



Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Clontubrid, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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 2017. We had an extremely busy first term with parent-teacher meetings, Christmas plays, football and much more. I would like to thank the pupils, parents, teachers, ancillary staff, our Parent's Council and Board of Management for all their hard work. I'd like to welcome Ms. Shauna McGrath to the staff for the remainder of the school year. Shauna will be standing in for Ms. Keane who is on maternity leave.

With the second term 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. If any parent has any issue they wish to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact us.

CLOTHING COLLECTION

The school will run a fundraising clothing and textile collection starting on February the 6th until February the 16th. All clothing items welcome, except for duvets. Laptops and old mobile phones also welcome. The school will be paid by the kilogramme for the clothes. Some of the funds raised will go towards initiatives for the Greens Schools project and Water Flag campaign. Please spread the word to neighbours, friends and relatives. All support would be greatly appreciated.

PARENT'S COUNCIL

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Karena Blanchfield for the time and effort she gave as chairperson of the parent's council over the past year and wish Marie Sinnott all the best as the new chairperson. Marie has been doing brilliant work since stepping into the new position. Dorothea Bergin is now acting as secretary and Nicola Kenny is the treasurer. The other committee members include John McMenamin, Fiona Perry, Paula Kennedy, Caroline Tallis and Tiernan Herlihy. A big thank you to all involved on the Parent's Council and for the continued support towards the school.

There will be a **Cake Sale** this **Sunday 22nd of January**. Please drop donations to Caroline Tallis between 2pm and 5pm this Saturday or to the school from 9am on Sunday. All support would be greatly appreciated.

The Parent's Council have a number of other events planned for the rest of the year and information will be sent home in due course about these.

The Parent's Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas Collection for the Amber Refuge. We received a very nice letter from Amber who really appreciated all the donations this Christmas.

SWIMMING

Swimming will begin on the 13th of February for eight consecutive weeks. This will take us up to the Easter holidays. 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.

SPEECH AND DRAMA (TERM 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 again this year. 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.



A number of people have been of great help to the school since the beginning of the year and the school would like to extend it's gratitude to:

- Kieran Costelloe for making our 'Friendship Bench' and Caroline Tallis who varnished it.
- Deirdre Dunne for helping out with the Christmas Play in the Senior Room.
- Paul Phelan who made, assembled and took down the stage for the Christmas Plays.
- Seán Bergin for all his work on the Water Pump and Denis O'Connor who helped out also.
- Gary Tallis for fixing the leak in the roof.
- Fiona Perry, Nicola Kenny and Mary Maher who have been helping out with our Power Hour for literacy in the Infant Room. It's great to see Mrs. Maher back!

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. 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.

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.

A C T I V E W E E K & E N D O F Y E A R C O L O U R R U N

Our Active week will take place from the 11th to the 16th of June this year . It will begin with our Colour Run on Sunday the 11th of June after Mass in Clontubrid which will be ran by the Board of Management and the Parent's Council together this year. More information to follow.

F I R S T C O M M U N I O N

First Communion will take place on Saturday the 13th of May at 11am in Saint Fiachra's Church, Clontubrid. Thanks to Ms. Fennelly and the parents who have been helping to prepare the children for this very important sacrament.

G R E E N S C H O O L S

The campaign for our Water Flag is still ongoing. The application is due to be submitted this term and we hope to get our third flag by the end of the year. The children from each classroom will take part in a "Waterwise" Workshop on the 1st of March. This has been organised in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council who are funding the workshops. Thanks to our Green School's committee for all their work and to Ms. Keane for coordinating the Green School's Project.

C H R I S T M A S S H O E B O X A P P E A L

A big thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Team Hope. This is our third year supporting this charity and we sent sixty shoeboxes from the school this year.

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

Sunday 22nd of January - Cake Sale after Mass in Clontubrid.
Monday 30th of January - Beginning of Catholic Schools Week
Monday 6th- Thursday 16th of February - Clothing and Textiles Collection
Monday 13th of February - Swimming Lessons begin
Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th - Closed for Mid Term Break
Wednesday 1st of March - Waterwise Workshops
Monday 13th to Thursday 16th of March - Seachtain na nGaeilge
Friday 7th of April - Closed for Easter Holidays @ 12 o'clock
Saturday 13th of May - First Communion
Friday 2nd of June - Graduation for 6th Class
Sunday 11th to Friday 16th of June - "Active School Week" (Colour Run on Sunday 11th after Mass).
Friday 23rd of June — Closed @ 12 o'clock for Summer Holidays