



**Scoil Naomh Fiachra,
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M E S S A G E F R O M T H E P R I N C I P A L

Welcome back to our second term. I hope everybody had a nice Christmas and I wish the entire school community a happy new year for 2016. We had an extremely busy first term with Parent's Council and Board of Management elections, parent-teacher meetings, Christmas plays, football, etc. I would like to thank the pupils, parents, teachers, ancillary staff, our wonderful Parent's Council and Board of Management for all their hard work. With the second term well underway, there is a huge amount to look forward to in the coming weeks and months. Please make note of the upcoming events outlined below.

N E W B O A R D O F M A N A G E M E N T

Our new board of management began its term on the 1st of December last year. Elections were held in November and there was huge interest from the parent body. I would like to thank everybody who voted and those of you who put yourselves forward for election. It is a great sign of the goodwill that is out there towards the school. The new board of management is Paddy Delaney (Chairman), Fr. Pat O'Farrell (Patron's Nominee), Tiernan Herlihy (Parent Nominee), Caroline Tallis (Parent Nominee), Deirdre Walsh (Community Representative), Kieran Costello (Community Representative), Sinéad Brennan (Staff Representative) and Pat Robinson (Principal). I would like to wish our new board all the best for the next four years and also thank our outgoing members of Tim Brennan, Deirdre Dunne, Bríd Dunphy and Frank Doheny.

P A R E N T ' S C O U N C I L

The elections for the Parent's Council were also held during the first term. Again a big thank you to everyone who put themselves forward and voted in the ballot. Our new Parent's Council is as follows: Karena Blanchfield (Chairperson), Marie Sinnott (Secretary), Nicola Kenny (Treasurer), Dorothy Bergin, John McMenamin, Fiona Perry, Paula Kennedy, Caroline Tallis and Tiernan Herlihy. A big thank you to all the outgoing members also and we wish our new Parent's Council every success for the coming year. They have already been extremely busy with a Cake Sale, Christmas Play DVDs & Raffle, Penny War Fundraiser, etc. Please keep an eye on our website for upcoming events.

S W I M M I N G

Swimming will begin on the 25th of January for eight consecutive weeks. This will take us up to the Easter holidays. If there is any outstanding permission slips or money please leave it into the school before the start date. The cost is €40 per child and €16 for a third child. Thanks to the Parent's Council for subsidising these lessons. The bus will leave school @ 10:30am to arrive in The Watershed for 11am. Children are reminded to wear tracksuits on these days instead of Fridays. The children should wear their swimming togs underneath their tracksuits coming to school. The lessons will be from 11:15 to 12:00. Parents of infants may wish to be there after the lessons to help with dressing them. It might be a good idea if parents made arrangements to take turns for this. In order to save time drying hair after the lessons, the school has been advised that children should try to wear a heavy rubber swim hat on top of a lighter swimming hat to prevent hair getting wet. This especially applies to any child with long hair. Children should also wear a warm wool hat and coat on the way to and from the pool. On return to school, the children will not be going out to yard in order to prevent colds and flues.

S P E E C H A N D D R A M A (T E R M 3)

This year we will have Speech and Drama lessons in the last term. Deirdre Dunne who is a parent in our school has kindly offered to provide Speech and Drama lessons to our students free of charge. This will be of huge benefit to the students and the school. We would sincerely like to thank Deirdre for offering her services to us.



January 2016

1 9 1 6 C E N T E N A R Y C E L E B R A T I O N S

The National Flag will be presented to Scoil Naomh Fiachra this Wednesday 13th of January at 10:20am. The flag will be presented to our school by two Officers from the Irish Army. The 1916 Proclamation will be read out by one of the Officers with the help of one student from the school. The Officers will speak to the children about the significance of the 1916 Rising and the Proclamation. They will also show the children how to care for the flag. We are very much looking forward to this occasion. On the 15th of March (Proclamation Day), every school in the country will raise their flags at 12 o'clock. Parents and members of the community are invited into the school for these events and the children will perform a number of songs and tunes to mark the occasions.

N E W E N R O L M E N T S 2 0 1 6

If any parents have children for enrolment for September 2016 could you please let the school know. We have already sent out enrolment packs to some parents. If you know of any families who have children who may wish to attend the school, could you please pass on this message.

W E B S I T E

Please check out our new and improved website. We have recently made some changes to our website format making it easier and quicker to update. The staff are now regularly updating it with news and classroom activities. We have a new page set up for each room under the new 'Classes' tab. If you don't have a homepage set up for your browser on your computer or phone, we would appreciate you using www.clontubrid.ie as your homepage as this will allow you keep an eye on school news and updates.

H U R L I N G & C A M O G I E

Hurling and camogie training will begin in the coming weeks as soon as the weather and pitches improve a little. A text service will be set up shortly and parents will be advised of our first training session through this. Once again this year, Mr. Robinson will look after the hurling and Ms. Brennan & Ms. Fennelly will take the camogie team.

S A F E T Y I N T H E C A R P A R K

Safety in the carpark is an ongoing concern and is being discussed at Parent's Council and Board of Management meetings. Discussions are being had on how to make the car park safer especially at 2:40pm. For now, we ask that everyone slows down, park in a safe way and collect your children from the gate. Your cooperation with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

A C T I V E F L A G & 6 K M F U N R U N

Our campaign for the Active Flag will continue this term. New activities are already underway. See our website for more details. Our Active week will take place from the 7th to the 12th of June this year (week after June Bank Holiday). It will end with our Fun Run on Sunday the 12th of June after Mass in Clontubrid which will be ran by the Board of Management and the Parent's Council together this year.

G R A D E D R E A D E R S

In an effort to further improve reading levels of pupils in the school, it has been decided that Graded Readers will be purchased. This will involve the purchase of a reading scheme consisting of over 1,000 books all graded into levels. These books will allow children to progress from one level to the next which should gradually improve the child's reading ability in a more structured way. However, this scheme comes at a high financial cost. For this reason, the Board of Management and the Parent's Council hope to dedicate most of the money raised in our end of year Fun Run to paying for these books.

D A T E S F O R Y O U R D I A R Y

Wednesday 13th of January - National Flag to be presented by Defence Forces @ 10:20am.
Thursday 18th & Friday 19th of February - School Closed for Mid-Term Break
Tuesday 15th of March - Proclamation Day. Ceremony in school to raise the Irish Flag.
Monday 16th - School Closed @ 12:00 for St. Patrick's Day and Easter Holidays. Reopen 4th of April.
Tuesday 3rd of May - Closed for May Bank Holiday Weekend
Sunday 8th of May — Confirmation
Saturday 28th of May - First Holy Communion
Tuesday 7th - Sunday 12th of June - "Active School Week" (Fun Run on Sunday 12th after 9:30am Mass).
Friday 24th of June — Closed @ 12 o'clock for Summer Holidays