



Scoil Naomh Fiachra,
Clontubrid,
Kilkenny
Roll No. 16865D
Tel: 056-8832417, Email: snfiachra@eircom.net

October 2016



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back everyone. We had a very sad start to the school year with the sudden passing of our past pupil Denise O’Gorman. Denise was the youngest of six sisters to attend our school. We all have very fond memories of Denise from her time here in Scoil Naomh Fiachra and the entire school community was extremely saddened by her passing. Everyone here in the school would like to extend their sympathies and support to the O’Gorman family.

This year our enrolment is at seventy pupils which is the highest enrolment that the school has had to date. I would like to welcome all our new infants and their parents to the school and also all of our new families who have joined us recently in other classes. We hope you all enjoy your time with us here in Scoil Naomh Fiachra and we look forward to getting to know you all in the coming year.

I’d also like to welcome Ms. Swaine who is our new part-time resource teacher. She will be shared between Lisdowney, Gathabawn and Clontubrid. I must thank all of our teachers Ms. Brennan, Ms. Swaine, Ms. O’Connor, Ms. Keane and Ms. Fennelly for their dedication and the brilliant work that they are doing in their classrooms. Thanks also to our ancillary staff made up of Pauline, Michael and Frank who ensure that the school is in such good condition and runs so well.

I would like to fully acknowledge the support we receive from our entire parent body, the Parent’s Council and our Board of Management. We are truly fortunate to have such a strong relationship between the school, parents and the wider community of Clontubrid. Your children are a credit to you all and we are blessed to have such enthusiastic, mannerly and hard working pupils.

If there is anything you wish to discuss with us over the coming year, please don’t hesitate to contact the school (preferably not during class time unless it’s an emergency of course) or to make an appointment by e-mail (snfiachra@eircom.net) or by phone (0568832417).

TIN WHISTLE

We will be continuing our Tin Whistle Lessons during the first term starting on Wednesday the 5th of October. We will have ten lessons in total which will bring us up to the Christmas holidays. Please ensure that your child has his/her tin whistle from last year and the notes they received coming to school each day. Once again this year, Paula Dowling will be teaching tin whistle in the school. A big thank you to the Parent’s Council for subsidising 50% of the cost.

SWIMMING

Swimming classes will take place this year again for Junior Infants to Sixth Class starting on Monday 13th of February and will run for 8 consecutive weeks. The cost of the lessons are usually €5 per lesson. This includes the bus, hire of the pool and lessons. Thanks again to our Parent’s Council who subsidise this for us by paying for the lessons. Consent forms and further information will be given out in the second term.

SPEECH AND DRAMA

Once again this year in an aim to improve oral language throughout the school, we will have Speech and Drama lessons in the last term. Deirdre Dunne has again offered to carry out these classes on a voluntary basis. We are extremely grateful to Deirdre for offering these classes to us.

PARENT’S COUNCIL

As always, our Parent’s Council have been extremely busy lately. They did a brilliant job organising our Fun Run last June for the school. They already have a number of fundraising plans for this year including a ‘Book Fair’ and ‘Cake Sale’ in the first term, a ‘Bingo Afternoon’ in the second term and a ‘Colour Run’ in the third term.

A huge thank you to our Parent’s Council secretary Marie Blanchfield who completed two ‘Endurance’ competitions in aid of our school. Well done to Marie who has so far raised €935 in donations. Thanks to everyone from the school and community who have supported Marie.

The Parent’s Council are hoping to run a talk for the school on ‘Internet Safety’ this year. This is a very important topic for our children and the school, and we would encourage at least one parent from every family to attend this talk.

Again, the school would like to sincerely thank the Parent’s Council for everything they are doing. The Parent’s Council will hold its AGM on **Wednesday 9th of November** at **8pm** in the school. All parents are encouraged to attend.



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N E W E N R O L M E N T S 2 0 1 7

If any parents have children for enrolment for September 2017 could you please let the school know if you have not already done so through our survey. We are presently updating our enrolment pack for 2017 and hope to get it out to parents in the coming weeks. Also, if you know of any families who have children who may wish to attend the school, could you please pass on this message.

G R E E N F L A G

Our campaign for our third green flag for 'Water Conservation' will continue this year and we hope to complete this before the end of the year. A new Green School's Committee has been appointed and work will get underway soon. We had a brilliant Water Action Day last June and the students displayed some brilliant projects. We look forward to more activities in the months ahead. A big thank you to Ms. Keane our coordinator and the Green Schools Committee for all their work.

G A E L I C F O O T B A L L

Our Gaelic football team have been back training since early September. Boys from 4th, 5th and 6th classes have been encouraged to play. We currently have 27 boys training and we recorded our first win of the year against Conahy when the boys came back from being down by six points to end up winning by four points in the end thanks to a superb second half performance. Well done boys.

P A R E N T T E A C H E R M E E T I N G S

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on the 15th and 16th of November this year. Teachers will contact parents with exact times and dates closer to the time. We will do our best to co-ordinate and facilitate families with more than one child in the school. We will close at 1:40pm on the Tuesday to facilitate meetings.

A C T I V E F L A G

Last June we raised our Active Flag on the day of our Fun Run. This was the culmination of two years hard work by everyone in the school. A big thanks again to Ms. Fennelly for coordinating our campaign for the flag. We will continue our active school work this year in order to retain our flag.

C O L A I S T E M H U I R E O P E N D A Y & P A R E N T S N I G H T

Our fifth and sixth class students will have an opportunity to visit Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown on Friday 14th of October. There will also be an open night for parents of incoming first years on Thursday, 20th October from 7:30-9:00pm. There will be a first year assessment day on Saturday, 19th of November between

U N D E R 1 2 C A M O G I E F I N A L

A huge congratulations to all of our camogie stars and their mentors on their win over Danesfort in the under 12 County final. There were fourteen girls from our school on the team. Well done to all involved.

F R I E N D S H I P W E E K

This year the school will hold a 'Friendship Week' from the 21st to the 25th of November. Activities and lessons will take place each day to promote friendship throughout the school. This week will incorporate lessons around anti-bullying and bullying prevention, developing friendships, mentoring between older and younger students, the unveiling of a 'Friendship Bench', and also launching our Christmas Shoebox appeal and the St. Vincent De Paul Food collection.

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

Wednesday, 5th October—Tin Whistle classes begin

Friday, 14th October—Coláiste Mhuire Open Day (for students)

Tuesday, 18th October—School closed for Inservice Day on New Primary Language Curriculum

Thursday, 20th October—Coláiste Mhuire Open Night (for parents)

Friday, 28th October—Closed at 2:40pm for Mid Term

Wednesday, 9th November—Parent's Council AGM @ 8pm

Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th November—Parent Teacher Meetings (Closed @1:40 on Tuesday 10th to facilitate meetings)

Saturday, 19th November—Colaiste Mhuire First Year Assessment

Monday 21st to Friday 25th of November—Friendship Week

Tuesday, 20th December—Christmas Plays

Thursday, 22nd December—Closed at Midday for Christmas Holidays. Reopen Monday 9th January