



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

I would like to start by wishing all members of our school community a very Happy New Year! I'm sure that the break at Christmas was welcomed by everyone. There was a superb atmosphere in the school in the run up to the festive season. The children worked so hard to create wonderful performances in the Christmas Plays and the enjoyment and confidence that they gained from starring on the stage was almost tangible. Sincere thanks to all parents for your support of this initiative and of course many thanks to the teachers who planned, devised and rehearsed the Christmas Performances. A special thanks must be extended to Seán Bergin who so beautifully filmed the productions.

The children certainly hit the ground running when they returned to school on the 8th January 2024. They are already working beyond hard in their classrooms and they should be sincerely proud of the great new learning and activities that they are already undertaking. Over the coming term, we look forward to the recommencement of Swimming Lessons, Catholic Schools Week, Grandparents' Day, the celebration of First Confession, the celebration of Confirmation, the ESB Science Blast, Seachtain na Gaeilge and the FAI Soccer Tournament!

Wishing you all every health and success for 2024 in Scoil Naomh Fiachra!

B O A R D O F M A N A G E M E N T

The new term of the Board of Management began on the 1st December 2023. The new Board is comprised of the following members: Mr. Kieran Costelloe (Chairperson and Patron's Nominee), Fr. Eamonn O' Gorman (Patron's Nominee), Mr. Peter Madden (Secretary to the Board/ School Principal), Ms. Sinéad Brennan (Teachers' Nominee), Ms. Aimee Fox (Parents' Nominee), Mr. Tiernan Herlihy (Treasurer and Parents' Nominee), Ms. Deirdre Walsh (Community Nominee) and Mr. Eugene Meegan (Community Nominee).

All relevant communication with the Board should be in writing to the Chairperson and it should be in line with the steps as outlined in the Parental Complaints' Procedures that were recently revised and emailed to parents. These procedures are also available in the 'Policies' section of the school website.

S W I M M I N G L E S S O N S

We have had a terrific start to this year's swimming lessons. For the period that we are undertaking these lessons, students are asked to wear their tracksuits on Mondays and their school uniforms from Tuesday to Friday each week. Parents are asked to read and be familiar with the procedures and routines for swimming lessons as outlined in the letter that was recently sent home. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

S A C R A M E N T O F C O N F I R M A T I O N

5th and 6th Class students and their families will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 8th February 2024. Further information regarding school procedures for the day will be communicated shortly. We wish the students, their parents and families, Fr. Eamonn and their teacher Ms. Nolan, every success as they prepare for this important event.

F A I S C H O O L S S O C C E R

This year, 2 teams from our Senior Room will enter the FAI 5s Soccer Tournament in Thomastown FC on the 11th March 2024. This is always an exciting and fun day out and it is wonderful to see such great and enthusiastic participation from so many students. Best of luck to all involved.

E S B S C I E N C E B L A S T

Our Senior Room students will participate in the ESB Science Blast in the RDS Dublin on the 5th March 2024. This year they will investigate: *How do plants react to certain climates?* We wish the students and their teacher every success.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK & GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Catholic Schools' Week will be celebrated in Scoil Naomh Fiachra from the 22nd to the 26th January 2024 under the theme of '*Catholic Schools – Communities of Service*'. During this important week, we shall aim to reflect on and value the importance of our school as a welcoming, diverse and inclusive centre of learning. Through serving one another in a loving, caring and forgiving community, we can surely thrive as learners and as active citizens!

Grandparents' Day will be celebrated in our school on Wednesday 24th January 2024. Grandparents and Parents are invited to a short Prayer Service at 10.30am in Clontubrid Church. Afterwards, you will be welcome to spend time with the pupils in their classrooms and this will be followed by refreshments for visitors.

ATTENDANCE

As always, we are continuing to encourage all families to continue to prioritise and promote good school attendance. The school year when broken down is very short and students should not unnecessarily miss out on key learning 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. **If a student is absent for any reason an explanation note should be forwarded to the school. Notes can be written in homework diaries, sent by email or via private message on ClassDojo.**

CLASSDOJO

Parents should ensure that they have downloaded the ClassDojo app on their phones and that they are linked to their child's account. Please contact the school if you need help with this. Photos, messages and updates will often be posted on your child's Class Story or on the School Story. Examples of your child's school work will also be posted on their individual ClassDojo Portfolios throughout the year. The private messaging tool has proven very successful in recent years as a method of communication between parents and teachers.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

It must be said that the students in Scoil Naomh Fiachra are enthusiastic, eager and hard-working pupils who present with highly positive attitudes towards their learning every day. We aim to provide broad, balanced and varied learning experiences in our school which are fully in line with the national curriculum. All students are expected to take part in and put their best effort into all learning activities. However, if a pupil is unable to take part in a particular lesson due to a valid medical reason, parents should provide an explanation note to their child's teacher. Alternative activities will be arranged for students in these circumstances.

COMMUNICATION

Strong and effective communication is central to the success and progress 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. 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.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

Members of the Parents' Council helped the students to make Christmas Wreaths, Yule-Logs and other decorations in December. They ran a raffle on the day of the Christmas Performances and they also organised the ever-popular Christmas Trolley Draw. Just over €1300 was successfully raised on foot of all of these fundraising efforts. Sincere thanks to all in the school community for this wonderful support. We indeed look forward to further exciting innovations from the Parents' Council over the coming months!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 th February 2024	School closed for Bank Holiday
15 th & 16 th February 2024	School closed for February Midterm Break
5 th March 2024	ESB Science Blast in Dublin
6 th March 2024	County Photos will visit the school
11 th March 2024	FAI Soccer Tournament
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.