



# Scoil Naomh Chaitríona

## Newsletter – May

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### Dear Parents

Warm greetings and a joyful May to all of you! May is a month filled with energy and enthusiasm as our children continue making steady progress in their studies. Not only that, but they've been having a blast with all the extracurricular activities we've lined up to make sure they have a well-rounded education.

Our super-dedicated team has been going above and beyond to create amazing experiences for our young learners. Over the past few weeks, an exciting array of activities such as cycling lessons, science experiments, computer programming, Creatives Schools Week, and Active Week have been offered, catering to the interests of every child. We have plenty more to come in the weeks ahead!

Congratulations to the students of Second Class and Sixth Class on their recent milestones in their faith journey. On the 20th of May, our Second Class students made their First Holy Communion, and on the 7th of May, our Sixth Class students received the sacrament of Confirmation. I commend each and every child for their hard work, as well as Fr Cathal, Fr Vincent, their teachers and above all their families who have supported them along the way. A special word of thanks to Kelly-Marie, Paula, Patricia and Margaret who helped out with the refreshments in the pastoral centre afterwards.

### Important Dates Coming Up

#### Upcoming Closures

**26<sup>th</sup> May (Friday):** School Closed for Curriculum Training Day

**2<sup>nd</sup> June (Fri):** School Closed. Reopening Tues 6<sup>th</sup> June after Bank Holiday

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**29<sup>th</sup> May (Mon)** Beginning of our testing week. Good attendance needed.

**7<sup>th</sup> June (Wednesday):** Induction Day for new Junior Infants. 1.15 -2.30pm

\*Click any [blue writing](#) to show you more information and pictures on our website.

## News and Upcoming Events

### Anita (HSCL) – Initiatives for Parents

Anita is continuing to run the Bedtime Reading Club and Toy Library. This initiative promotes the joy of reading and offers a wide variety of books and toys for your children to explore and enjoy. We encourage you to take advantage of this fantastic resource and make reading a cherished part of your child's routine.

Anita recently organised an engaging art project exclusively for parents with Conor Carney. We were delighted to witness the incredible talent and enthusiasm demonstrated by our parents and were very impressed with the finished product which will be displayed on the wall of our school foyer. [Check it out here](#)

We are also excited to announce that Anita is currently running a Walking Group for parents every Monday morning. This initiative not only promotes physical well-being but also provides an opportunity for parents to socialise, enjoy the fresh air, and explore the beautiful surroundings of Ballyshannon. We encourage you to join the walking group and embrace the benefits of regular exercise and community connection.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for Wednesday, 7th of June, as Anita has organized a free Zumba taster session exclusively for parents. Zumba is a fun and energetic dance fitness program that promises to get you moving and grooving while having a great time. Whether you are a seasoned dancer or new to Zumba, this session will be a fantastic way to stay active and embrace a healthy lifestyle. All parents are welcome to participate, so don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

### Free School Books

Minister Foley made the much-welcomed announcement in March that from September of this year parents will not have to pay for schoolbooks. Children will be provided with schoolbooks, workbooks, copybooks and where funding allows stationery. We may ask for a small contribution towards the cost of photocopying, art resources and pupil insurance.

### Arrangements for next year

We are already making preparations for the new school year. Children will return to school on Thursday 31st August 2022.

As it stands the classes and teachers for next year will remain the same as this year:

J&S Infants: Ms. O'Reilly	1st/ 2nd class: Mr. Carr
3rd/ 4th class : Mr. Bracken	5th/ 6th class : Mr. Kelly

S.E.T Team: Will include Mr. Gallagher and Ms Coen.

## Creative Schools Week

During Creative Schools Week, we had the pleasure of hosting talented visiting artists Rachel Quinn and Jarla Duffy. They worked closely with our students, providing guidance and inspiration in different artistic disciplines. From clay sculpting to cartooning, our students had the opportunity to learn from the experts and develop their skills in these creative areas.



This week also saw the start of our After School Arts and Crafts Club, which will be held on Tuesdays. Led by Ms. O'Reilly, this club is a wonderful opportunity for students to further explore their creative talents in a relaxed and supportive environment. [Click here to see more.](#)



## Active Week / Active Flag

Active Week was a week filled with excitement, physical challenges, and opportunities for our students to engage in various sports and activities.

We were privileged to have the expertise of visiting coaches such as The Finn Harps coaches who brought their knowledge and passion for soccer, the basketball coaches who introduced our students to the dynamic world of hoops, teaching them essential skills and fostering a love for the game and the GAA coaches who shared their expertise in Gaelic football, giving our students a taste the fundamental skills and promoting teamwork and sportsmanship.



But Active Week wasn't just about structured sports. We also incorporated some fun and enjoyable activities to keep our students moving and engaged. Our students embarked on a refreshing walk around the town, with a pit stop at the playground and O'Neill's shop for ice cream cones!

A special word of thank to Ms. Coen who did a wonderful job in coordinating all the events and has put us well on the way towards our first Active Flag. [Click here to see more.](#)



## Summer Camp

Following the success of recent years' Summer Camps, we are hoping to host one again this summer. This camp will focus on improving the literacy and numeracy levels of attendees in a fun way.

The camp would run from 9:30am - 2:00pm each day from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th of July. The Summer Camp will be free of charge and we hope to be able to provide a healthy lunch each day. A link to register your interest can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/EvNZSa3T6QX7Zw7y9>

## Students in the Spotlight



**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

The ability to change into a dragon so I could fly and breathe fire at bad guys.

**What is your favorite subject in school?**

Math, because it's kind of fun and I find it easy.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and what would you do there?**

Australia. I would love to take selfies with kangaroos.

**What is the most interesting thing you've learned recently?**

I didn't know that the Antarctica was actually a desert.



**If you could create a new subject for your school, what would it be?**

Fashion creation, I think it would be fun to design clothes.

**What is the most memorable school outing you've been on and why was it so special?**

I loved going to Funny Bones. I loved the in-air obstacle course.

**If you could trade places with a fictional character for a day, who would it be?**

Holly Hills from Diary of a Wimpy Kid (The Last Straw) and I would probably think twice before I mistake Greg for Fregley

**If you could give one piece of advice to incoming students, what would it be and why?**

Try to put as much effort in as you can in your homework and school work and be sure not to forget your homework the next day!