



Telephone: 091-844510

Email: office@scoilchroinaoafaathenry.ie

Dear Parents

Issue: 01

August 31st 2023

The staff and I wish to welcome you all back to Scoil Chroí Naofa at the beginning of this new school year. We hope that pupils, staff & parents will have a safe and happy school year.

New Astro Turf:

- Over the summer months astro turf has been laid on the bottom yard – we are absolutely delighted with how it turned out! Heartfelt thanks to the Board of Management for approving this huge investment.
- Sincere thanks to Athenry Credit Union, Athenry Supermacs and Medtronic in Galway for donating funds to assist us with the costs. (We would especially like to thank Tessa Jennings (mom of Beckett in Miss Dolan's class) for putting our names forward with Medtronic for this funding.
- We have applied to Aldi & Tesco to see if they might also be willing to help out with the costs.
- Tesco Athenry are including us in their "Community Fund"! So if you happen to be doing your shopping in Tesco Athenry over the coming weeks, don't forget to pop some blue tokens into the "Scoil Chroí Naofa" slot!!!

Staff News:

- Ms O'Byrne has retired. We thank her for all her years of service to SCN and wish her all the best in her retirement
- Mrs Broderick will be job-sharing with Mrs Comer this year as part of the Special Education Team
- Congratulations to Miss Amy Morris who has been appointed as the new teacher in 4th class for the coming school year.
- We welcome Ms Christina Casey to our staff. Christina is the new SNA in the school
- We also welcome Róisín O'Connor, Sarah Hynes and Stephen Holland who will be on the Supply Panel with the school for the year.
- We also welcome Mary Melville and Belinda Murphy who will be working in the EAL (English as an Additional Language) posts

Major Roadworks:



Parents may already be aware that there are major roadworks due to take place on the Caheroyan road starting on Monday Sept 4th.

Coffey Construction have been in touch with us and asked us to highlight this to as many people as possible.

The roadworks are part of the on-going works on the Athenry Water system and are likely to last for a number of months.

Start of Term Reminders:



Children can be dropped off from 8:45am & are to make their way directly to their classrooms / prefabs via the appropriate doors. Class starts at 8.50am. (*Colour-coded key to Entrances & Exits attached*)

Parents of all children are requested to say goodbye to their children in the yard and let them enter the building / prefab by themselves. This is to foster your child's independence.

Pick up for Infant Classes is 1.30pm (**Junior Infants go home at 1.30pm from Monday Sept 11th**)

Pick up for 1st class to 6th class is 2.30pm

When the school day is over the following arrangements will apply:

- **Jun Inf & Sen Inf:** teacher will bring children to their designated exit door and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them. *Please be aware that there are classes working in the prefabs. We would be grateful if your children could be kept reasonably quiet while passing. Please remind them also, that they are not allowed to go up and down the steps of the prefabs.*
- **1st Class:** Please make sure that you arrange with your child where exactly you will collect him/her at 2.30pm, e.g. in the yard, at the front wall, at the Church etc. We would ask that you phone or email the office to let teacher know that you are happy that your child knows where they will be collected. They will then be allowed to exit the school through their exit door & make their way to their agreed collection point.
- **2nd – 6th Class:** teacher will allow the pupils to leave the classroom at 2.30pm (*Please ensure your child knows where they will be collected e.g. school yard, front carpark, church carpark*)

Any pupil who gets anxious for whatever reason after leaving the school is asked to return to the school via Door 1 (beside secretary's office) and sit outside Principal's office where they will be supervised until contact is made with their parents.



Please label all children's clothes and belongings clearly including lunchboxes, drink containers, jumpers, cardigans & coats etc.



The new school uniform is being introduced this school year. It comprises of navy joggers, a light blue polo shirt and a navy crested sweatshirt. Navy shorts are also acceptable, but should be plain navy shorts with no logos. Leggings are not permitted.

The uniform can be purchased from GM Designwear in Claregalway, National schoolwear centre in Liosbaun or Anthony Ryans in Galway city.

The old school uniform may still be worn.

Your co-operation to ensure that your child wears the full school uniform every day is most appreciated.

Staff will be carrying out uniform spot-checks to ensure compliance.



