



**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**

Students and staff are settling back into another year and are looking forward to the challenges and rewards ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Hyland to the staff as she job-shares with Ms. O' Connor this year. I would also like to welcome Ms. Pauline O' Carroll as our new SNA. This year, along with welcoming new students in First Class, Third Class and Sixth Class, we have welcomed seven new Junior Infant Students. We wish all students, teachers, parents, Board of Management and members of the wider school community at Scoil Naomh Fiachra a happy, safe, progressive and successful year ahead. It is wonderful to see all students in the school community working together in helping, supporting and respecting each other from Junior Infants through to Sixth Class. The students in the senior room have shown great maturity and leadership at break time by co-ordinating games and obstacle courses in the MUGA. This has really helped the new juniors settle into their new surroundings.

## **C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S**

We are so proud of all our past pupils on their successful leaving cert results. We wish them continued success as they set out on the next stage of their lives. Congratulations also to our former student, Aidan Tallis, on his achievements with the Kilkenny Minor Hurling Team and being chosen as a member of the 2019 Electric Ireland Minor Hurling Team of the year.

## **S U M M E R W O R K S**

You may have noticed that our school was a very busy place throughout the summer break as our Summer Works project was completed. Ms. Brennan and her students are settling into their newly refurbished classroom. These refurbishment works, which included the insulation of walls, attic and chimneys, the laying of a new marmoleum floor covering and the fresh painting of the walls, took place, in August, under the DES (Department of Education & Skills) Summer Works Grant. Thanks to the BOM for their help and support in ensuring the successful completion of these works.

## **S C H O L A S T I C B O O K F A I R**

The Scholastic Book Fair will come to Scoil Naomh Fiachra from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> October inclusive. This is a fun way of encouraging your child to develop and nurture a love of reading. With a wide variety of books to choose from there will be something there for everyone to enjoy.

## **M O B I L E P H O N E P O L I C Y**

Gentle reminder to students and parents regarding some points in our school's mobile phone policy. Permission for use of a mobile phone is to be sought from the principal on a case by case basis. If a parent is given permission for their child to have a mobile during school hours, pupils and their parents / guardians must first read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy. The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to pupils during school trips and extra-curricular activities. Please visit our website to view this and other relevant school policies.

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

The Parents' Council AGM will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019. (Time to be confirmed closer to the date.) All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Thanks again to our Parents' Council and indeed all members of the parent body for your continued commitment and hard-work in fundraising and supporting various initiatives within our school. It was fantastic that the Parents' Council was in a position to aid the cost of this year's book-bills for all families. We had to purchase a number of new text books this year and many parents kindly gave up their time to cover them. All help regarding this is deeply appreciated. The Parents' Council have also coordinated the Pupil Insurance scheme for the 2019/2020 school year. A note regarding this was sent home in recent weeks. Payments for Book-Bills and Pupil Insurance can be made to your child's teacher.



September 2019

## **SCHOOL IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAY**

I would like to remind parents that the school will be closed for pupils on Tuesday 1st October 2019 to facilitate staff attendance at a professional development seminar relating to the planning and implementation of the New Primary Language Curriculum.

### **SCHOOL SAFETY**

Parents and pupils are asked to prioritise safety at school drop-off and collection times. Please ensure that you walk your child from the gate to your car at home time.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Good and effective communication is key to the success of any school. If you have any questions or concerns relating to your child's learning and/or any other issues please don't hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's teacher and/or the principal (preferably not during class time unless it is an emergency). Emails at [snfiachra@eircom.net](mailto:snfiachra@eircom.net) and phone messages on 0568832417 are checked regularly each day and will be replied to in an efficient manner. We invite parents to submit their up-to-date email addresses if you have not already done so. Thank you all for your consideration and cooperation with this.

### **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Parent's Council have secured a grant towards the installation of a new AED Unit. Thanks to local councillor Mary Hilda Kavanagh for her advice and guidance on the application process for such funding.

### **SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION**

For the coming year, the school will continue to focus on writing, paying close attention to sentence structure and handwriting. In addition to this, we will begin to work on improving and developing Creative Writing with a focus on the writing genres. We welcome the support of parents in ensuring the continuation of this focus during the completion of home work and all school work.

### **SPORTS / GAA NEWS**

Sport forms an important part of life in our school. Pupils, parents, staff and other volunteers work so hard to ensure the viability of all sporting initiatives. Thanks to Ms. Dowling from Lisdowney N.S. and all parents who help co-ordinate training and matches for the Boys' Gaelic Football team. Well done to all of the boys who are training so hard and as always are presenting with a great attitude. Many parents of the students who participate, give very generously of their time to give lifts to training and matches. Your cooperation and help in this manner is very much appreciated, thank you. Updates on other sports teams and initiatives will be given throughout the year. Last year we received free rugby balls, kit bag and water bottles as we collected the required amount of Aldi Rugby stickers. This initiative is being rolled out again this year. All donations would be greatly appreciated.

### **MUSIC GENERATION PROGRAMME**

This fantastic programme is in the early stages of being rolled out in Co. Kilkenny. In addition to last year's application, I have again contacted the coordinators of the programme to express the school's keen interest in it, if and when it becomes available in our area.

### **CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT & ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

The annual reviews of the School's Child Safe Guarding Statement and Anti-Bullying Policy will take place in the coming weeks. These will be again published on the school's website when they have been ratified.

### **NEW ENROLMENTS**

If any parents have children for **enrolment for September 2020** could you please let the school know by email ([snfiachra@eircom.net](mailto:snfiachra@eircom.net)). We are presently updating our enrolment pack for 2020 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?

### **TIN WHISTLE**

We will be continuing our Tin Whistle Lessons in the first term starting on **Thursday 3rd of October**. Thank you to the Parents' Council for their generous donation towards half the cost of same. 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.