



Scoil na nAingeal Naofa

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is a pleasure to look out of our school classroom windows and notice the slow and steady transition of the season. The changing colours of the leaves are a steadfast reminder that , As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "The only constant is change."

We all face changes every day – whether it is a simple change in the weather, our schedule or expected change of task. Change affects us all and we each deal with change differently. Navigating a pandemic has certainly highlighted this and as Principal it is something I am mindful of not only when considering our students , but also our staff and you, our parents. Let's continue to have compassion and seek to understand each other.

Nowhere is change more evident than in a school. I feel privileged to witness daily that our bodies, minds, and surroundings are always developing.

We welcomed back all our students this September and it is always amazing to notice the growth spurts and the development after the summer break. A new cohort of infants have settled in well , as well as a number of new students throughout the school. We are really happy that this term has gotten off to such a positive start.

Of course, there was much development around and within the school over the summer. Thanks to McCabe Architects, Seita Construction and MGW energy services for the trojan work completed around the school this past year and in particular in a burst over the summer. Our prefab has been removed and replaced with staff car parking. Room 5 our new classroom has been built , fitted and kitted out as well as a disability toilet and another special education room.

Our heating system was replaced and upgraded .

The school corridor is now freshly and vibrantly painted, and replacement flooring gives the school a whole new feel.

We established a new Aistear room ,with access to the outside. (Phase 2 is the development of an outdoor classroom !!) Everyone on staff had to work hard and it was down to the wire to get the school clean and organised and open in time and open it did,on schedule on September 1st .

Without doubt, this year , we have all experienced good times and bad times.... Again, if we reflect on this season, Autumn, we see that it **encourages us to reflect on the impermanence of life....** Nothing lasts forever and so Autumn reminds me how vital it is to embrace the present.

When we focus on the present , we can savour what we have before it is gone. I hope we all take time this week to savour what we have.

Walking along the corridors this term, I am reminded of what we have in Scoil na nAingeal Naofa.

- A school filled with happy and healthy students.
- A team of wonderful , dedicated and caring staff.
- Fresh and colourful surroundings , both inside and out.

I would be grateful if you would please take a few minutes to read this newsletter for a summary of developments and goings on in and around school this term and next.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Special Needs Assistant *Bríd Fallon* for her time, energy and service as a Special Needs Assistant with us in Scoil na nAingeal Naofa. We will miss *Bríd's* hearty laughter ,her gentle and encouraging way with the children in her care and her support to us as a staff.

Bríd took time off last year to care for her husband , *Dermott* and we now wish to extend our deepest sympathy to *Bríd* and her family, as *Dermott* sadly passed away during the summer. All proceeds of money raised on Friday's non uniform day will go to Sligo Oncology where *Dermott* received his treatment. Rest in peace *Dermott*.



We were also deeply saddened and extend our heartfelt sympathy to Holly Fitzhenry on the loss of her dad, Stephen. We think of her Mum Eileen and Holly's family. We keep you all in our prayers and thoughts and hope we can provide continued support and care to Holly at this sad time and throughout this year.



PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS:

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday October 22nd :Halloween non- uniform in aid of Sligo oncology, school closes at **3p.m.**for mid term break.

Midterm: Monday – Friday 25th – 30th October

Mon- Friday November 15th – 19th Parent Teacher meetings

Tuesday & Wednesday Nov 16th & 17th Bookfair.

*****Early school closure : Friday 26th November school closes at 12pm for Primary Language inservice. Buses will collect at 12pm on this day.**



Health and safety

Our Child Safeguarding statement and safeguarding policy will be reviewed at our Board of Management meeting this week. Please find these policies on our school website and note that they are available in hard copy at reception on request.

Our stay safe program is carried out from Jan – March every year in junior classes and every second year in senior classes.

- This week we will be doing mini lessons on safety and your child will be learning about what they can do if they do not feel safe. They will also practise the above mantra “Say No, Get Away and Tell Somebody” As identifying 5 trusted adults they can confide in when they are worried or feel unsafe.

