



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

It is very hard to believe that we have just about completed eight weeks of the school year and the October Midterm Break is almost upon us. All students in our school are working extremely hard and they should be proud of their work and progress so far this year. I would like to specially congratulate our new Junior Infant students who have settled into school so well. I hope that you will be very happy in Scoil Naomh Fiachra and I look forward to being your teacher and principal over the coming years. I would indeed like to wish all members of our school community a safe, healthy and prosperous year ahead. We have all faced enormous challenges over the past couple of years. However, the sense of community and camaraderie between all of the partners in our school shone through during these difficult times. We indeed look forward to safer and more secure times ahead. Please keep up the fantastic communication with the school. Please phone the school or message the relevant teachers, if there are any issues or concerns that you would like to discuss. No issue is too small or too big!

E N R O L M E N T S 2 0 2 2 / 2 0 2 3

If any parents have children for enrolment for September 2022 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 2022/2023 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 2021.
- The school will cease accepting applications on the 15th February 2022.
- Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by the 1st March 2022.

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

S C H O O L C O V I D R E S P O N S E P L A N

Many thanks to all staff, students and parents/guardians for your support of our school's response to Covid-19. I would just like to remind you of the following points:

- No adults should enter the school without a prior appointment. Please phone/email the office or message the teachers on Class Dojo if you would like to arrange a meeting.
- Public Health advice remains the same for any child aged between 3 months and 13 years of age with symptoms of COVID 19. They need to immediately self-isolate, stay at home, and you should contact your GP for advice and COVID 19 testing.
- Children aged between 3 months and 13 years who are household contacts of a confirmed case of COVID 19 will still have to restrict their movements and get a COVID 19 test.
- Since Monday September 27th children who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and may have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in schools, childcare facilities, sports, and social settings, will not have to restrict their movements or get a COVID 19 test.

S C H O O L B U I L D I N G A N D S U M M E R W O R K S

Our school was a very busy place during the summer break. The exterior walls received a fresh coat of paint and the school is now sporting a new colour scheme. The roof and ceiling in the main corridor were also replaced and repaired under the Summer Works Scheme. We are really thrilled with the results. A new magnetic lock and access control system is currently being installed on the main entrance and exit doors.

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

There was wonderful excitement in the school as the Scholastic Book Fair arrived last Thursday. It will be here until Thursday 21st October. Information regarding cashless payments at the Book Fair was sent to all parents/guardians via email and Class Dojo. Please don't hesitate to contact the school, if you have any questions or if you require any further information.

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

Please note the following reminder to students and parents/guardians 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

Our Parents' Council works tirelessly to support Scoil Naomh Fiachra. All of this work is done in a voluntary capacity and the school is very grateful for such hard work. Many thanks to this year's outgoing members, Paul Dowling, Joanne Purcell and Aimee Fox for their hard work and time over the past number of years. After the recent elections, Emma Kennedy, Joe Hickey and Jessica Healy have been newly elected to the Parents' Council. We wish them and all members of the Parents' Council every success for the year ahead.



SCIENCE WEEK 2021

Science week in Scoil Naomh Fiachra will run from the 8th to the 12th November 2021. We are really looking forward to exploring lots of practical Science and STEM experiments and investigations during Science Week 2021. Keep a lookout on Class Dojo and on our school's Facebook Page for updates!

FRIENDSHIP WEEK 2021

Friendship Week (15th—19th November) is one of the most valued and special weeks in our school calendar. Throughout this week, students will explore lots of activities that promote the importance of friendship in our lives and an awareness of the effects that bullying can have. Our school is a diverse and inclusive centre of learning where we all play a part in fostering a safe and happy sense of belonging and community.

GREEN SCHOOLS—BIODIVERSITY

We are currently in year two of working towards our fifth Green Schools Flag under the theme of Biodiversity. Many thanks to Mr. Fitzgerald and our Green Schools Committee, who are working hard and planning lots of learning and activities for the year ahead. Great fun was had as our school garden was harvested by the Senior Room in recent weeks. Real life and practical learning outdoors is of huge importance.

SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

Over the past number of years, we have developed and strengthened *Handwriting, Sentence Structure, Writing Genres and STEM* in the School Self Evaluation process. Our focus in these areas has had a very positive effect on the children's learning. As we progress to the next phase of School-Self Evaluation, we have chosen 1. *Comprehension Strategies in Reading* and 2. *Oral Language in both English and Gaelige* as our new areas of focus. A new School Improvement Plan will be developed this year and it will be made available to all in our school community in due course.

MUSIC GENERATION

After last year's success, Music Generation has returned to Scoil Naomh Fiachra for the 2021-2022 school year. All children from 2nd to 6th Class will receive violin tuition this year. Many thanks to our tutor Carl Rochford for his expertise and instruction. Sincere thanks to our Parents' Council, who are helping to fund this initiative.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Board of Management recently reviewed our school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Both of these documents have been published on the school's website and they are also on display in each room in the school. Mr. Peter Madden is the school's Designated Liaison Person and Ms. Sinéad Brennan is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person. *Mr. Damian Fitzgerald has been appointed as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person in Ms. Brennan's absence.*

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

A review of our Anti-Bullying Policy was recently carried out by the Board of Management. This has been published on the school's website: www.clontubrid.ie.

HOMEWORK CLUB

An after-school Homework Club has been trialled over the past number of weeks. It has been a success and I am pleased to say that we will continue to be in a position to offer this service after the October midterm break. From Monday 1st November 2021 to Friday 3rd December 2021, The club will continue to run on Mondays to Thursdays, from 2.40pm to 3.40pm. A review will take place again at this stage to see if it is feasible for the club to continue into the New Year.

FIRST EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to our 3rd Class students who celebrated the Sacrament of First Eucharist on Saturday 25th September 2021. Many thanks and well done to the children, their families and to Fr. O' Farrell for their hard work in preparation for this special day. Our 5th and 6th Class students and their teacher, Mr. Fitzgerald have already begun their work in preparation for the celebration of Confirmation later this year. An introductory Mass for the Confirmation candidates was held on 4th October 2021. We are very proud of our most senior students as they prepare for this important occasion. They recently developed a project based on the theme of 'Creation' in school. This is on display in the Sacred Space in Clontubrid Church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25th Oct 2021 – 29th Oct 2021 (Inclusive):

9th and 10th November 2021:

8th to 12th November 2021:

15th to 19th November 2021:

17th November 2021:

22nd December 2021:

6th January 2022:

9th February 2022:

24th and 25th February:

22nd March 2022:

17th and 18th March 2022:

8th April 2022:

25th April 2022:

2nd May 2022:

6th June 2022:

27th June 2022:

School closed for October midterm break

Parent Teacher Meetings

Science Week

Friendship Week

Half Day (12.00pm closure) for staff CPD in the Primary Language Curriculum

School closes at 12.00pm for the Christmas Break

School reopens after Christmas Break

County Photos will visit the school

School closed for February midterm break

School closed to students to facilitate staff CPD in the Primary Language Curriculum

School closed.

School closes at 12.00pm for Easter break.

School reopens after Easter break.

School closed for May Bank Holiday.

School closed for June Bank Holiday.

School closes at 12.00pm for the summer break.