



Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Clontubrid, Kilkenny
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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

Our first month has flown by already and I would like to compliment everyone on the great work that is taking place in the classrooms and around the school in general. Thanks to our wonderful children first of all who have settled back in so well and are applying themselves with a great attitude. Thanks to our teachers and ancillary staff who have had a very busy first month. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Roche to the staff as she job shares with Ms. O'Connor this year. Finally, we owe a great deal of gratitude to our parents, our Parent's Council and our Board of Management who are as always working so hard in the background. If there is anything you wish to discuss with us here in the school, please don't hesitate to contact the school (preferably not during class time unless it's an emergency) or to make an appointment by e-mail (snfiachra@eircom.net) or by phone (0568832417).

M U L T I - U S E G A M E S A R E A

We are delighted to let you all know that the work on phase two of our project i.e. the Multiple Use Games Area will soon be completed. Thanks to everyone for their patience over the past weeks. The school would like to thank all of the people who made this possible. Our **board of management** have invested a lot of time in this project and I would like to thank them for their efforts. We would also like to thank **Diarmuid Bergin** who carried out the work in such a professional manner and the **County Council** who did a lot of work to help us secure the grant for 90% of the cost. Thanks also to **Mick McCarthy** who has helped us greatly once again with the entire process. We owe a great deal of gratitude also to the **Tallis and Dunphy** families who repositioned the oil tank and fuel safe for us. Also thanks to **Paddy Delaney** and **Seán Bergin** who kept our new all-weather pitch irrigated over the summer and had it in such good condition upon our return to school. Overall, both projects i.e. the all-weather pitch and the Multi-Use Games Area have been a huge community effort and they have proven once again the amazing support that there is out there towards our school. We look forward to many years of sporting fun in our new facilities. The board of management plan to run a fundraiser to help cover some of the 10% of the costs for our Multi-Use Games Area. Details of this fundraiser will be sent home in the coming weeks. We appreciate everyone's support so far and we would encourage people to get behind this final effort to raise some funds for this new facility.

I N I T I A T I V E S F O R T H E C O M I N G Y E A R

- **Friendship Week:** We will hold a 'Friendship Week' from the 19th to the 23rd of November. Activities and lessons will take place each day to promote friendship throughout the school.
- **RDS Science Fair:** The Senior Room hopes to enter the 'RDS Science Fair' in Dublin next May and are presently working on project ideas.
- **Fourth Green Flag:** Our application for the school's fourth 'Green Flag for Transport and Travel' will begin in the second term. Thanks to Ms. O'Connor for co-ordinating this.
- **Digital School of Distinction:** The school is currently in the process of applying for the 'Digital School of Distinction award'. We hope to achieve this before the end of the school year.
- **New Interactive Displays:** The school plans to purchase three new interactive displays for each of the classrooms. This will greatly enhance the learning experiences of all our pupils.
- **Robotics:** The school is planning on hosting some robotics workshops for the older classes in October in conjunction with the PDST.
- **Food Dudes:** The school will participate in the 'Food Dudes' programme once again this year. Details will be going home soon.
- **School Self-Evaluation:** The school has identified it's focus area for school self-evaluation for the next two years. We will focus on writing with a specific focus on sentence structure and handwriting. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on this.
- **Local Historical Field Trip:** We plan to take in a field trip of local historical sites in the area such as Balleen School, Balleen Castle, Balleen Graveyard and more if possible. We will be looking for help from parents with this.
- **Music Generation Programme Kilkenny:** The school will be applying for this unique opportunity when applications open in the coming months. This is a very sought after programme and the school will do it's best to gain entry to it, however due to high demand we cannot guarantee that we will be successful in our application. We will keep everyone posted on this during the year.

**C L O T H I N G C O L L E C T I O N**

The school will run a clothing and textile collection starting on **Monday 26th of November until Thursday 6th of December**. All clothing items welcome, except duvets. The school will be paid by the bag for the clothes. Funds raised will go towards the running of the school. Please spread the word to neighbours, friends and relatives. All support would be greatly appreciated.

D A T A P R O T E C T I O N – G D P R C O M P L I A N C E

The school is currently working on a new **Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice** which will be published on our website in the coming weeks. A text will be sent out when completed and parents may then view the above documents.

N E W E N R O L M E N T S 2 0 1 8

If any parents have children for **enrolment for September 2019** could you please let the school know by email (snfiachra@eircom.net). We are presently updating our enrolment pack for 2019 and hope to get it out to parents before Christmas. Also, if you know of any families who have children who may wish to attend the school, could you please pass on this message.

T I N W H I S T L E (T E R M 1)

We will be continuing our Tin Whistle Lessons in the first term starting on **Thursday 4th of October**. These lessons will be subsidised by the Parent's Council. We will have ten lessons in total which will bring us up to the Christmas holidays. Please ensure that your child has a 'D' Tin Whistle and the notes they received last year if possible. Please provide your child with an A4 poly pocket display booklet to keep notes in as this makes accessing and keeping the notes much easier.

S W I M M I N G (T E R M 2)

Swimming classes will take place this year again for **Junior Infants to Sixth Class**. They will begin later this year towards the end of February. Again the lessons will be paid for by the Parent's Council. The hire of the pool and cost of buses will be collected. Consent forms and further information will be given out towards the end of this term.

P A R E N T S C O U N C I L

Ballot papers for the Parent's Council election have been sent home and will be accepted up until this **Friday 28th of September**. Please use your vote. The Parents Council will hold its **AGM** on Wednesday the **10th of October @ 8pm**. All parents are invited to attend this meeting. It is hoped that at least one parent from each family would be present if possible. I would like to thank all of the outgoing members of the Parent's Council (Marie Blanchfield, Fiona Perry, Paula Kennedy, Nicola Kenny and John McMenamin) who have worked so hard on our council over the past number of years. I also would like to wish our existing members and newly elected members all the best with the year ahead. We are very fortunate to have parents who are so generous with their time. The Parent's Council have already been in contact with the school this year and have plans in place to support the school with the cost of **Swimming & Tin Whistle** classes. The Parent's Council have also purchased a **new class reading scheme for the Junior Room**. Thanks to our very busy Parent's Council members who volunteered their time to cover these new books also. As always, the school really appreciates the support of the Parent's council and looks forward to working together with them in the coming year.

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 **13th and 14th of November** this year. We will close at 1:40pm on the Tuesday to facilitate meetings. Teachers will contact parents with exact times and dates. We will do our best to co-ordinate and facilitate families with more than one child in the school.

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 12th of October**. There will also be an open night for parents of incoming first years on **Thursday, 18th October** from 7:30-9:00pm. Details of the incoming first year assessments will be sent directly to parents.

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

Thursday, 4th October—Tin Whistle classes begin
Friday, 12th October—Coláiste Mhuire Open Day (for students)
Thursday, 18th October—Coláiste Mhuire Open Night (for parents)
Friday, 26th October—Closed at 2:40pm for Mid Term
Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th November—Parent Teacher Meetings (Closed @1:40 on Tuesday 13th)
Monday 26th November—Clothing Collection begins
Tuesday, 18th December—Christmas Plays
Friday, 21st December—Closed at Midday for Christmas Holidays. Reopen Monday 7th January