Please ensure your child brings their raincoat to school for days that will be wet. Outdoor activity is encouraged by the Department of Education.




Children with long hair should have it tied back.




Please make sure you have downloaded the Aladdin app on your phone and have notifications turned on, as teachers may be using it to correspond with parents during the school year.

If your child has been absent from school please record the reason for the absence on the Aladdin app (*you will need to wait until teacher has marked your child absent first, before you will be given the option to record the reason*).


If you choose; you may share your own contact details with other parents of children in the same class as your children, but please be reassured that this information will not be shared unless you choose to share it. This can be done via the “Class List” option on Aladdin


 Staff request all outstanding monies for school costs be paid as soon as possible. Please do this via the Aladdin app, if at all possible. (*Any issues please contact the office*).


 No adults, other than staff members should enter the building. Messages for teachers can be sent by email or phoning the school office.


If an adult has to collect a child during the school day, the following arrangement will apply:

- When adult arrives at the school, they should go straight to the secretary’s office via the front door of the school (red sticker on door)
- The child will be brought from their class by a member of staff
- The adult who is collecting the child will be asked to sign the child out
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.


 Pupils and staff will wash & sanitise their hands regularly and will be reminded of technique. We ask each pupil to wash their hands at home before coming to school.

 Pupils should not attend school if they are generally unwell. 48 hour rule in place for vomiting or diarrhoea. Children must be kept at home until 48 hours have passed from the last episode of illness

 We have a nut free policy in the school due to allergies, please ensure your child does not have products containing nuts in their lunch.

 Children have a 15 min eating break after they come in from their two yard breaks (10.30am and 12.30pm). *A colour-coded summary of our Healthy Eating policy is attached.* **Please be mindful of the foods that are not permitted (red column)**

The healthy school lunch delivery service “The Lunch Bag” is available in the school again this year. For more information see www.thelunchbag.ie. Download the app to your smartphone, select your county and then choose the school name.

 It is school policy that invitations to birthday parties are not distributed at school out of respect for the non-receiver. You can join a “Class list” on Aladdin, by changing your security settings – this allows you to see contact details for parents of other children in your child’s class, provided you have given permission for your details to be shared also.

Health & Safety:

1. No cars are allowed onto school grounds except in exceptional circumstances agreed with principal. All cars should be parked outside the school grounds in car parks outside the school gates and at the Church.
2. Please ensure that your child does not walk on the wall.
3. Please note that Coláiste an Eachréidh and Gael Scoil Riada are operating out of the old Presentation Secondary school building. As a result there can be difficulty parking and a lot of traffic at drop off & collection times. We ask everyone for extra patience at these times.

The Board of Management **will not accept responsibility** for children in the school yard before 8.45am or after 2.30pm, unless they are attending an SCN after school activity.

General Reminders:

- **Punctuality:** The staff of Scoil Chroí Naofa consider punctuality to be of paramount importance. Please ensure that your child is in school by 8.50am (at the latest) to avoid disruption to the beginning of the school day for teachers. Roll call is taken in the early morning, every day. If your child arrives late to school, they should go to the main front door (red door 1) where the secretary will let them in & bring them to their class.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!!

DID YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD'S BEST LEARNING TIME IS THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY?

He/She is only missing just ...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly Half a year
20 mins per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

- **Absences:** In accordance with Section 18 of the Education Welfare Act 2000, when **a pupil is absent for part or all of a school day**, parent(s) must notify teacher or Principal of the reasons for the pupil's absence. If a pupil is absent for more than 20 days during the school year, the school authorities must inform the Education Welfare Board who consult with parents. In order to comply with the Act, staff and I need your cooperation with the following:
 - a. If your child is absent, please log the reason for the absence on the Aladdin app
 - b. If your child has to leave the school during the school day, the person who is collecting your child must sign him/her out at the Secretary's Office.
- **Child Protection:** The Department of Education has introduced Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools in relation to **Child Protection and Welfare**. The Board of Management has adopted these procedures as School Policy. Consequently if there is a matter of concern in relation to the abuse of children we are obliged to report this to Túsła, who will assess the case and provide the necessary support for the child concerned.
- **Medical Problems:** Please make the school aware if your child has any medical problems. The information given in this regard will be treated with total confidentiality. In the case of a child needing urgent medical attention and where parents cannot be contacted, he / she will be taken to a local doctor or A&E.

