



Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Clontubrid, Kilkenny
Roll No. 16865D

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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

As we approach the October Midterm Break, may I congratulate all of our students who have settled back into the school routine so well and who are working so hard. As we continue to live through what are very challenging and unprecedented times, I am grateful and proud of all in our school community who are working together to ensure the safe, secure and smooth running of our school. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our three new Junior Infant students to our school and wish them every success as they begin their primary school journey. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Damian Fitzgerald who is teaching the Senior Room this year.

I would like to sincerely thank Ollie Blanchfield who designed and made new basketball backboards and hoops for our school yard. They are a fantastic new addition to our school's sports equipment and the children are absolutely thrilled with them. On behalf of all in the school community, Thank You!

Our school will be closed from Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October for the Mid-Term Break. All students are invited to dress up in their Halloween Costumes on Friday 23rd October. Children may bring a treat to school for themselves on this day. However, given the current climate, I would ask parents to refrain from giving their children treats etc. to share with other students in the school. **School will resume on Monday 2nd November 2020.**

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

County Champions... Congratulations to the Lisdowney U16 camogie team on winning the U16 County Final beating a very strong Muckalee side in the final. Well done also to the Lisdowney Intermediate team on their outstanding victory in the Intermediate County Final. A huge achievement for a small country club. Their sheer determination, commitment and belief was evident throughout the game. Well done to all and to our past pupils that were involved in the panel. We are proud of you all.

This has without doubt been a particularly difficult year for all those doing state examinations in particular those doing the Leaving Certificate. We wish you all every success in the stage of your journey and hope that you can pursue your dreams ...always believe in yourself.

R E - O P E N I N G O F O U R S C H O O L

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of staff for their support and co-operation in helping to prepare for the re-opening of our school. Thank you also to our Board of Management for their direction and support with same. I would also like to thank our parents/guardians for their support and co-operation in complying with school procedures and for continuing to take every precaution they can in ensuring the continued safe running of our school. A special word of thanks to our students on their compliance with necessary guidelines and regulations.

Some gentle reminders:

- In light of the current guidelines, we request adults not to come into the school building unless they have an appointment to do so.
- Good communication between school and home is of utmost importance. If parents/guardians wish to communicate with their child's teacher/SNA, please explore the following alternatives to face to face meetings:
 - ◇ Send a written message or email to clontubridns@gmail.com;
 - ◇ Phone the school on 056-8832417 or leave a message using the same number;
 - ◇ All staff are very happy to arrange phone calls with parents to discuss any questions or concerns.
- We would ask that parents refrain from congregating outside the school grounds or in the school yard at drop off/collection times. Please ensure that you maintain a social distance of 2 metres at all times.

E N R O L M E N T S 2 0 2 1 / 2 0 2 2

If any parents have children for **enrolment for September 2021** could you please let the school know by emailing clontubridns@gmail.com. Please be advised that our new School Admission Policy, the Annual Admission Notice 2021/2022 and the Application Form for Admission of New Pupils are available on the school website. These documents can be found by clicking on the 'About Us' tab on the website and by then clicking on 'School Enrolment'. Please take note of the following dates from the Annual Admission Notice:

The school commenced accepting applications from the 1st October 2020.

The school will cease accepting applications on the 15th February.

Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by the 1st March 2020.

If you know of any families who have children who may wish to attend the school, could you please pass on this message?

October 2020



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

Thanks to our Parents' Council and indeed all members of the parent body for your continued commitment and hard-work in supporting our school. They are unable to hold an AGM this year, attached please find communication from the Parents' Council, their end of year report and Treasurer's report. The newly elected members to the council are listed in the attached report and we wish them well and every success in their new roles. I would again like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing members, Sandra Blanchfield, Collette Bergin and Lucy Delahunty for their unwavering hard-work, support and volunteerism over the past numbers of years. We look forward to working with the Parents' Council in the academic year ahead. It will be a challenging year for all which will require looking at new ways of developing our community and different ways of fundraising for our school. The financial support given by the Parents' Council each year is hugely important and necessary in the overall running of the school.

M U S I C G E N E R A T I O N / D A B B L E D O O M U S I C

Music is a way for young people to learn through a unique shared experience, to develop their creativity and self-esteem while building skills that will help them in their school lives and beyond. Indeed, music forms a central part of our learning in Scoil Naomh Fiachra. All students are enjoying learning and engaging with the online Dabbledoo Music Programme. This is the first year that we are using this learning resource in the school and it is proving to be very beneficial.

I am thrilled to announce that we have been successful in our application to have the Music Generation Programme in our school. This is a heavily subsidised programme where a professional music teacher visits schools to teach students to play an instrument. As this is the first year that this programme will be implemented in our school, it is envisaged that the Middle Room students will begin to learn violin this year. If successful, we would hope to expand the programme to more classes and students in coming years. More information about the implementation of this new Music Generation Programme in our school will be provided in the coming weeks.

S C H O O L S E L F E V A L U A T I O N

For the coming year, the school will continue to focus on writing, paying close attention to sentence structure, hand-writing and the continued development of Creative Writing with a focus on the Writing Genres. We will also begin to focus on the improvement and progression of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as part of a new phase of our School Improvement Plan. Many thanks to Ms. Brennan who is our school's School Self Evaluation Coordinator. We welcome the support of parents/guardians in ensuring the successful implementation of our School Improvement Plan during the completion of home work and all school work.

S P O R T S / G A A N E W S

Thanks to Brian Ryan from the Kilkenny County Board for providing football and hurling coaching to students from 5th and 6th class once a week over a four week programme. Exercise is very important for all children and they should be encouraged to do some form of exercise on a regular basis every day.

H E A L T H Y L U N C H E S

Well done to all students who are continuing to bring healthy lunches to school. Healthy eating is vitally important for both mind and body and it adds to our overall well-being. It is fantastic to see so many children eating a variety of fruit and vegetables as part of their lunch on a daily basis. We allow one small treat per student on a Friday only. Thank you to all students and parents for their cooperation with our Healthy Lunches Policy.

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.