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Dear Parents

Issue: 08

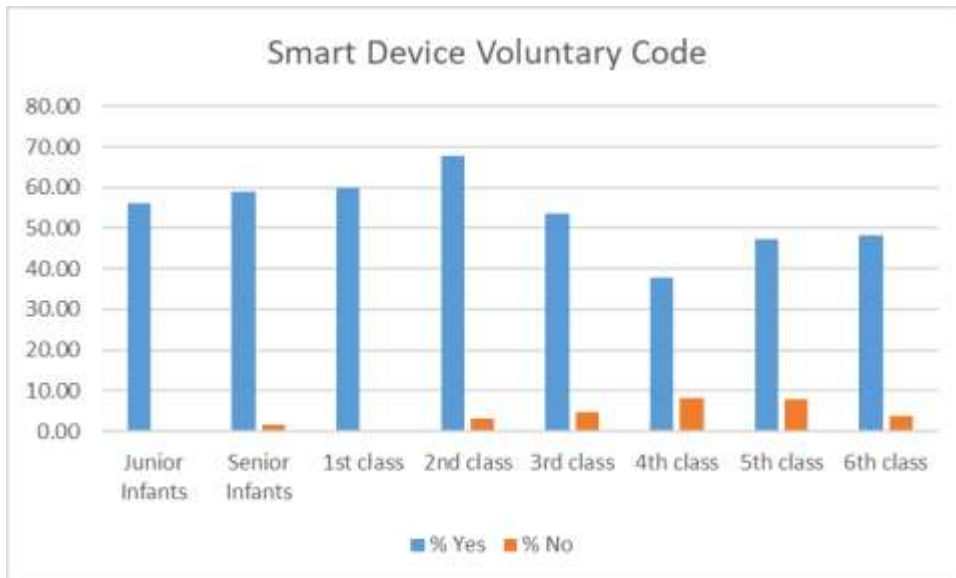
March 6th 2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The office will be unattended from Friday March 8th until Friday March 16th (inclusive). If a phone call you need to make goes unanswered, please drop into the school in person. Otherwise you can email the office or leave a voice message on the phone and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Smart Device Voluntary Code:

- At the end of February the Parents Council circulated a letter of explanation along with a google form asking parents to say “yes” or “no” to the Smart Device Voluntary code.
- The code is being proposed by the parents of Scoil Chroí Naofa, Athenry Boys school, Gael Scoil Riada, Newcastle Primary school, Coldwood Primary school and Carnaun National school.
- To date we have received responses in respect of 57.5% of pupils (54.5% Yes and 3% No)
- The breakdown for each class so far is as follows:



If you have not completed the Google Form in respect of your child yet, you may still do so, by clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/Xjy8F59HGjS72ncv8>

Medtronic Donations:

- Sincere thanks to parents Marian Sheridan (mom of Lily Trill – 3rd class) and Damien Watts (dad of Ryan Watts – Jun Inf Sept 2024)!
- Marian & Damian put Scoil Chroí Naofa's name forward with their employer Medtronic for us to be considered for a donation of refurbished laptops.
- We were presented with 5 laptops, which will be put to great use within the school!

Tesco Community Fund:

- Thank you to all parents, pupils and Athenry residents who voted for us with their Blue Tokens when shopping in Tesco Athenry over the last 12 weeks.
- We received €887 from the Community fund!

Basketball:

- In February we welcomed Charlie Crowley and some of his University of Galway Maree basketball team.
- I wasn't the only giant in the school that day – one of the visiting players was over 6 foot 10!!
- The basketball players spoke to all the pupils, demonstrated some basketball tricks and gave free passes to their upcoming final league match held in the Kingfisher in NUIG.
- Congratulations to Isobel Heffernan in 5th class who won the "Design a Poster" competition at the basketball game. She won a team gear bag signed by all the team!

Best Attendance:

- Congratulations to Mrs Callanan's 2nd class on having the Best Attendance for February.

Attendance:

- A sincere thank you to everyone for the wonderful improvement we've all noticed in relation to punctuality every morning since we implemented our new routines.
- Just a reminder, that on the odd occasion that you may be late, for whatever genuine reason, please bring your child to the main front door (red sticker) and they will be escorted to their classroom by a member of staff.

Amalgamation News:

- We are working on some ideas for a new name for our newly amalgamated school and also what our new crest might look like.
- The pupils in all classes of both schools are being given the opportunity to come up with ideas and work on some crest designs this week
- The pupils themselves will then pick their favourites from the different classes
- We would also like to invite parents, past pupils, staff, BOM members, anyone in the community who might be interested to submit their own suggestions & designs to the office by Friday March 15th.
- The Amalgamation Steering committee will review all the suggestions / designs. It may emerge that the final design comes from a blend of a few ideas!

Band & St Patrick's Day Parade:

Sunday March 17th is St Patrick's day, and Monday March 18th is a bank holiday so there will be no school.