- **Head Lice:** Please check your child's hair regularly and treat any infection immediately.
- **Change of Address:** If you *change address, email or phone numbers*, please inform secretary so she can update school records. Regular school newsletters will not be handed out to the children, they will only be e-mailed, so please ensure that we have your most current e-mail address on file.
- **News Publications:** During the coming year we will be submitting articles and photos to the *Connacht Tribune, the Tuam Herald and the Athenry News & Views Magazine, etc.* If you do not wish your child's name or photo to be submitted please contact the school.
- Please continue to visit our **school website** @ www.scoilchroinaofaatheny.ie and our Instagram page @scoilchroinaofaatheny for up-to-date school news, photos and events.

Tag Rugby:

- In honour of Ireland's participation in the Rugby World cup this year, the senior girls will be playing Tag Rugby over the coming weeks.
- We will be entering a team to compete in the Nations Rugby Series blitz which will take place in Monivea Rugby club on Thursday September 28th.

GAA Training:

- GAA training for 5th & 6th class girls will start back next Friday (Sept 8th). The girls who wish to take part are asked to bring their gear with them each Friday for the next few weeks.
- We will be entering a Ladies football team in the Mikey Vaughan Cup & Kate Moran Shield which is being hosted by Monivea-Abbey Ladies Football Club on September 29th at Monivea pitch.

Band:

- All children from 2nd class up to 6th class will be part of the school band this year
- Practice will commence in a few weeks time
- The band usually performs at the following 2 events annually:
 - Turning on the Christmas lights: end of Nov / early Dec
 - St Patrick's day parade: Friday March 17th

Youth Academy:

- The University of Galway Youth Academy works with high ability 4th, 5th & 6th class primary school pupils.
- To attend Youth Academy students must present one of the following:
 - Most recent standardised test report showing below result in English, Maths or Gaeilge
 - STen score of 9 or 10
 - Standardised score of 123 or above
 - 95th percentile or above
 - A copy of an educational psychologists assessment with ability scores included and demonstrating high ability
- Parents apply to the programme directly by completing an online application form at: www.universityofgalway.ie/youthacademy.
- Applications will be open from Thursday August 31st to Sunday September 10th.

Community Links:

- The *Children's Liturgy* at Church of the Assumption Athenry will return this Sunday (Sept 3rd). It takes place in the Pastoral Centre attached to the church, during the Sunday 11am mass. It runs during term time i.e. any Sunday when there is school the following day. A few things to keep in mind:

- Currently it is only being offered to children in Junior infants, Senior infants and First class (numbers are restricted due to a shortage of adult volunteers)
- Please contact eithnamoran@gmail.com or Deirdre at 0870984379, if you are interested in volunteering.
- Parents are asked to sign a consent form the first time their child attends the children's liturgy. This consent form is kept on file.
- Parents still need to drop their child to the pastoral centre before mass (from 10.50am).
- Maximum capacity is 16 children at the moment, so you need to get in early if you wish your child to attend every week. Do not leave until your child is with one of the team members.
- Please watch for your child to come back into the church (at the start of the Our Father prayer).
- The children will come back to the church from the back of the church (via the entrance to the chapel of adoration). If your child doesn't know where you are sitting, you may wish to come to the back of the church to where you can see them come out of the Pastoral centre.
- **AKT Stage school** – Athenry is back for another year of excitement and fun every Wednesday in District Health & Fitness, Athenry. Registration day takes place on Wednesday Sept 6th – just pop in any time between 4-7pm. For more info visit www.aktstageschool.com.

