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Dear Parents

Issue: 06

January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

### **Condolences:**

- Sincere condolences to Aoife Kelly in Mrs Greally's 4<sup>th</sup> class on the sad passing of her mam, may her soul rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with Aoife & her family at this very sad time.

### **Grandparents Day:**

- Catholic Schools week is happening from January 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Service". It will be celebrated in all classes.
- We will celebrate Grandparents' day on **Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup>** this year.
- We have a long tradition of celebrating Grandparents day in Scoil Chroí Naofa – it has been one of the highlights of the school calendar!
- Grandparents are invited to visit the school on **Grandparents' Day**, Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup> from 10.45am -12.00pm. *(If grandparents are unable to come then a parent is very welcome to come in their stead).*
- They will visit their grandchildren's classrooms and afterwards refreshments will be provided. We want to honour and celebrate grandparents for the important part they play in the community and most significantly in the lives of their grandchildren.

### **NOTE:**

The school will **close at 1.15pm** on the following 3 days, this is to facilitate collaboration between the staff of Scoil Chroí Naofa and Athenry Boys school in advance of the amalgamation:

- **Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup>**
- Thursday February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup>

ALL children from ALL classes will go home at 1.15pm on these days.

**NB:** We have also just been advised that the school must **close on Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>** for a staff training day. This is to facilitate training for all staff on the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

### **Amalgamation Update:**

- Draft plans for our new school building are currently being worked on by a number of Architecture / Engineering firms.
- Two representatives from the Board of Management of Scoil Chroí Naofa and Athenry Boys school will travel to the Department of Education in Tullamore to view these draft plans and give their feedback.

- The staff from both schools will attend three workshops over the coming weeks as a means of getting to know one another and foster a sense of collaboration for the amalgamation journey ahead.

### **Best Attendance:**

- Congratulations to Mrs Greally's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class on having the Best Attendance for the month of December.

### **Security:**

- To ensure greater security for all pupils and staff; all school & prefab doors (including the main school door) will be locked at 8:50am from now on.
- Our morning opening window is between 8:45am and 8:50am.
- With effect from Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> we have reverted back to the pre-Covid practice of all pupils **lining up in the bottom yard before school each morning.**
- The yard doors will be opened and the bell will be rung at 8.45am each morning. This will prompt the pupils to assemble into their class lines.
- The children will know where to line up.
- This will mean that all pupils will enter the building through the yard doors (blue or green sticker) – no one will be lining up outside the doors at the front of the school (yellow or purple). These doors will remain shut.
- The girls in Mrs Greally's 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> class and Miss Morris' 4<sup>th</sup> class will also line up in the bottom yard at 8.45am and head to their class from the bottom yard each morning.
- The girls in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class will line up in the top yard and enter their classrooms from there.
- Class start for all pupils at 8.50am sharp, so the yard doors will be locked at this time.
- Any pupil arriving to school after this time will enter through the main front door (red sticker) and report to the secretary's office.
- No adults other than staff are to be in the school and / or prefabs unless they have an appointment or have a message for the school secretary.
- I trust you can appreciate where we are coming from.
- It is also hoped that this approach will help to address patterns of lateness that have been identified. We need our pupils in on time every day.

### **Uniforms:**

- Please ensure that your child(ren) come to school in the correct school uniform each day: navy trackpants or joggers (no leggings), light blue polo shirt and navy crested sweatshirt.
- The children should wear lots of layers under their uniform to keep warm in these very low temperatures
- Nobody should be wearing hooded blankets to school – these are not allowed. If necessary, children may use a blanket for their lap.

### **Enrolments for September 2024:**

- Sincere thanks to all the parents who attended our September 2024 Open Night earlier this week. It was a great success! A special thanks to Mr Connolly, Mr Duffy and Ms McKenna from Athenry Boys school who also attended on the night.
- Enrolment forms for pupils due to start school in September 2024 are now available from the office. The closing date for receipt of completed forms is Monday February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Due to the high interest for places, please ensure any siblings who are due to start in September 2024 have their information in on time. Thank you!

### **Confirmation Programme:**

- Sean Pokall & Mike Dunne (Confirmation co-ordinators for Athenry parish) have commenced the Confirmation programme with the girls in Mr Kelly's 6<sup>th</sup> class
- The programme is taking place in the Pastoral centre every Wednesday morning
- Mass in Athenry church this Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm will be a Confirmation Enrolment mass.
- The girls will be attending a retreat in Knock on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup> at a cost of €10 per person.

