



Scoil Naomh Chaitríona

September/ October

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Dear Parents

By now the children have all settled back into routine. It has been lovely welcoming all the new faces and seeing our family grow. Our teaching staff also continues to grow. We welcome Ms Monaghan who joins us each afternoon to deliver English classes to our EAL pupils.

The school year has gotten off to a busy start with lots of great work going on in all the classrooms. Literacy Lift Off and Numeracy Stations have started in the Junior Room, our Brain Calm programme runs daily and is proving very popular with the children involved, and artist/historian John Ruddy has visited the senior pupils to discuss the local history of Ballyshannon and we hope to put a booklet together.

Important Dates to Note

Sacrament Dates:

Confirmation : Sunday 7th May

First Confessions: Monday 6th March

First Communion: Saturday 20th May



Yoga Dates: Monday 10th, 17th 24th October and Monday 7th November (After Mid Term)

Halloween Break (Mid Term): Friday 28th Oct (3pm close) and Reopening Monday 7th November

Cycle Bus: Every Thursday Morning 9am Spar until Halloween. Cycle Bus will finish then for Winter and restart next April.

Visits to the Abbey Centre: Monday 17th (Whole School) and 19th October (Infants – 2nd Class)

Dress Up Day (Halloween): Friday 28th October

Parent Teacher Meetings: Thursday 1st December. School will finish at 2pm

News and Upcoming Events

New Developments

We have had many exciting new developments recently. With our extra teacher allocation, we have a new classroom set up. We have invested in our IT resources, purchasing new laptops, iPads and a touch screen panel. We also have a new bike rack which children may use to store their bikes safely.

HSCL and Parents' Room

Anita has been doing Trojan work since starting with us this September. She has turned our Parents' Room into a cosy and welcoming space and has hosted a variety of courses and classes which are all free of charge to our parents. She is currently working on setting up *A Bedtime Book Club* and a *Toy Library* from which families can borrow books or educational toys.

Yoga Classes

A reminder that our free Yoga Classes for Parents will run throughout October each Monday at 10am. The classes are held by Catherine Mc Gagh and are a lovely relaxing way to start your week. All you need to bring is your Active wear. Mats are provided.

Halloween Dress up

Our Halloween Dress Up Day, Quiz and Party will take place on Friday 28th October.

Lunches

Please remember to check in with your child to see if they would like their lunch order changed. The school lunches have changed somewhat due to nationwide issues with suppliers so your child may wish to choose something else off the menu. There is a great selection and you can log in here: <https://order.carambola.ie/> If you are having problems please reach out to us. A new addition to choose from the menu next week will be a roll with sausages.

Wain Fest

We are participating in WainFest once again this year which is hosted by Donegal Library. We will be visiting the Abbey Centre on Monday the 17th of October to watch a film and the junior classes will have a second outing to watch *Sleepy Hollow*, a drama production on Wednesday the 19th.

Grow At School

We had applied for funding to improve our school garden through the *Grow at School Initiative* and we are delighted to share that we have been successful. Four new planter boxes and a ton bag of soil have been gifted to the school and our children are going to have great fun planting vegetables, fruits and flowers over the coming weeks.

Parental Feedback (Have your Say)

We are currently working on a 3 Year Action Plan to make improvements in our school and would love your feedback. We value your thoughts and ask you to please take 5 minutes to fill out a survey which will be sent by text this evening.