



Scoil Naomh Chaitríona

Summer Newsletter

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Dear Parents

The skies have been very shy of sunshine the past couple of months but we hope your children have all been enjoying their Summer holidays and a well-deserved break.

Behind the scenes we have started making preparations for our return to school and we're excited about starting a new academic year. We are especially thrilled about welcoming all our new children and families into our school community.

This newsletter will give an insight into all you need to know to get ready for our first day back on Thursday 31st August.

Important Dates Coming Up

31st August (Thursday): School Reopens

9:10am Doors Open / **9:20am** Class begins

11th September (Monday): First long day for new infants. (9:20 - 2.00pm)

*** *Junior Infants will go home at 12.00 for the first week***

[School Calendar 23/24](#)



The school calendar for 2023/24 was sent out in June. We will give you an extra copy on the return to school but you can also access it at any time on our school website [here](#).

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News and Upcoming Events

1. School Books and Stationery

The Department of Education made the much-welcomed announcement last March, that from September of this year, parents will not have to pay for schoolbooks. We will be providing all children with schoolbooks, workbooks, copybooks at no cost to parents. Children just need to show up with their uniform, schoolbag and a water bottle.

We will ask for a small contribution towards the cost of stationery, photocopying, art resources and pupil insurance. €30 for one child and €50 total for any family of two or more children. We will communicate arrangements for collecting this money in September.

2. School Lunches

We will also continue to provide free hot lunches and snacks to all children. Please remember to go online and update your child(ren)'s lunch order. This needs to be done by this **Friday 25th** to be in place for first delivery on 31st August. You can do this here:

<https://order.carambola.ie/>

If you have forgotten your password you can reset it here too. There is also a helpline number you can call but if you are still having problems, please get in touch.

There are many new additions to the lunch menu this year including:

- **Pizza Roll with Chorizo & Cheese** - Fresh pizza roll with sauce, chorizo slices and a mix of mozzarella and cheddar cheese
- **Pizza Roll with Chicken & Cheese** - Fresh pizza roll with sauce, chicken and a mix of mozzarella and cheddar cheese
- A new bigger, fresher and crustier roll (sausages, goujons or veggie)
- On the snack menu there are new additions including a **vanilla flavoured granola bar** and a **banana flavoured muffin**.

3. School Uniforms

Children may wear their PE uniform every Tuesday and Thursday and their regular uniform Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We would prefer that all children wear their regular uniform with the crested jumper on their first day as it's a lovely day for taking photos.

4. Upcoming Activities

Extra Curricular

We have plenty of extra-curricular activities lined up for the year ahead both during and after school hours. Last year our children enjoyed swimming lessons, football coaching, art and crafts classes, gardening, baking, ukulele lessons and cycle safety workshops as well as many other activities. We plan to provide a variety of fun and interesting activities again this year.

School Committees

A big thank you is owed to our exceptional school committees from the past year. The diligent efforts of our **Active Schools Committee** throughout the year resulted in our school achieving its first Active School Flag.

Our **Creative Committee** played a pivotal role in planning a wonderful Creative Schools Week and ensuring a constant flow of creativity and imagination in our classrooms throughout the year.

Our **Green School Team** worked hard to uphold our school's cleanliness, promote environmental consciousness, and kept our yard litter free while our **Library Committee** impeccably managed our school library and organised an array of enjoyable events for World Book Day.

Our students demonstrated remarkable responsibility, teamwork, and a genuine sense of pride in their school. We look forward to adding new members to these committees this year, and we are excited to continue fostering these values.

Activities for Parents / Bedtime Reading Club & Toy Library

Anita, our Home School Liaison, organised a wonderful lineup of activities for parents last year. From invigorating walking groups and energetic Zumba sessions to soothing yoga classes, hands-on art workshops, and baking sessions, Anita helped foster connections between home and school and well-being in innovative ways. She hopes to offer an even broader spectrum of activities and events this year.

Anita also plans to continue the very popular Bedtime Reading Club and Toy Library each Monday and Friday where parents can borrow books toys and boardgames to use at home.