Thank you to all our students who filled out our short survey. Please see the results below and let’s continue to work together to help children remember these important messages.

- **Child Safeguarding Survey: October 4th**

The results are as follows.

- Do you feel safe at school? 80% always , 12% often and 8% sometimes
- Do you know what to do if you don’t feel safe ? 81% Yes 19% No
- All children that responded were able to name at least one adult they would talk with if they did not feel safe.
- All children practised the mantra “Say No, Get Away and Tell Somebody”

Children’s safety on arrival and at departure times:

We would like to thank parents for your cooperation with our arrival and departure routines.

Car Park: All students (with the exception of those walking) are dropped off and picked up in the church car park which is much more spacious and safer. Please remember to take special care in the Church Car Park when dropping and collecting pupils, particularly on dark mornings and wet afternoons!

Thank you to our 6th class students and SNA who place and remove the cones for the buses every morning. This is a vital job and keeps everything running smoothly and safely.

To ensure everyone's continued safety parents continue to wear masks and to maintain appropriate social distancing outside the school while dropping and collecting.

Fire Safety

All staff participated in Fire safety training this September and we have received our certification by Brady Fire prevention, thanks to Séan Brady for his time and effort.

We will be reminding students about fire safety procedures and have our first fire drill of the year this week.



- **School Attendance/Punctuality:**

Everyone's Health remains a top priority.

Our attendance initiative is still on pause, but we have put measures in place to ensure we continue to have high levels of attendance.

- **Pupil absences**

As Parents you are obliged to contact school with reason for absence . If your child is **absent from school for any reason, please send a note /email/phone call to the school with the reason for absence.** (Illness , restricting , urgent family reason)

As a School we are obliged to record both the dates and reason for the absence and to report any absences over a cumulative 20 days to TUSLA. (a record of reasons for absence will alleviate any issues)

- **General Illness: if unwell at home stay at home**

If your child is sick it is recommended to monitor children for 48 hours before returning to school.

In the interest of health and safety , students complete the school note online or the one that has been distributed to all families to return to school after all absences.

- **Co-Vid symptoms**

Latest guidelines recommend restricting if someone in the household tests positive
HSE will advise school if it is necessary for any children to restrict as a result of a close contact at school .



● Co-vid response

Huge thanks to everyone, parents and staff for being so supportive with all protocols and for helping us all to have had a very smooth return to school.



Parent/Teacher Communication: 15th – 19th November

We have amended our approach to Parent teacher meetings and plan to accommodate face to face meetings &/ meetings via phone. Appropriate social distancing , sanitising , masks etc as per guidelines at the time will be followed.

We will be in touch shortly to organise times and dates, mainly between 15th – 19th November but we ask for your cooperation as we do our best to facilitate all families in a safe manner . Again we seek to promote understanding and flexibility with P/T meetings.

Resolving issues /concerns

Parents are reminded that if they have any complaints or grievances to make regarding your child/child's class/ procedures in class etc, please contact the school to make an appointment to speak to the class teacher directly.

If parents /guardians have any complaints or grievances regarding **school procedures, you can** contact the office to organise an appointment with Michelle, preferably before the 15th – 19th November.



Discipline & School Values

We continue to aim to move toward the more progressive and evidence-based approach of positive discipline in this school which is a restorative practice approach to maintaining and restoring relationships as a way to reduce and prevent incidents of bullying behaviour. These approaches allow students to learn to adapt their behaviour to meet expectations in the classroom and on yard, while simultaneously teaching them how to make better choices in their path to adulthood.

It is a continual process and takes time to fully integrate.

This month we will carry out anti bullying questionnaires .

Our school values are

We are FRIENDS:

Fair

Respectful – (respect for people and for property)

Inclusive-

Empathy

Nurturing

Doing our best – (Doing our best in class and allowing others to do the same)

Safe

These Values are the basis for our school rules/expectations .

In general children receive two verbal warnings in the yard before thinking time is implemented.

During thinking time students work through reflective questions to help them to understand how their behaviour may have had an impact on themselves and others and so we aim to help everyone learn what they can do to make things better and how to change/replace the problematic behaviours.

