



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

This year is flying by and it is hard to believe that we are just about knocking on the door of the Easter Break. There continues to be a wonderful atmosphere in the school and all members of the school community are working in a supportive and collegial manner for the benefit of the pupils' learning and welfare. I would like to sincerely congratulate the pupils who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. They worked very hard with their families and teacher to prepare for this important occasion and it was indeed a wonderful and special day.

The 2nd Class students are now busy preparing for their 1st Penance which will be held on the 20th March 2024 in Lisdowney Church and for the celebration of 1st Eucharist which will be held on the 18th May 2024 in Lisdowney Church.

As you will see in this newsletter, our school continues to be a hive of activity. I continue to wish every success to all of you and in particular the schools' pupils over the coming weeks and months.

G A R D A V E T T I N G

We are currently updating the Garda Vetting File in the school. Notes have been sent home to parents/guardians who are due to renew their Garda Vetting. Correspondence was also issued to those parents/guardians who may like to apply for Garda Vetting for the first time. The [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012-2016](#), which came into effect on 29th of April 2016, made it mandatory for people working with children or vulnerable adults to be vetted by An Garda Síochána's National Vetting Bureau. Examples of such activities may include helping out in the classroom with power hours, Christmas plays, swimming changing rooms, giving lifts to other children for school related events, during or outside of school hours e.g. hurling, football or camogie training, choir practice etc. If you are likely to be giving lifts or coming into the school to help out with activities, we invite you to please complete the Garda Vetting process. If you would like to renew/apply for Garda Vetting, please request a copy of the relevant form from the school and this will be sent home.

B A K E S A L E , C O F F E E M O R N I N G & E A S T E R R A F F L E

The Parents' Council are organising a Bake Sale and Coffee Morning in the school for Sunday 24th March 2024 (after 9.00am Mass). All donations of baked goods are most welcome and they can be dropped to the school before mass. Tickets for an Easter Raffle will also be on sale and visitors are most welcome to stay for tea/coffee and a chat!

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

This year's swimming lessons have gone tremendously well. All children have made very good progress and they should be proud of their great behaviour and organisation. All rules and routines regarding swimming have been adhered to and this has ensured the smooth running of the programme. **The final swimming lesson will take place in the Watershed on Wednesday 13th March 2024.** Heats for this year's Swimming Gala will take place on Wednesday 13th March 2024. Many thanks to the Parents' Council and to the Board of Management who subsidised a large portion of the cost of these lessons. Please note the gentle reminder that any outstanding payments for swimming lessons can be sent to your child's teacher.

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

Please note the following points from our school's Mobile Phones/ Smart Devices Policy:

For the purpose of this policy, smart devices include any device capable of connecting to the internet, taking a photograph, video or voice recording.

Mobile phones, tablets, smart watches etc. that are capable of connecting to the internet, taking a photograph, video or voice recording fall under the remit of this policy.

Permission for use of a mobile phone/smart device 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/ smart device during school hours, pupils and their parents/ guardians must first read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy. The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones/smart devices also applies to pupils during school trips and extra-curricular activities. Please visit our website to view this and other relevant policies.

E N R O L M E N T S 2 0 2 4 / 2 0 2 5

Scoil Naomh Fiachra is continuing to accept enrolment applications for the 2024/2025 school year. Please pass this message on to any families who may be interested in joining our school. Visits to the school can be arranged by contacting the school on 056-8832417 or via email at clontubridns@gmail.com.



ESB SCIENCE BLAST

The Senior Room and their teacher, Ms. Nolan have been working extremely hard in recent weeks to prepare for this year's ESB Science Blast. Their research and investigations have been based on '*How Plants React to Different Environments?*' We wish them well as they travel to the RDS on Tuesday 5th March 2024 to present their project and findings.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We sincerely look forward to engaging with World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024. Reading is an activity that should first and foremost be enjoyed by all! On this day, students are welcome to bring their favourite books to school to share and discuss with their classmates. They are also welcome to dress up as their favourite character. Homework on this night will simply be to curl up and enjoy reading their favourite book!

CYBERSAFEKIDS-INTERNET SAFETY TALK

Many thanks to the Parents' Council who have organised an Internet Safety Talk for the students with CyberSafeKids. A facilitator will visit the school on Friday 8th March 2024 to deliver this important workshop. Please discuss these lessons with your child afterwards.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Beidh Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl i Scoil Naomh Fiachra ó 11^ú go 14^ú lá de Mhí Márta. Beidh a lán gníomhaíochtaí ar siúl cosúil le "Ticéidí agus Crannchur", "Ceolchoirm", "Tráth na gCeist", "Comórtas Ealaíne" agus gníomhaíochtaí eagsúla eile. Táimid go léir ag tnúth leis an tseachtain seo. Bígí ag caint as Ghaeilge sa bhaile freisin comh minic agus is féidir libh.

SCHOOL SPORTS

We have returned to full schedule of after school sports activities. Training for Hurling and Camogie runs every Monday from 3.00pm to 4.00pm for students from 4th, 5th and 6th classes. Many thanks to Ms. Dowling, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Sweeney for volunteering their own time to coordinate these teams. Thanks also to all parents for your support in offering lifts to and from matches and training sessions. Of course, the excellent behaviour and positive attitudes of the students on these teams must be acknowledged and commended. We also look forward to entering 2 teams into the FAI Primary 5s Soccer competition in Thomastown FC on the 11th March. Thanks to Ms. Brennan for coordinating this initiative.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS

The school is a hub of Active Learning as we work towards renewing our Active School status. The Active committee which is led by Ms. Brennan has organised a series of fun initiatives. A lunch time Gaelic football competition is currently up and running. The Senior Room students are busy as they lead fun and active games with the younger students at break times and our daily active breaks are focused on a '*Run Around Europe*' initiative.

Active Week will take place from the 10th to the 14th June 2024. We look forward to orienteering with Pat Farrell in Jenkinstown Woods on Monday 10th June, Sports Day on Wednesday 12th June and our school tour on Friday 14th June. For this year's school tour, we will be attending *Adventure World* in the Watershed, Kilkenny. Some of the activities will include: *IPS Back to Base*, *IPS Bunker*, *Unclimbable Ladder*, *Giant Inflatable Obstacle Course*, *Spongee Polo*, *Pursuit Ball*, *Disco Dome*, *Team Building Games*, *Wrecking Ball*, *Olympic Handball*, *Dodgeball*, *Swimming and Basketball*.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 th March 2024	ESB Science Blast in Dublin
6 th March 2024	County Photos will visit the school (12.30pm)
7 th March 2024	World Book Day
8 th March 2024	Internet Safety Talk
11 th March 2024	FAI Soccer Tournament in Thomastown FC
18 th March 2024	School Closed for St. Patrick's Bank Holiday
20 th March 2024	1 st Penance in Lisdowney Church (7.00pm)
22 nd March 2024	School closes at 12.00pm for the Easter Break
24 th March 2024	Bake Sale & Coffee Morning (after 9.00am Mass)
8 th April 2024	School reopens after the Easter Break
10 th April 2024	'Flew to You' Presentation (Owls and Hawk)
6 th May 2024	School closed for May Bank Holiday.
18 th May 2024	1 st Communion in Lisdowney Church (11.00am)
3 rd June 2024	School closed for June Bank Holiday.
10 th - 14 th June 2024	Active Week
10 th June 2024	Orienteering in Jenkinstown
12 th June 2024	School Sports Day
14 th June 2024	School Tour
18 th June 2024	6 th Class Graduation at 11.30am
21 st June 2024	School closes at 12.00pm for the summer break