You will find the following attachments here also:

- Summary of School Entrance & Exit points
- School Calendar 2023 / 2024
- Summary of Healthy Eating policy

With every good wish for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Fergal Naughton

Principal

Key to Entrances & Exits

Entrance and Exit Points	Number	Colour Code
Main door of school (beside secretary's office)	1	Red
Junior Corridor Yard Door	2	Green
Senior Corridor Yard Door	3	Blue
Exit door at the front of the school nearest door 1.	4	Yellow
Exit door at the front of the school nearest car entrance.	5	Purple
Top Yard door	6	Orange

Entrance & Exit Points for Specific Classes

Teacher	Class	Entrance Point	Exit Point
Ms Tyrrell	Jun Inf	1	1
Mrs Duffy	Jun Inf	1	5
Miss Dolan	Jun / Sen Inf	3	3
Mr McDonald	Sen Inf	4	4
Mrs Stewart	Sen Inf	2	2
Mr Hanley	1 st class	5	5
Ms McSpadden	1 st class	3	3
Mrs Callanan	2 nd class	2	2
Ms Alani	3 rd class	5	5
Mr Kelly	6 th class	6	6

PREFABS: Children whose class is one of the prefabs should go directly to the prefab.



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SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023/2024

SCHOOL OPENING:	Wednesday 30 th of August
MID TERM BREAK:	Monday 30 th of October to Friday 3 rd of November School re-opens on Monday, 6 th of November
CHRISTMAS BREAK:	Monday 25 th of December to Friday 5 th of January School closes on Friday 22 nd of December School re-opens on Monday 8 th of January.
ST. BRIGID'S DAY:	School closed on Monday 5 th of February
MID TERM BREAK:	School closed on Thursday 15 th of February & Friday 16 th of February
ST. PATRICK'S DAY:	School closed on Monday 18 th of March
EASTER BREAK:	Monday 25 th of March to Sunday 7 th of April School closes on Friday 22 nd of March School re-opens on Monday 8 th of April
MAY BANK HOLIDAY:	School closed for the week of Monday 6 th of May to Friday 10 th of May School re-opens on Monday May 13 th
JUNE BANK HOLIDAY:	School closed on Monday 3 rd of June and Tuesday 4 th of June
SUMMER HOLIDAYS:	School closes on Friday 28 th of June.

Please Note: This calendar could be subject to change as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures. You will be given adequate notice of any changes.

SCOIL CHROÍ NAOFA HEALTHY EATING POLICY

THE FOOD PYRAMID 	<u>GREEN</u> Foods which are good for every day	<u>ORANGE</u> Foods that can be good once or twice a week or in small amounts	<u>RED</u> Foods that are not necessary for healthy eating or are unsafe and are not to be eaten in school
Top Shelf: Other Foods		School provides chocolates/sweets on feast days	Chocolate products, Biscuits, Sugary cereal bars, Crisps and sweets etc.
Oils, Spreads, Fats	Butter, Spreads		No chocolate spreads
Meat, Poultry, Fish	Chicken, Turkey, Beef, Pork, Ham, Lamb, Egg, Salmon, Tuna, Mackerel	Chickpeas, Lentils, Bacon, Sausage, Salami, Luncheon, Corned beef, Billy roll	Nuts
Dairy Produce	Milk, yogurt, Greek yogurt, cheese slices, drinking yogurt, fruit/plain yogurt, Frubes, cheese dippers	Petit filous, flavoured milk, rice pudding, custard. Cheese strings, cheese spread, cheese triangles	Chocolate mousse, sprinkler yogurts, Toffee/sweet corner yogurts,
Fruit & Vegetables	Apples, oranges, bananas, kiwi, plum, nectarine, peach, pineapple, melon, grapes, mandarins, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, carrots, green beans, mangetout, peppers, fruit salad Carrots, cooked or uncooked <u>cut into bite size pieces (preferably for Junior Infants)</u>	Dried fruit: raisins, sultanas, dates, apricots. Smoothies, olives, avocado, stewed fruit, tinned fruit	
Cereals, Grains, Potatoes.	Wholegrain breads, rolls, baps, pitta, wraps crackers. Oatcakes, banana bread, Oat bars, wholemeal scones, soda bread, brown pasta, rice, noodles	White breads, rolls, baps, pitta, wraps, crackers, rice cakes, Brioche, Plain cake, White scone, Plain bun, Croissants	Chocolate breads, Iced rolls, Danish pastries, sausage rolls, sweet cereal bars eg. Rice Krispie bars
Fluids	Water, milk, soup	Sugar squash, flavoured milks, Tea, yogurt drinks	Fizzy drinks, Energy drinks, Full sugar squash, Capri sun, Hot chocolate