



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

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ESB SCIENCE BLAST (RDS DUBLIN)

Students from 4th to 6th class are presently working on a project to investigate the link between physical fitness and a person's ability to react to different stimuli. We will be exhibiting our project at the **ESB Science Blast in the RDS Dublin on the 6th of March**. We are all looking forward to what promises to be a fantastic experience for the children. Again this year we would like to thank the Parent's Council for subsidising the cost of the bus.

CLOTHING COLLECTION

A huge thank you to all of our families, relatives, friends and neighbours who contributed to our clothing collection which raised €1,015 which will go towards extra costs incurred in developing our Multi-Use Games Area.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL CLOSURE

In order to facilitate further training for teachers in the New Primary Language Curriculum, our school will **close for one full day on Friday 15th of March** (before St. Patrick's Weekend). Please note that the school is also closed on Monday 18th as it is a public holiday.

SWIMMING

Forms for swimming went home recently. Lessons will **begin on Monday 11th of February** and will run until the Easter holidays. Please note that the two lessons in April will be on Tuesdays (2nd & 9th). Please ensure that your child brings a **warm coat and hat** to wear after the lessons. Children will not be permitted to go out to yard after lessons. Please be reminded that any parent helping out in the dressing rooms before or after the lessons must have received **Garda vetting** through the school. If any parent requires vetting, please contact the school.

SPEECH AND DRAMA

The school will hold a **one day workshop** for Speech and Drama on **Friday 5th of April**. Thanks to Deirdre Dunne for agreeing once again to give up her time to facilitate this valuable workshop.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Facebook page has been up and running for the past number of months now and is proving to be a great success. We would encourage everyone to **add** the page, **like** the posts and **share** with your contacts as we continue to try and raise the profile of our school by highlighting the great work of our entire school community.

CREDIT UNION TABLE QUIZ

Good luck to our under 11 and under 13 quiz teams who will compete in the Credit Union Quiz on Friday 1st of February in Cillín Hill. Our under 11 team will be represented by **Tadhg Bergin, Emily Tal-lis, Ciarán McMenamin and Cillian Dunphy**. Our under 13 team will be represented by **Ciara Delaney, Liam O'Gorman, Conor Dowling and Evan Perry**.

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION

The school has decided to focus on **handwriting and sentence structure** as part of it's focus area for SSE this year. A lot of work has gone into identifying and preparing strategies which will begin in each of the classrooms within the next fortnight.

SUMMER WORKS SCHEME

We applied for a grant to upgrade older parts of our school building over three years ago. We are delighted to announce that we have now been granted the funds to go ahead with the **improvement works**. The bulk of the work will be on the upgrading of the 1930's schoolhouse which we know as the middle room. There will also be improvements to insulation in the Junior Room and other areas of the school building. We hope to begin work towards the end of June or early July.



OPENING OF PITCH / MUGA & FLAG CEREMONY

On Sunday the **3rd of March** (weather permitting), we are planning to **bless and officially open the all-weather pitch and the new Multi-Use Games Area in our school after 9:30am mass in St. Fiachra's Church.** We will also **raise our 3rd Green Flag** which was awarded to us a while ago. On that day, the children will play the **final of our in-school Spring hurling league on the pitch** and we will also have our school **Ball Wall Challenge.** Children from the other schools in the parish are welcome to take part in this challenge also and details of the rules and how to play will be placed on our website and Facebook page. We would like to extend an invitation to all families past and present, staff, the wider community and all who have helped in the development of these facilities to this ceremony.

PARENT'S COUNCIL

We would like to wish our Parent's Council and it's three new members Aimee, Joanne and Paul the very best of luck in the year ahead. Also please note that Sandra is the new Chairperson, Aimee is treasurer and Collette is secretary. Thanks again to all of the outgoing members for all their work over the years. Thanks to everyone who supported the **Christmas trolley raffle, Christmas Card Sale and Cake Sale** before Christmas.

The Parent's Council have recently subsidised **Tin Whistle lessons** and have agreed to subsidise **swimming lessons**, the bus to the **ESB Science Fair** and to **purchase an adjustable tennis/volleyball/badminton stand and net** for our new MUGA.

The Parent's Council plan to hold a **Social Night in Mackeys in April** and a **Fun Run on Sunday June 9th (a provisional date).** During the last term there will be a **Split the Pot Fundraiser** ongoing. This will be launched in April at the Social Night.

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

Beidh Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl i Scoil Naomh Fiachra ó 11ú go 14ú lá de Mhí Márta. Beidh a lán gníomhaíochtaí ar siúl cosúil le **"Ticéidí agus Crannchur"**, **"Ceolchoirm"**, **"Tráth na gCeist"**, **"Comórtas Ealaíne"** agus gníomhaíochtaí eagsúla eile. Táimid go léir ag tnúth leis an tseachtain seo. Bíg ag caint as Ghaeilge sa bhaile freisin comh minic agus is féidir libh.

HURLING & CAMOGIE

Hurling and camogie training will begin for **4th to 6th class players** in February. A text messaging service will be set up to inform parents of training and games.

ICT

The school has recently purchased three **interactive touchscreen boards** as part of our digital strategy in the school. Our application for the **Digital School of Distinction Award** is coming near completion.

REMINDERS

- Please ensure that you **walk your child** from the gate to your car in the afternoons.
- **Catholic Schools Week** begins on Monday 28th of January and we will celebrate **Grandparent's/VIP Day on Wednesday the 30th with Mass at 10am**, followed by refreshments and activities in the school.
- We will run an **historical field trip** of the locality in the last term. This will also be linked in with our **Green School's Application** for our fourth Green Flag on Travel and Transport.
- Thanks to **Paul Phelan** who erected our stage for the Christmas Plays, **Gary Tallis** who put vents in the toilets over Christmas, **Sarah Herlihy**, **Joanne Purcell** and **Bernadette Hickey** who came in to help out with our literacy Power Hour in the Junior Room. As ever we are very fortunate to have parents who are so generous with their time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 30th of January -	Grandparent's/VIP Day at 10am in the church.
Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd February -	Closed for Mid Term Break
Sunday 3rd of March -	Opening/Blessing of Pitch and MUGA after 9:30am Mass.
Wednesday 6th of March -	ESB Primary Science Blast - RDS in Dublin.
Monday 11th to Thursday 14th of March -	Seachtain na Gaeilge
Friday 15th of March -	Closed for in-service on new Primary Language Curriculum.
Monday 18th of March -	School closed for Bank Holiday (St. Patrick's Weekend)
Friday 5th of April -	Speech and Drama Workshops with Deirdre Dunne.
Friday 12th of April -	Closed for Easter Holidays @ 12 o'clock
Saturday 11th of May -	First Communion in Clontubrid Church @ 11am
Friday 7th of June -	Graduation for 6th Class
Sunday 9th of June -	Provisional date for Fun Run
Monday 10th to Friday 14th of June -	"Active School Week"
Friday 21st of June -	Closed @ 12 o'clock for Summer Holidays