



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

Tel: 056-8832417

Email: clontubridns@gmail.com Website: www.clontubrid.ie

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 Christmas break, our school is filled with excitement and anticipation. Christmas songs, stories and poems are being explored, art-work is being completed and a little elf has joined our school for the Christmas Season. I am beyond proud of all students in the school, for their continued hard-work and enthusiasm. All pupils and their families will have earned a well-deserved break over Christmas, perhaps this year more than any other year! As you will see below, our school continues to be a very busy place of learning. Our primary focus for the first term was to reopen our school in a safe manner and to re-establish good learning practices with a strong focus on Well-Being and Physical Exercise. I am very grateful to the wonderful staff in our school for their strong commitment and hard-work in achieving this aim. As always the success of our school relies on a community effort and I must congratulate and thank all students, parents and members of the Board of Management for their unwavering support.

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?

C O M M U N I C A T I O N

As always, good communication between home and school is vitally important. If you have any issues or concerns relating to your child's learning, please make an appointment to talk with your child's teacher outside of teaching times (unless in an emergency). The school's emails and phone messages are checked regularly each day. Please take note of the following reminders regarding current communication practices in our school in light of Covid-19:

- Bearing in mind, the current guidelines, we request adults not to come into the school building unless they have an appointment to do so.
- 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 S B S C I E N C E B L A S T

We are delighted to let you know that ESB Science Blast will be running again this year, albeit in a slightly different way. This is a very popular challenge among our students and helps to open their enquiring minds to the mysteries of science and all that the area of STEM offers. Students will begin to choose and research their question for investigation in the New Year. Judging will be done remotely this year and each class will be linked with a STEM 'judge' whom the class can talk to via online communications within the classroom under the supervision of the class teacher. In April class project work from schools around the country will be showcased as part of ESB Science Blast TV. We wish all our students and teachers every success with this year's entries.

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

The Christmas Shoebox appeal is an annual campaign where thousands of individuals in Ireland donate shoeboxes filled with gifts to be given to children affected by poverty in Africa or Eastern Europe. It is an opportunity to share a little joy and excitement with children who live in circumstances where these can sometimes be in short supply. **This year, due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal has gone online.** Every €20 donated will allow Team Hope's partners in Africa and Eastern Europe to purchase items for shoeboxes locally. If you would like to make a contribution, you can send donations in an envelope to school with your child. You can also donate online by visiting www.teamhope.ie.

A C T I V E S C H O O L

Indoor and outdoor movement breaks are a great way to restore concentration and focus.

This year as part of our Active School campaign, students will participate in an 'Active Break Every Day' challenge programme running over a four week period. This will involve all students completing two structured class movement activities during each school day for four weeks. It will also involve a "Run to Croker" project—one lap of the school grounds will count as 1km..students will take note of any interesting/historical sights on the way. Many thanks to Ms. Brennan who is Scoil Naomh Fiachra's Active School's Coordinator.



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

Christmas Trolley Raffle

The Parents' Council will hold a Shopping Trolley draw on 21st December. All donations of non-perishable food, domestic goods or luxury items are welcome for the Shopping Trolley draw. We would appreciate if every family could donate an item for the trolley. *Please return Trolley draw raffle cards by Friday 18th December to the school.*

Christmas Dress-Up Day

The Parents' Council are inviting all children in the school to wear Christmas themed clothes on Friday 18th December 2020 as a fundraising activity. Christmas Jumpers, Santa Hats, Reindeer Antlers etc. are all welcome! There is absolutely no need to buy anything new for this event, please use clothes and accessories that you may already have at home. We are suggesting that parents may like to donate €3 as part of this fundraising initiative.

This year you will have the option to return collected money for both the *Trolley Draw* and the *Christmas Dress-Up Day* directly to the school or you can donate the same amount to our school's Gofundme page. A link to this page will be posted on the school's website and it will also be sent to parents via text message.

C H R I S T M A S P L A Y S

For many years, our class Christmas Plays have been a very important part of school life in Scoil Naomh Fiachra. It is unfortunate this year that we cannot rehearse and perform such plays in the usual manner. However, we will continue to strive to celebrate Christmas in a meaningful way for the students. It is hoped that pupils from different classes will perform some Christmas songs, poems and stories in school. These performances will then be video recorded and shared with parents via Class Dojo and/or DVDs.

This project will be carried out under the guidance of our Acceptable Use Policy and we clearly request that all involved adhere to same and refrain from sharing any such videos on social media or otherwise. We must all be very mindful of the digital age we live in.

F R I E N D S H I P W E E K

A huge thank you and congratulations to all our students on their very honest and caring participation in Friendship week. This week has become a very important week in the calendar of the school and one which helps to open the lines of clearer communication for students, staff and parents. It is very important that we all appreciate the value of friendship from a very early age and understand what it is to be kind to someone and what it feels like when someone is kind to you. Emphasis was placed on understanding that it's not about the giving or receiving of elaborate gifts but of listening, caring and being that listening ear for someone. A simple and kind gesture can make a huge difference to someone else.

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

The Green Schools Flag project is about promoting long-term, whole-school action for the environment and is a student led programme with involvement from the wider community. The activities involved will help students learn about the value of protecting our environment. Students and staff are currently working towards our Biodiversity Flag. We are in year one of a two year project. Students will circulate surveys and will evaluate the findings of same. Building from the feedback gathered from these surveys we will plan strategies which will, hopefully result in securing the 5th Green Flag – Biodiversity. It is important that both children and adults learn about the value of biodiversity, Irish wildlife and how we can help conserve and protect it. Well done and thanks to Mr. Fitzgerald who is leading our Green Schools efforts this year.

M U S I C

This year we have introduced two music projects into the curriculum at Scoil Naomh Fiachra. These include Music Generation and Dabbledoo. We have received our allocation of 22 Violins and students in the Middle Room have started their tuition with professional music teacher, Carl Rochford, from Music Generation Kilkenny. Watch this space for some great performances in the future! All of our students are engaging with the online Dabbledoo Music Programme and are enjoying this experience. Dabbledoo makes music education more accessible, engaging and fun for teachers and students. The programme provides a wide range of online interactive resources and it explores creative, fun and accessible activities for all students. These are two very exciting programmes for our students and we look forward to seeing pupils develop their skills, nurture a love of music and enjoy the many advantages that it can bring to their lives.

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

23 rd December 2020 to Tuesday 5 th January 2021 inclusive	Christmas Holidays (School will close at 12 noon on Tuesday 22 nd December and will re-open on Wednesday 6 th January 2021).
Thursday 18 th February and Friday 19 th February 2021	Mid-Term Break (School will close on Wednesday 17 th February at 2:40pm and will re-open on Monday 22 nd February 2021).
Wednesday 17 th March 2021	St Patrick's Day (School will close at 2:40pm on Tuesday 16 th March and re-open on Thursday 18 th March 2021).
Monday 29 th March – Friday 9 th April 2021	Easter Holidays (School will close on Friday 26 th March at 12 noon and will re-open on Monday 12 th April 2021)
Monday 3 rd May 2021	May Bank Holiday (School will close at 2:40pm on Friday 30 th April and will re-open on Tuesday 4 th May 2021).
Monday 7 th June and Tuesday 8 th June 2021	June Bank Holiday (School will close at 2:40pm on Friday 4 th June and will re-open on Wednesday 9 th June 2021)
Tuesday 22 nd June (12noon)	School Summer Holidays (School will close at 12 noon on 22 nd June 2021 for the summer holidays).