



Telephone: 091-844510

Email: office@scoilchroinaoafaathenry.ie



Dear Parents

Issue: 03

October 6th 2023

Amalgamation Update:

- Scoil Chroí Naofa and Athenry Boys school are to amalgamate into one school with effect from September 2024.
- A new school is to be built on the site of the old Presentation college, once the Gael Scoileanna have moved into their new campus.
- In the meantime it is expected that the newly amalgamated Scoil Chroí Naofa and Athenry Boys school will operate out of the two existing school buildings until such time as the new building is complete.
- The Department of Education have appointed project managers (Rogerson Reddan) to oversee the design & delivery of a new school building. Their services will remain in situ a year after the build so that the snags etc. can all be ironed out before the keys are fully handed over.
- The project managers had a short meeting with both school principals (Mr Naughton & Mr Connolly) to introduce themselves. Also at the meeting were Malachy Molloy (patron representative), Rosaleen Crowe O'Neill (diocesan education secretary) and Philip Casey (Chairperson Board of Management Athenry Boys school). Apologies were received from Bernie Ryan (Chairperson Board of Management Scoil Chroí Naofa).
- At the meeting Mr David Flynn from Rogerson Reddan outlined the process. The new school build is a 3-step process and we are currently at step one:
 - Step one: Procurement of a design team and school design completed
 - Step two: Planning
 - Step three: Tenders for the build itself
- As I understand it, we can expect to have 24 classrooms, a full size basketball hall, ASD units, air to water and heat recovery for heating and ventilation respectively.
- A joint steering committee has been formed and they will have their first meeting this Monday Oct 9th.
- The steering committee is made up of 8 members from each school: Principal, Deputy Principal, two Board of Management members, two members of staff and two parent representatives.
- Scoil Chroí Naofa's 8 representatives are: Fergal Naughton, Cathriona Cronin, Bernie Ryan, Fergal Melia, Veronica Murray, Eithne Kennedy, Rachel Moore & Eiranne Heffernan.
- The impetus to amalgamate is now stronger than ever. I can definitely now say that Athenry will have an amalgamated school split between the boys campus and our own from September 2024.
- It's now a case of using our steering committee meetings well by bringing questions and suggestions etc. to these so that plans can be made to make the amalgamation as seamless as possible.
- The most important thing is that pupils, parents and staff are communicated well with and that we create a sense of anticipation and positivity about what lies ahead.
- This is all the information we have at this time. As soon as we have more details it will be shared.

Important Dates to note:

- Tuesday October 17th: Cash for Clobber collection
- Monday October 30th to Friday November 3rd: Halloween Break
- Wednesday November 15th & Thursday November 16th: Parent Teacher meetings (2.30pm-4.30pm)
- Friday November 24th: Band performing at Athenry Christmas Lights ceremony
- Friday December 22nd: school closes at 11.45am for Christmas holidays (re-opens Mon Jan 8th 2024)
- Wednesday January 24th: Grandparents Day

Management:

- Congratulations to Aishling Tyrrell, Shane Kelly & Andrea Feeney, who have all been appointed to management positions in addition to their teaching responsibilities. We are a very lucky school!

Student Council:

- Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected as the class representatives on the newly re-formed Student Council:
 - Alessia Panait
 - Sarah Murphy
 - Mairéad Leech
 - Evie Flannery
 - Amelia Doherty
 - Maya Baranouskaya
 - Favour Liberto
- Thanks to Mr Hanley who will meet with the student council once a month

Catholic School:

- **Presentation Day:** Tuesday November 21st – pupils will be attending mass in the church at 10am. (*If you do not wish your child to attend, please email the school. Arrangements will be made to accommodate your request.*)
- **Confirmation:** Saturday April 27th 2024 at 2.30pm
- **First Confession:** *this usually takes place in the school approx. 2-3 weeks before the First Communion*
- **First Communion:** Saturday May 18th 2024 at 2.30pm

Attendance:

- Congratulations to Miss Dolan's Jun & Sen Infants class on having the Best Attendance for September

Raincoats:



Please ensure your child brings their raincoat to school every day. Pupils will be going outside for break every day (when at all possible) so they need to have a coat with them.

