



SCOIL ÍOSAF NAOFA BALLINTEMPLE

Le Chéile Is Féidir



Scoil Íosa Naofa
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March 2022 Newsletter

Covid-19 Update

Since our return to school after mid-term on Monday, 28th February, many aspects of school life have returned to pre-covid times. Groups are now permitted to mix in class, classes can visit each other, children and staff are no longer required to wear masks, social distancing has stopped at the school gate, schools are no longer required to inform parents of cases in the class and we can now see one another's smiles again.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to the entire school community- children, staff, parents, board of management and wider school community for coming together to ensure the safety of everyone in the school.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning in all of the classes has returned to pre-covid times. Children in different groups are able to work together in class, different classes can now come together and enjoy learning from each other and our wide range of activities are now beginning to return. Our maths station teaching and literacy lift-off initiatives have returned to the research-based approaches that have worked so well in the past. We are delighted that the children can now begin to experience school life as normal again.

Prefab re-placement

The older prefabricated structure which accommodates 5th and 6th classes is being re-placed during the summer holidays. The new structure will be ready for the new academic year in September 2022. Planning permission has been submitted to City Council.



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First Confession

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Congratulations to the boys and girls in 2nd class who received the sacrament of reconciliation recently. Thank you to Mr. Lochlann McCarthy for preparing them for the ceremony. Thank you to Fr. Alphonse for celebrating with the children and families.

Confirmation

Confirmation is taking place for 6th class pupils on Saturday, 14th May at 11 a.m. in the SMA church. The ceremony will take approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

- Children will wear their own clothes for the ceremony.
- Photographer, Rob Lamb will be present on the day to take photographs of the children. If you wish to book family photographs with Rob, please contact rob@roblambphoto.com.
- There are currently no restrictions on church numbers for the ceremony. Each family will be assigned one pew at the church. Additional family members can sit in free seats at the back of the church. The gantry will be used for the school choir.
- Children and sponsors will sit together at the front of the church.
- The Parents' Association will hold a reception for the children and their families back in the prefabs once the ceremony has finished. This will last approximately 1 hour.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is taking place for 2nd class pupils on Saturday, 7th May at 11 a.m. in the SMA church. The ceremony will take approximately 1 hour.

- Children are asked to wear the following:
 - Boys: School blazer (supplied by school), white shirt, school pants, school tie and black shoes.
 - Girls: Traditionally girls wear a white dress with white shoes.
 - If you have any queries about this, please contact the school to discuss.

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Principal: Mr. Bryan McCarthy

Deputy Principal: Ms. Deirdre Sayers

Assistant Principal: Mr. Colm Lucey



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Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) Programme

The Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme will be taught to all classes after the Easter holidays. A letter was forwarded to parents giving information about the programme last week.

Parents from 3rd to 6th class will receive HSE parent information 'Busy Body' booklets in the coming weeks. Topics covered and further information on the Department of Education RSE curriculum can be found [here](#). The school will not be implementing the Catholic Schools RSE 'Flourish' programme.

Sciath na Scol

The Sciath na Scol hurling and camogie competitions will be starting next week with boys and girls from 4th class up representing that school. We will play Brooklodge N.S., Knockraha N.S., Castlemartyr N.S. and G.S. Gort Álainn. Thank you to Ms. Johnson, Mr. Lucey, Mr. Cashman and Mr. McCarthy for training the children.

Junior Infant Photographs

Junior Infant photographs will be taken by school photographer, Rob Lamb on Tuesday, 3rd May. Further details to follow closer to the date.

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As outlined in the most recent Board of Management agreed report, the school is updating our school tracksuit to a more sustainable and modern design. We are also updating the school t-shirt. Laura's Schoolwear will supply the tracksuit and it will be ready for purchase for the school year 2022/2023. There will be a transitional period of two years where children who have the current tracksuit can continue wearing it to school if parents wish. Thank you to the student council who helped in designing the new school tracksuit. See photos below.



Book Fair

The school is holding a Scholastic Book Fair on Wednesday, 30th and Thursday, 31st March. Parents will be invited in to purchase books after school on both days and also on one of the evenings. The evening will be confirmed later this week.

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School Tours

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All school tours have been finalised for the end of the school year. Thank you to the parents' association for funding the cost of the bus for each school tour. This has greatly reduced the overall cost of each tour. The tours are:

- Junior and senior infants- Tír na Sí Farm at a cost of €11 per child.
- 1st class- Mardyke Arena at a cost of €20 per child.
- 2nd & 4th class- Cuskinny Adventure Centre at a cost of €28 per child.
- 3rd class- Let's Go! Little Island at a cost of €25 per child
- 5th class- West Cork Secrets at a cost of €20 per child.
- 6th class- Ballyhass Adventure Centre at a cost of €45 per child.

Payment will be available on Aladdin this week.

School Calendar 2022/2023

The school calendar for the 2022/2023 school year is currently being finalised. We will return to school on Thursday, 25th August 2022.

Morning Supervision

Reminder that morning supervision in school begins each morning at 8.30 a.m. The school does not provide supervision to children who arrive before this time. Children will be welcomed into the school building at 8.30 a.m. if the weather is wet.

Important Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday, 30th & Thursday, 31st March- Scholastic Book Fair.

Tuesday, 5th April- School closing early at 1 p.m. for staff meeting

Friday, 8th April- School closing at 12 noon for Easter holidays.

Monday, 25th April- School re-opens after Easter holidays.

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Parent's Association Update

As weather improves and restrictions for COVID have been lifted we are delighted to announce a very busy term for the children and with your PA contributions we are in a position to support many fun upcoming fun events.

Over this term the PA fund will finance the buses for school tours, for Sciath na Scoil matches, organise the reception for Communion and Confirmation in the school, ice cream van for school sports day and purchase additional sports equipment for children to enjoy in the fine weather.

Hopefully towards the Summer we will organise a family fun day and a parent social evening to come together at last as a school community. All details of these events once finalised will be shared.

Your support as parents has been vital in accumulating these funds to make school life even more exciting for children. Sincere thank you to those families that have contributed and it's never too late to sign up for as little as €10 per month per family or a once off €120 annually. Every penny is used to enhance your children's experience at school. All details of PA Fund Bank account are available under parents' association tab on school web page.

As always, any parent that has ideas or would like to get involved everyone is welcome and we can be contacted on the email below.

Have a fantastic St Patrick's long weekend.

Erica Mahony & Leigh McCarthy

PA Co- Chairpersons, Ballintemple National School

Email: pa@ballintemplens.com