- Band practice is in full swing as we prepare for the St. Patrick's day parade (this Sunday March 17th)
- Please remind the girls to practice their tunes as part of their homework!
- The parade will take place this Sunday (March 17th) after 11am mass

Children from 2nd up to 6th class have worked very hard for this event, so we hope to see your support by being present on the day.

Your co-operation in the following matters is an essential part of this day. All children in the band are requested:

- To meet in the school at 10.30am
- To bring their instruments
- To wear their hair in plaits, if possible
- To make sure they have comfortable shoes or runners
- To wear two layers, vests or t-shirts under their band uniforms (they will be given their band uniforms when they come into the school on Sunday March 17th).
- Girls from 3rd to 6th class to wear navy tights (2nd class girls will be given flesh coloured tights).
- Children can be collected from the school straight after the parade at 12.45pm

Class	Room
Mrs Callanan's 2 nd Class	Room 9
Ms Alani & Mrs Greally's 3 rd Classes	Room 7
Miss Morris & Mrs Greally's 4 th classes	Room 6
Mr Kelly's 6 th class	Room 5
Miss Murray & Mrs Monson's 5 th classes	Room 8

Engineering Week:

- This week we are celebrating Engineering week and thanks to Ms Tyrrell for all her guidance!
- This year pupils were encouraged to engage in hands-on activities that would spark their curiosity, creativity and problem-solving skills. Pupils had the opportunity to Imagine, Design and Create something innovative using materials they can find at home e.g. plastic, cardboard, egg cartons, plastic bottles etc.
- The resulting projects were incredible. Check out Instagram to see the children's amazing creations!

Seachtain na Gaeilge:

- All the classes are celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge next week.
- All the children and staff will make an extra effort to speak in Irish.
- The senior classes will take part in a "Tráth na gCeist" on Tuesday – sincere thanks to Mr Hanley, Mrs Callanan & Mr Kelly for organising it. Beidh an-spórt acu!
- **Thursday March 14th will be a "Lá glas". It will be a no uniform day and all the children can come to school wearing something green.**
- We will be having a "Siamsa" also, where different classes will share Irish songs, dances, poems etc. with the whole school.

World Book day:

- The school received World book day tokens for all the children in the school.
- Sincere thanks to Caroline Sweeney who liaised with Easons book shop and is getting copies of the World Book day books delivered to the school.
- All the children will receive a free "World Book day" book.

School Photographer:

- County photos will be here on Wednesday March 20th to take the children's photographs
- All children should come to school in their full school uniform on the day

Parents Council:

- There will be a Parents Council meeting on Thursday March 21st at 9am here in the school. Any parents who are available are welcome to attend.
- Our "Heritage Town Sponsored Walk" has been provisionally scheduled for Friday June 7th. Parents are very welcome to join us on the walk (and maybe call back to the school afterwards for a cuppa?)

Solar Panels:

- Our school have been sanctioned by the department to get solar panels.
- The panels will be installed over the Easter holidays.
- This will go some way towards making our school a "greener school".
- The company chosen to install the solar panels will also provide some educational material to explain to the children what the panels are, and how they work.

Hot School Lunches:

- Our school is included in the Department of Education's roll out of the "Free Hot School Lunches" scheme. There is no charge to parents for this service.
- With effect from Monday April 8th all pupils will be eligible to receive a Hot School Lunch.
- The provider of this service in our school will be the Galway-based "HotSchoolMeals.ie".
- Parents will be able to choose a Hot Lunch for their children and these lunches will be delivered to the school each day.
- There will be an online ordering system and each pupil will be provided with their own login details to choose their food options.
- HotSchoolMeals.ie have a wide menu to choose from and they cover most allergies and dietary requirements. Please visit www.hotschoolmeals.ie for full menu and nutritional breakdown of meals.
- More specific details will follow closer to the time.
- ***The Lunch Bag will finish operating in our school on Friday March 22nd.***

Half Day for Staff Meeting:

- There will be a half day on Thursday April 18th to facilitate a staff meeting. All children will go home at 1.15pm.

Important Reminders:

- Parents are asked to make an appointment if they wish to speak to a teacher. This can be done by phoning or emailing the office.
- Parents are also asked not to drive onto the school grounds – this is for pupil safety.

Dates for Diary:

- Wednesday March 13th: ***First Confession*** (will take place in school hall during school day)
- Monday March 18th: ***St Patrick's day*** bank holiday
- Tuesday March 20th: School Photographer
- **Thursday April 18th: Staff Meeting – all the children will go home at 1.15pm**
- Saturday April 27th: ***Confirmation*** for 6th class girls at 2.30pm
- Monday March 25th to Friday April 5th: Easter Holidays (*school closes at 11.45am on Fri Mar 22nd*)
- Monday May 6th to Friday May 10th: May Mid-term break

- Saturday May 18th: ***First Communion*** for 2nd class girls at 2.30pm
- Tuesday June 25th: ***Graduation*** for 6th class girls

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir!

Fergal Naughton
Príomhoide