In cases where we see a pattern of unwanted behaviours a behaviour plan is put in place to support children . In recent years we are increasingly dealing with children who have issues with impulsivity and who need support with emotional regulation. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any issues or concerns regarding your child.

Parents Association

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The Parents Association AGM will be on the 3rd of November.

Many thanks to all the committee members and all parents who attended our recent meeting.

Thank you to the current committee members for their support and help throughout the past year. Our current PA officers are as follows:

Chairperson : Martina Cooney

Secretary: Louise Spellman

Treasurer : Valerie O'Donoghue

Vice Treasurer: Mags McGoldrick

We are always happy to see new faces on board and encourage anyone who may be interested in attending to please email scoilnnnPA@gmail.com.

Thank you to our P.A who provide treats for Halloween, support with Book Fair, fundraising and a range of other initiatives that support students and teachers.



Curriculum themes

Every month we base our teaching around varying themes. These themes provide our students with opportunities to engage in meaningful learning experiences.

September: Junior - 6th: Myself

Junior – 2nd : **October:** Clothes: Our Aistear room is going down a treat and is really a wonderful addition to the school. Thank you for the wonderful response to our appeal for resources.

October: 3rd – 6th : Ireland

School Early closure Alert :PLC: Primary Language Curriculum Planning Day : Friday 26th November we will have whole staff training on the new primary language curriculum. School will close at 12pm on this day to facilitate staff training.

We have all noticed the impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning . Our Teachers have to work harder than ever dealing with social and emotional issues as well as striving to take the children where they are at , continuing to move them forward to close the gaps. Our teachers and Special Education team are working together as always but it really is a team effort and I am sure you will echo my sentiments that the efforts of our teachers and SNA's are so valued.

Special items



Catholic Ethos: October is the month of the rosary.

Congratulations to all the girls in 3rd class who made their **Holy Communion** in September and to Fr.Gerry,Fr.Jonas and Mrs.Ciara Bardon for supporting girls with preparation. Thanks to the parents association for providing lovely gifts for all the girls in the class.

G.A.A : Thanks to Stephen Bohan for providing Gaelic skills training to our senior classes this term. Infants will partake in the virtual support program for the winter months.



Amber Flag /[Wellbeing](#)

We are really proud that we have our first Amber flag and we have held our first meeting with our committee on Friday 15th October.

Kindness day is on Saturday 13th November and this year we will promote random acts of kindness on Friday 12th November

Green Schools



We are continuing with our flag theme which is Global Citizenship and energy.

We had our first meeting with our new committee members from 1st- 6th, we will be building on our previous work from last year and the info we received from carrying out our school global citizenship survey and completing the school energy audit.

Creative Clusters.

We will be finalising our part in the 'Creative Clusters' Project –this term . We are clustered with ACC, St. Joseph's BNS, The Parochial school and Wood Brook national school where we brainstorm educational activities that can benefit the children and then put these into practise.

Science Week- Nov 8th- 14th This is a national, annual event that celebrates the worlds of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). We have been doing lots of exciting activities in school week and we all aim to take part in some interesting activities for Science week.



REELLIFE SCIENCE

We are thrilled that our Mrs. O'Donnell's 5th class are taking part in the Reel life Science project this year. Best of luck to all involved and watch out for our entry video on our school twitter handle @scoilboyle. Take a look at their amazing and interesting video entry [here](#).



Music Generation : Great to have this program up and running again . We had a fabulous drumming session with Peter Crann of 'We Drum Ireland' for infants to 2nd ,infants continue to learn musical literacy and 3rd to 6th to learn ukulele. In November we will collect €10 per family next term to help fund the cost of this fantastic programme.

Library Festival: October 11th- 22nd : Classes engaging in a range of online workshops .

Poetry Competition: Ms. Keenan's 4th class worked hard on some wonderful poems to enter the Library poetry competition .

Upcoming events this wk



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Maths Week

We will be celebrating Maths Week from the 18th to the 22nd of October. Your child will participate in Maths Trails , Maths games and Maths Puzzles to name but a few of the activities taking place during Math's week.

