



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

The recent beaming sunshine certainly helped to get the new school year in Scoil Naomh Fiachra off to a great start. It has been a sincere pleasure to welcome all students, families and staff back to the school. I would like to extend a special word of welcome to the pupils in our new Junior Infant class and to all the new students who joined other classes in the school.

A wonderful atmosphere of learning and laughter is already tangible throughout the building and playground and I wish all of the valued members of the Scoil Naomh Fiachra community every health and success for the year ahead.

S C H O O L B O O K S G R A N T

Under the new Schoolbooks Grant Scheme, funding has been allocated to all Primary Schools in Ireland to provide free schoolbooks, including workbooks and copybooks, from September 2023. This scheme will eliminate the cost to parents of providing these resources.

If there is surplus money left over after these items have been purchased, then this extra money can be used to purchase related classroom resources and other materials to increase the literacy and numeracy resources in the school. Scoil Naomh Fiachra is in a position to cover the cost of some related classroom materials and digital literacy and numeracy resources for the 2023/2024 school year.

Please note that we do not know how much money we will receive for the Schoolbooks Grant in subsequent years nor do we know the associated costs of textbooks, workbooks and copybooks that will be necessary in the coming years. Therefore, the school may not always be in a position to pay for related classroom resources and other literacy and numeracy materials as it is this year.

The school is also asking for €20.00 (per student) to cover the cost of Arts & Crafts and Photocopying and €6.40 (per student) to cover the cost of Pupil Personal Accident Insurance for the 2023/2024 school year. This money can now be paid to your child's class teacher.

Please be aware, that all schoolbooks remain the property of the school and are on loan to pupils.

Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or if you require any further information.

A T T E N D A N C E

I am encouraging all families to continue to prioritise and promote good school attendance for the year ahead. The school year when broken down is very short and students should not unnecessarily miss out on key learning and activities that take place on a daily basis. If a pupil misses 20 days of school in a year this is equal to 4 school weeks or a month's worth of school work. I would like to thank all in our school community for your support in this manner.

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

It is wonderful to already see lunchboxes filled with healthy food on a daily basis. So many students bring lots of fruit and vegetables to school every day and it must be noted that the pupils themselves are taking great leadership in promoting a healthy eating environment in our school. Students are allowed to bring one small treat on a Friday. Well done to everyone for supporting healthy eating in our school!

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 U N I F O R M S

Gentle Reminder that all students are asked to wear their full school uniforms (including the school tie) from Monday to Thursday each week. All pupils are also asked to bring indoor shoes/slippers to school. Students can wear their own tracksuits and runners for P.E. each Friday. Please ensure that all tracksuits are appropriate for school.



SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

The School Improvement Plan is available on the school's website. In recent years, we have worked hard to develop teaching and learning in the areas of Handwriting, Sentence Structure, Writing Genres and STEM. Strong work in these areas will continue as part of whole school policy for the 2023-2024 school year. Our new areas of focus will continue to be in developing Comprehension Strategies in Reading and in developing Oral Language Skills in English and Gaeilge. Well done to all pupils, staff and families for your hard work and cooperation with our work in School Self Evaluation.

MUSIC GENERATION

It is hard to believe that we are entering our 4th year of working in partnership with Music Generation Kilkenny. An important part of our school's vision that all students will leave Scoil Naomh Fiachra with the ability to play a musical instrument and with the experience of the great sense of achievement and self-confidence that is to be gained from learning music. We are delighted to welcome Carl Rochford back to the school in the coming weeks as he will once again be providing his expert violin instruction to the students. Lots of great performances await!

GREEN SCHOOLS

This year, our school will work hard to achieve our 6th Green Schools Flag under the theme of *Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste*. A Green School Committee will shortly be put in place and this committee will organise a plan of action for the year ahead.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are 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.

ACTIVE SCHOOL NEWS

Many thanks to Ms. Brennan who has put stellar work in recent years into leading and developing our whole school approach to Physical Education and Active Learning. The importance of physical activity is encouraged daily in the school through Active Breaks and structured playtimes. We wish the Lisdowney Schools' Gaelic Football Team the very best of luck as they return to training this week and many thanks to Ms. Dowling from Lisdowney National School and indeed all adults who volunteer their own time for coordinating this and other sports' teams in the school.

COMMUNICATION

Strong and healthy communication is an important facet of our school and it is indeed central to the success of Scoil Naomh Fiachra. If any parent or family has any issue, question or concern, they should first of all make contact with their child's class teacher. All teachers are happy to meet or arrange a phone call with parents/guardians. There is genuinely no issue that is too big or too small and it is always best to raise questions sooner rather than later. All parents/guardians should be aware of the procedures that are outlined in the *Scoil Naomh Fiachra – Complaints Procedure Policy* that is available on the school website. Teachers can be contacted by phoning the school on 056-8832417, by emailing clontubridns@gmail.com or by sending a message on ClassDojo. Emails and phone messages are checked regularly each day.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27 th September 2023	Beginning of School Year Prayer Service in Clontubrid Church at 11.30am
5 th – 12 th October 2023	Scholastic Book Fair
30 th Oct – 3 rd November 2023 (Inclusive)	School Closed for October Midterm Break
6 th – 10 th November 2023	Science Week
14 th & 15 th November 2023	Parent Teacher Meetings
13 th – 17 th November 2023	Friendship Week
22 nd December 2023	School closes at 12.00pm for the Christmas Break
8 th January 2024	School reopens after Christmas Break
5 th February 2024	School closed for Bank Holiday
15 th & 16 th February 2024	School closed for February Midterm Break
6 th March 2024	County Photos will visit the school
18 th March 2024	School Closed for St. Patrick's Bank Holiday
22 nd March 2024	School closes at 12.00pm for the Easter Break
8 th April 2024	School reopens after the Easter Break
6 th May 2024	School closed for May Bank Holiday.
3 rd June 2024	School closed for June Bank Holiday.
10 th – 14 th June	Active Week (Including School Tour and Orienteering)
18 th June 2024	6 th Class Graduation at 11.30am
21 st June 2024	School closes at 12.00pm for the summer break.