School Costs:



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.*)

Head Lice:



Some incidences of head lice have already been reported to the school. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat immediately, if necessary. Children with long hair should have it tied back.

Band:



Band practice will commence next week

- Children from 3rd up to 6th have been selected for either tin whistle, melodica, accordion or bell lyre.
- The children will bring home their instruments, so that they can practice their tunes every night as part of their homework.
- Please remind the children that the instruments are on loan to them from the school & they should take very good care of them, so that they can give them back to the school in the condition they received them.
- The girls from 3rd up to 6th will perform in the band on the night that the Christmas lights are turned on in Athenry (Friday November 24th).
- The girls in 2nd class will be taught the tin whistle and will also be learning majorette routines. The majorettes will be part of the band for St Patrick's day.



Athletics:

- Congratulations to Zofia Pawlik and Áine McGann who qualified for the County Finals of the Cross Country athletics event held in Renmore in September.
- The Finals took place this week and the girls gave their very best effort in a very competitive field. We are all very proud of them.

Camogie & Ladies Football:

- Over the past few weeks the senior girls have taken part in the following tournaments:
 - Mikey Vaughan Cup & Kate Moran Shield in Monivea-Abbey Ladies Football Club
 - Cumann na mBunscoil mini 7s camogie in Carnaun
 - Cumann na mBunscoil mini 7s ladies football in Coolarne.
- The girls played their hearts out and did the school proud!

Tag Rugby:

- In honour of Ireland's participation in the Rugby World cup, the senior girls are playing Tag Rugby.
- We have entered a team to compete in the Nations Rugby Series blitz which will take place in Monivea Rugby club on Tuesday October 17th.

Swimming:

- Caoimhe Mitchell (Mrs Monson's 5th class) will be competing in the Connacht Minor Schools Swimming championships to be held in Leisureland on Sunday Oct 22nd.
- She will be representing the school and we wish her the very best!!!

Triathlon Ireland:

- Miss Morris' class have signed up to take part in the Tri Heros programme. This is a fun multi-sport programme offered to schools which is delivered by a qualified Triathlon Ireland Coach.
- There will be 5 sessions which include cycling, running, transitions & (if we have access) a pool session.

Chess:

- Mr Kelly is entering a team into this year's Ficheall tournament. More details will follow at a later date.

Accelerated Reading Programme:

- Thank you to all the parents & staff who have donated books to our accelerated reading programme.
- We are still accepting donations if you have not had a chance to go through the books you have at home
- Just click into the link <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> and type in the title of the book, to see if it is an “AR” book. If it is on the list, then we would love to get it!

Baboro:

- Pupils in Ms Tyrrell’s Junior Infants, Mrs Duffy’s Junior Infants and Miss Dolan’s Jun & Sen Infants classes are attending a Baboro performance at the Nuns Island Theatre in Galway on Tuesday Oct 17th
- The performance is called “Wait a minute”.
- The cost of attending the event is €10 per pupil and this can be paid via Aladdin.

Parents Council:

- The first **Parents Council meeting** of this school year is happening on **Tuesday October 24th at 9.15am** here in the school. All parents who are available are welcome to attend.
- The school has signed up with www.designacard.ie again this year. Each child will be given the opportunity to design their own **Christmas Card**. A sample of their designs will be sent home in November, giving you the option to purchase a pack of Christmas cards designed by your child. A portion of the sales price will come back to the school and be used by the Parents’ Council to fund different things for the children
- There will be a **Cash4Clobber** collection on Tuesday October 17th, before the mid-term break. Bags can be dropped to the school from Monday Oct 16th. Please make sure the clothes are in plastic bags that are properly tied up and have no holes!