Click here for activities to try at home:

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2020/parents-page/>

Puppet Show: Tuesday October 19th. We look forward to providing this creative experience for our students from Junior infants to 6th class . Thank you for your €2 contribution towards the cost. Jay Ryan of PigNut productions is a renowned puppeteer and has his own TV show on RTE Junior , 'Living with a fairy'.



Halloween Fancy Dress/ Non uniform day : Friday 22nd October. €2 .All funds raised will go to Sligo Oncology. No face painting please. School will close at 3pm this Friday for Halloween /Midterm break.

Future events (November)

Bug Busting – we are running our bug busting campaign again this November, in compliance with our head lice policy . Please support the school with this as head lice is a community issue that can easily be eradicated with appropriate measures and combing.

Book Fair: November 16th/ 17th

This year we hope to run our usual book fair however each class will receive a book fair slot and children will purchase their books at this time only.

The school will get a percentage of the total income to recoup in books. This year Scoil na nAingéal Naofa used our book fair balance to restock and update class Novels.

Shoebox Appeal: We always get a great response for the shoebox appeal, such a worthy and important cause at this time of year. leaflets will be distributed this week and shoeboxes will be collected on Monday the 8th November which is the week after Halloween break.

Christmas Annuals

As Christmas is fast approaching ,we will begin collecting orders for annuals. Our Parents Association have kindly agreed to help subsidise the **Christmas annuals** this year .They come at a cost of € 3 per annual. Again, there is absolutely no obligation on anyone to buy these.

Christmas Cards: We will use our Christmas Cards as a fundraiser again this year. The process will begin next month with designing and ordering , we appreciate your support when the finished products arrive in December!



Playground development committee

While we hope to improve the structure of the school, we also see a need and an opportunity to develop the school playground. There is huge potential, and it would be great to get a working committee together to help see what funding we may be able to access, what skills and talents we may be able to tap into locally and to develop a playground / outdoor educational area that is fitting for school and our community.

We made an appeal last year to volunteers who might be interested but co-vid and the building project kept it on the back boiler. Thanks to everyone who responded .

We are appealing again this year to everyone to please contact Michelle on mgillscoilnnn@gmail.com if you are still interested or would like to get involved in supporting us with this project.)

In other news....



Congratulations to Mrs. Helen Connaughton on the birth of her baby daughter Aoife. Wishing Helen and her family an abundance of health and happiness.

Staffing and classes for year 2021/22

Teacher	Class	Special Education Team (S.E.T)
		Sharon Hunt
Ms. Roisin Shannon Rm 1	Junior infants	Carmel Egan
Ms. Deirdre Kilgannon Rm 2	Junior infants	Elaine Taheny
		Marie Casey
Mrs. Emer Burke/Joanne Barry Rm 3	Senior infants	Part time or shared Special Ed Teachers
Mr. Mike Heneghan Rm 4	Senior infants	Lorna Hanmore shared with BNS
		Joanne Mannion / Michelle Hazel assist us every Tuesday
Mrs. Claire Collins Rm 5	1 st class	
		S.N.A.'s
Mrs. Aine O'Donnell Rm 7	1 st & 2 nd	Sam Duignan (junior infants /first class)
		Maria O'Neill (2 nd /3 rd / 4 th)
Mrs. Ciara Bardon Rm.8	3 rd class	Marie Brehony (1st class)
		Tina Courtney (1 st class)
Ms. Fiona Keenan Rm 10	4 th class	

Mrs. Clíodhna O'Donnell Rm.6	5th	
Mrs. Sinead McManus Rm 9	6th class	

So, as we come to move towards our midterm break , we are reminded that the only constant in life, the only thing we can be sure will happen is that we will continue to face change.

Personally, I love the season of Autumn. I love it for its colour and its beauty and also because it is a reminder that change , while it may be challenging, can also be and make way for good.

Wishing everyone a good week , a good midterm and good health,

Is mise le meas ,

Michelle