### **First Communion Programme:**

- There will be an Information meeting for parents of children due to make their First Communion this year.
- It will take place in the Pastoral Centre at 8.30pm on Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- If you wish your child to make his / her First Holy Communion in 2024 it is important that you attend this Information meeting.
- Mass in Athenry church on Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm will be a First Communion Enrolment mass

### **Green School:**

- The Green school committee (Mr Kelly's 6<sup>th</sup> class) have made "Battery Recycling" a New Year's Resolution for Scoil Chroí Naofa.
- They have entered the school into a competition where we have the chance to win a €2,000 Sports Equipment voucher for the school! So the more batteries we can recycle, the better our chances!
- If you have old used batteries lying around the house, don't put them in a drawer and don't put them in the bin! Send those used batteries into school and we will recycle them for the WEEE Ireland Schools Battery Recycling competition!

### **Chess:**

- Mr Kelly has entered a team of 8 girls into the Ficheall chess tournament which is taking place on Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Ard Rí hotel in Tuam.

### **Band:**

- Band practice has recommenced this week
- We are now preparing for the St. Patrick's day parade (Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>)
- Please remind the girls to practice their tunes as part of their homework!

### **Soccer:**

- Mr Kelly will be co-ordinating an in-house soccer competition for the girls in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes in the coming weeks, when the weather improves.
- A panel will be selected from these pupils
- The panel of soccer players will then represent the school at a fun soccer competition with Lisheenkyle National school on Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The girls will also be competing in the FAI 5's soccer competition to be held on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> in Mervue.

### **Accelerated Reading Programme:**

- All pupils in classes from 2<sup>nd</sup> up to 6<sup>th</sup> class are participating in the accelerated reading programme.
- The AR library is located in the school foyer & there is a constant flow of pupils exchanging their books
- Statistics for the month of January so far are as follows:

# Our School Network Reads!



In January 2024, students have read...

**352 Books**

**3,593,816 Words**

for **31 minutes/day!**  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE  
**Accelerated Reader**

## Presentation College Athenry:

Information for 6<sup>th</sup> class girls who have been accepted to Presentation College Athenry for September 2024:

- **Transition assessments** will be held this Saturday Jan 20<sup>th</sup>
- The **CAT4 assessment** will be held on Friday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>
- **Subject Taster day** will be held on Thursday Feb 29<sup>th</sup>

## School Tours:

- Below is a summary of when & where each class will be going on this year's school tours.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Teacher</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Tuesday May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mr McDonald (Senior Infants) Mrs Stewart (Senior Infants) Miss Dolan (Senior Infants)	Turoe Pet Farm, Bullaun, Co. Galway
Wednesday May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Miss Murray (5 <sup>th</sup> class) Mrs Monson (5 <sup>th</sup> class)	Emerald Park Ashbourne, Co. Meath
Thursday May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Callanan (2 <sup>nd</sup> class)	Wildlands Moycullen, Co. Galway
Wednesday June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Ms Tyrrell (Junior Infants) Mrs Duffy (Junior Infants) Miss Dolan (Junior Infants)	Turoe Pet Farm, Bullaun, Co. Galway
Thursday June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ms Alani (3 <sup>rd</sup> class) Mrs Grealley (3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> class) Miss Morris (4 <sup>th</sup> class)	Adventure World University of Limerick Limerick
Thursday June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Kelly (6 <sup>th</sup> class)	Emerald Park Ashbourne, Co. Meath
Friday June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Hanley (1 <sup>st</sup> class) Ms McSpadden (1 <sup>st</sup> class)	Let's Go! Kingfisher, NUIG, Galway

## Dates for Diary:

- Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup>: **Grandparents day**
- **Thursday Jan 25<sup>th</sup>: Amalgamation Workshop – all the children will go home at 1.15pm**
- **Thursday Feb 1<sup>st</sup>: Amalgamation Workshop – all the children will go home at 1.15pm**
- Monday February 5<sup>th</sup>: **St Brigid's day bank holiday**
- Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup> & Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>: **February Mid-term break**
- **Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Amalgamation Workshop – all children will go home at 1.15pm**

- **School Closure for Primary Maths Curriculum training: Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup> 2024.**
- Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>: *St Patrick's day* bank holiday
- Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>: *School Photographer*
- Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>: *Easter Holidays* (school closes at 11.45am on Fri Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- **Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>: Staff meeting Term 3 – all the children will go home at 1.15pm**
- Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>: *Confirmation* for 6<sup>th</sup> class girls
- Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>: *May Mid-term break*
- Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>: *First Communion* for 2<sup>nd</sup> class girls at 2.30pm

*Fergal Naughton*  
**Príomhoide**