Heritage:

- RTE and the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland with the Office of Public Works present “Eye on Nature” – Ireland’s newest national wildlife and nature photography exhibition. These photographs represent the rich natural heritage that Ireland has to offer, showcasing our islands. The finalists are currently being exhibited on the grounds of Athenry castle.
- Ms Alani’s 3rd class and Mrs Callanan’s 2nd class will visit Athenry castle next week.
- A number of other classes have already visited Athenry castle during the month of September
- Miss Murray’s 5th, Mrs Monson’s 5th and Mr Kelly’s 6th will be having a visit from Aidan Dockery. Aidan is a Heritage expert and will be providing workshops to the 3 classes next week.

Athenry Library:

- The children in Mr Kelly’s 6th class will visit Athenry library on Wednesday October 25th
- They will meet author Brian Gallagher, who has written numerous books including; “Friend or Foe”, “Storm clouds” and “Across the Divide”.

Halloween:

- Thursday October 26th Sixth class are having a **Bake Sale** in the school hall. The girls would be very appreciative of donations towards their Bake Sale. If you would like to donate cakes, buns, bread or treats, please send them to Room 16 on the morning of Thursday October 26th.
- Friday October 27th is a **non-uniform day**. Your child may come to school dressed in their Halloween costume or they may come to school in their normal clothes. It is their choice, we certainly don’t want to put expense on parents having to buy a costume.
- Our only request is that **props such as wands, swords etc.** are left at home. It is better your child just wears their costume / face paint (without any props) coming in to the classroom.
- Please ensure your child is able to **use the bathroom** comfortably by themselves in their costume.

- Please note also, **correct footwear** is essential for the yard. (Most Disney princess shoes are not made for running in the yard!)
- Thanks to Kim Somers and her team at **Flex-yo style / Ultra flex** each class will also get the chance to do some fun Halloween dance routines in the hall.
- In keeping with tradition each child is asked to donate €2 for this **non-uniform day** and the proceeds will be given to charity. This year we would like to support our very own Junior Infant Laela Connolly-Kelly in Mrs Duffy's class who is donating her beautiful blonde hair to **"Little Princess Trust"**. We would like to use this non-uniform day to sponsor Laela's big haircut and help with the cost of turning her gorgeous hair into a beautiful wig which in turn will help boost the confidence and self-esteem of children and young people experiencing the devastating effects of hair loss.
- The children will get their holidays for **mid-term break** on Friday October 27th. It is a normal school day i.e. Junior & Senior infants finish at 1.30pm and all other classes finish at 2.30pm. School re-opens on Monday November 6th.

Parent / Teacher Meetings:

- Parent teacher meetings for all classes from Junior Infants up to 6th class will take place on **Wednesday November 15th and Thursday November 16th**
- You will receive an appointment closer to the time.
- The meetings will take place from 2.30pm to 4.30pm on both days and all children from 1st to 6th class will go **home at 2.15pm on both days**, to give class teacher time to get ready for their first meetings at 2.30pm.

Community Links:

- **Athenry Brownies** (7-10 years old) & **Girl Guides** (10-14 years old) have started up and there are spaces for new girls to join. There will be a registration night on Friday Oct 14th, if anyone would like to join. Meetings are Fridays 6-7.30pm in Clarin college, Athenry. If you are interested in becoming a member of Irish Girl guides, please send an email to buttercupbrownie.unit@gmail.com Parents interested in helping out for an occasional meeting are always welcome.
- **Parish Listening Nights** are being held in the Pastoral centre on Monday Oct 23rd, Tuesday Oct 24th and Wednesday Oct 25th at 8pm. (The same process will be repeated each night, so there is only need to attend one session). It is hoped that parishioners will express their hopes and expectations for the future pastoral and liturgical life of the parish.
- The **Biobus** is part of a national campaign to build awareness about the bioeconomy and its importance in our transition to sustainability. The Biobus is a mobile exhibit which will education the public about our heavy reliance on petrochemical-based products. It also introduces some options for the future, as well as bio-based products that are in the market right now (including Irish examples). The exhibit will be at The Spanish Arch in Galway on Sunday October 29th [BioBus – BiOrbic, Bioeconomy SFI Research Centre.](#)

Samhain Shona daoibh go léir !



Yours sincerely

Fergal Naughton, Principal