-classrooms-as-parents-of-pupils-in-four-co-louth-schools-agree-to-ban-devices-until-children-finish-sixth-class/a274214820.html?#m2n0v30zr8q4bqzmz3bh>

If you haven't considered this yet and you would like to support this new initiative, please click on the link below.

I'm convinced that, over a number of years, this will have a dramatic impact on the level of wellbeing among pupils in our schools.

<https://forms.gle/CpyjWVoCSe6C4VYQ6>

## **School Uniform Review 2024**

We are in the process of consulting with pupils and parents on proposed changes to our school uniform policy.

There will be more details about this next week.

## **Review of Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment 2024**

The Board of Management will be carrying out the annual review of our school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment at its upcoming meeting on November 18th next.

The current safeguarding statement & risk assessment is published on the school website.

<https://www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie/child-safeguarding-protection>

Prior to the review taking place, the board would like to seek feedback from parents/guardians in relation to the compliance with the child safeguarding requirements contained in the "Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools 2017". The board will also be seeking feedback from pupils through the pupil representatives on the Student Council.

Should you wish to provide feedback to the board over the next week or two, I will make note of your comments and pass these on at the board meeting.

You may wish to consider the following, should you wish to contribute to the annual review process -

- Have you any concerns about the safety of children at our school?
- Do you think that the children are safe and well protected at school?
- Is there any aspect of the school environment that you feel is unsafe?
- Do you think that the school is complying with its child safeguarding requirements?
- Are there additional steps that you would like to suggest that the school might consider to increase children's safety?
- Have you any suggestions as to how the school could improve its child protection procedures?

The board will also be carrying out its annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy and procedures at its November meeting.

Next year, a new set of procedures called **Bi Cinealta** will be in place and over the course of the next few months the Board of Management will be drafting a new school policy and set of procedures which will be based on this new publication from the Department of Education.

### **Christmas Concerts 2024**

You will be delighted to read that our popular concerts are back this December.

Dates have now been confirmed and the pupils in the school will be preparing for these concerts over the coming weeks.

There will be afternoon shows for the Infant Classes and evening shows for all other classes.

- Junior & Senior Infants Concerts --- Dec 11th & 12th 2024
- All other Classes ---- Dec 17th & 18th

### **Chess & Music Workshops**

Also back this month is the school chess club and music workshops for Infant Classes with Maria Sheil.

More information on both of these next week.

Bryan Collins  
Principal