



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 the days get shorter and the winter chill begins to bite, there's a sense of anticipation and excitement growing as the Christmas season quickly approaches. I would like to congratulate all students who have been working so hard in the school since September. We have less than 4 weeks until the Christmas Break and I am sure that you will all enjoy a well-earned rest. Our school transitioned to a 2 teacher school this term. The sense of collegiality, community and hard work that characterises our school has continued to shine and I am sincerely thankful and proud of all students, staff, parents and families for your unwavering support of the school. It continues to be a privilege to work in such a diverse and inclusive school as Scoil Naomh Fiachra and I am confident that our school will continue to prosper as a centre of excellence in learning. Wishing all in our school community continued success and health.

E N R O L M E N T S 2 0 2 3 / 2 0 2 4

If any parents have children for enrolment for September 2023 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 2023/2024 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 2022
- The school will cease accepting applications on the 15th February 2023
- Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by the 1st March 2023

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

Continued thanks to our fantastic Parents' Council and indeed all members of the school community who volunteer their time to support the school. Fantastic new PE equipment has already been purchased by the Parents' Council this year and the Bake Sale on Sunday 20th November was a terrific success. We now look forward to holding our annual Christmas Trolley Draw in December. Raffle Cards will be sent home to families in the coming weeks. Donations of non-perishable items for the draw will be most welcome from 1st December 2022!

S C H O O L S P O R T S N E W S

Congratulations to the Boys Gaelic Football team who are through to the County Final on Saturday 26th November 2022 at 11.00am in Dunmore GAA grounds! All support on the day is most welcome! Many thanks to Ms. Dowling (principal of Lisdowney N.S.), Martin Power, Michael Kenny and Esther Kennedy who are kindly volunteering their time to train and support our young sports stars. Thanks also to Sandra Blanchfield who has helped with First Aid at the games and indeed to all parents who support the school sports' initiatives by offering lifts to and from games and who cheer on and encourage our young athletes! Best of luck to all this weekend.

H E A L T H Y E A T I N G

'A Healthy Mind Lives in a Healthy Body!' Discussing and preparing school lunches is no simple task at times, so well done to all pupils and families for making such a great effort in this area. It is indeed fantastic to see such wonderful examples of healthy lunches in Scoil Naomh Fiachra on a daily basis. Remember to fill lunch boxes with lots of healthy fruit and/or vegetables every day. Our Senior Room students have been working on composing recipes for healthy school meals and these will be published very soon! We ask that students only bring in one small treat on Fridays!

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

Please note the following points from 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 policies.

S C H O O L B U I L D I N G U P D A T E

The interior walls of the school received a fresh coat of paint over the summer months. A bright new marmoleum floor was also installed in the Junior Room. I am pleased to announce that more modern pupil chairs have been ordered and should be delivered to the school in the coming weeks. Some of the older desks in the school will also be replaced.



SCIENCE WEEK 2022

All students enjoyed active, hands-on and practical learning during Science Week 2022. The Senior Room explored the significance of the triangle shape in engineering. They also explored circuits in electricity and they designed and made their own 'Steady Hand' games. Our Junior Room had fun making lava-lamps and slime. They also explored the force of gravity and the students worked in groups to design and make models of their ideal playgrounds. Well done to all students for learning together and for using great problem solving skills to develop their independent learning.

FRIENDSHIP WEEK 2022

Friendship Week (21st to 25th November 2022) is truly one of the most valued and special weeks in our school calendar. Every year, the students love engaging in the 'Random Acts of Kindness' and in the making of compliment boxes. The importance of friendship in our lives and an awareness of the effects that bullying can have, are highlighted throughout the week. 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.

SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

Our new School Improvement Plan has been published on the school website. Our areas of focus will be Comprehension Strategies in English Reading and Oral Language in both English and Gaeilge. Many thanks to all partners in the school community who work so hard to improve the work and learning in our school year on year.

MUSIC GENERATION

Music Generation has returned again to Scoil Naomh Fiachra for the 2022/2023 school year. The programme has been extended this year so all children from 1st to 6th Class will receive violin tuition. 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.

GREEN SCHOOLS

We were very proud in Scoil Naomh Fiachra to have been awarded our Fifth Green Schools Flag last year. Many thanks and well done to Mr. Fitzgerald and the Green Schools Committee who led this work under the theme of *Biodiversity*. This year we begin our work for our sixth Green Schools Flag under the theme of *Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste*. This is year 1 of a 2 year cycle of work.

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. Louise Butler is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

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

COMMUNICATION

Good and strong communication is vital in our school and it is highly valued. If you have any questions or concerns please contact or arrange a meeting with your child's teacher. All staff are very approachable and are happy to discuss any appropriate issues (big or small) with parents. The School Complaints Procedures, if needed, are also available on the school website. To contact the school and arrange a meeting please message the teacher on ClassDojo, email the school at clontubridns@gmail.com or phone the school on 056-8832417.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20 th December 2022	Performance of Christmas Plays
21 st December 2022	School closes at 12.00pm for the Christmas Break
5 th January 2023	School reopens after the Christmas Break
6 th February 2023	School closed
16 th & 17 th February 2023	School closed for February Midterm Break
17 th March 2023	School closed
31 st March 2023	School closes at 12.00pm for the Easter Break
17 th April 2023	School reopens after the Easter Break
1 st May 2023	School closed
5 th June 2023	School closed
23 rd June 2023	School closes at 12.00pm for the summer holidays