



Scoil Phádraig Naofa

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wish to take this opportunity to wish Parents, Children and Staff a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. We all hope you enjoy our Christmas newsletter as it encapsulates the many activities the boys and girls get to experience here in Scoil Phádraig Naofa.

I also wish to thank our teachers, SNAs and support staff who bring so much kindness, dedication and expertise to our school community each day. We strive to provide the boys and girls with a warm, caring and nurturing environment each and every school day. We all also greatly appreciate the support of our whole school community, including our Board of Management and our Parents Association. We also wish to highlight the vital role our Student Council play across our school, and across so many of our school activities.

As a school community we wish a long and happy retirement to Ms. AnneMarie Kingston. All your kind messages for AnneMarie have been greatly received. I also wish to inform you all that Iníon June Ní Shúilleabháin will take up the position of Deputy Principal of our school from January 6th, 2025. We wish June every success in her new role.

Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to welcoming you all back in 2025.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!

Ní neart go cur le chéile,

Edward McCarthy

Príomhoide

Dates to remember:

Christmas Holidays at 12 Noon on Friday, 20th December 2024.

School reopens at 8:30am on Monday January 6th 2024

Welcome

Our new academic year began on a sunny morning in late August. We welcomed all our returning Scoil Phádraig Naofa students and greeted all our new Junior Infant pupils on that exciting morning. This year we also welcomed pupils who transferred from other schools along with a number of new teaching staff. We have enjoyed working together and developing our new friendships during the term. Welcome to SPN!



Swimming

Our pupils from Second Class to Fourth Class participated in their swimming module this term. Due to a change to the swimming timetable, the bus departed the school at 10:40am which reduced the need for the early morning departure of previous years. The swimming coaches grouped the children, and under their guidance pupils continued to develop their water confidence and skills. The teachers enjoyed listening to the excited chatter on the bus journey. Many thanks to all those who ensured that the children arrived with swimming bags each Tuesday morning.



Junior Infant Sound Walk

Once settled into school our new Junior Infants enjoyed their first few weeks at SPN. As part of their studies, they learned about their Five Senses, for example the sense of Hearing. The children enjoyed a walk in the autumnal sunshine to participate in a 'Sound Walk', where they had an opportunity to listen to and identify a range of sounds in their environment. They had great fun on their walk with their friends and teachers.



Lord Mayor Visit

It was during the second week of September that we welcomed Lord Mayor Councillor Dan Boyle to Scoil Phádraig Naofa. The Lord Mayor met with our pupils and staff as he walked down the hallways to the halla. We had an opportunity to share a few words with him and ask a few questions whilst in the halla, and the children were very excited to receive a Homework Pass during his visit. As it was still very early in the school year – the Homework Pass was greeted by great cheer and enthusiasm.



Irish Dancing

Miah Kiely of Kiely-Walsh Academy of Irish Dance, returned to SPN this August for yet another busy year. As part of the PE Curriculum, the children enjoy 'Irish Dancing' lessons over a number of weeks with Miah during the school day. Our after school Irish Dancing classes also returned with Miah and Marie each Tuesday afternoon much to the delight of our students.



Club Spraoi

Just as we opened our school doors on August 29th, the smiling faces of the Club Spraoi staff greeted the pupils on their first day at school. This year Club Spraoi has expanded to include three classrooms in the afternoon period, where children have a snack, complete their homework and play with their friends.



Tennis

The SPN tennis groups have continued to enjoy and develop their tennis skills during the Autumn /Winter school term. With the support and guidance of their tennis coaches, pupils have developed their eye / hand coordination, ball skills and fore hand this term.



Buddies, Buddies Everywhere !

Our Fifth Class pupils joined with their Junior Infant Buddies early this term for chats, fun and Art work. The senior children always enjoy returning to the infant classes to help the teachers and to meet with their buddies. They worked collaboratively to create a piece of art work which involved cutting, sticking and designing.

There is always a great buzz of chatter and laughter when the children meet their 'Buddies' in the classrooms. This continues in the hallways and throughout the school whenever the children meet their 'buddies' and they share a smile and a wave.



Scholastic Bookfair 2024

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair took place on October 21st and 22nd in our school Halla. The children had the opportunity to purchase their books from a wide range of books which were available. We were fortunate that we had a number parents who volunteered their time to assist with the fair. The Book fair also opened its doors late on the Monday evening for parents and their children to attend.

As in previous years a percentage of the total book sales are made available to the school to spend on resources for the school. This year the Scholastic Book Fair raised the sum of €7420.45 A sincere thank you to all those involved in setting up and organising the successful bookfair and many thanks to all those who purchased at the event.



Maths Week

We celebrated Maths Week 2024 in late October. The SPN Maths Team provided the children with an opportunity to engage with a variety of Maths games online, and to follow a variety of Maths Trails around the school. We appreciate that Maths can be a daunting curriculum area for some, however these activities provided children with the chance to participate in the learning of Maths in a fun and practical way. Many thanks to all those who organised the fun activities.



Cork String Academy

As we approached the end of the first half term in October, we were visited by a 'trio' of teachers from the Cork String Academy. The 'trio' performed a short recital for both our Junior and Senior students. The children thoroughly enjoyed the musical interlude and some 'lucky' students also had an opportunity to embrace the role of 'Musical Conductor' for the event. Many thanks to those who organised this special event.



Musical Auditions 2025

Auditions for the SPN Musical of 2025, 'A Hard Knock Life,' which is based on the story of 'Annie', began during the month of October. Michael Greene a well-known director of many Irish Musical Societies, and Ms O'Duffy (Room 4 class teacher), Musical Director of the Monfort College of Performing Arts, Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Anthony opened the auditions in mid-October.

Due to the success and excitement of our previous musical productions, this was a much anticipated event for our pupils in Fifth and Sixth Class. The children had eagerly looked forward to the opportunity to audition for a variety of roles. Once again the audition committee were awed by the acting and musical talent, the energy and high level of preparation, which was evident by all those who attended the auditions.



Rinka

Each Monday morning, the children in Junior Infant to Second Class met with Colm. Rinka involves an energetic fitness class which places a strong emphasis on non-competitive activities. Colm put the children through their paces as they had an opportunity to continue the development of their fine and gross motor skills.





Fundraiser

For our Hallowe'en fundraiser this year, the pupils of SPN collected money on behalf of the West Cork Rapid

Response (WCRR) .

This is a voluntary group which is staffed by current members of emergency personnel. They provide support to our community in Rochestown, Cork City and West Cork. Following our fundraising a total of €1605 was raised. This was presented to the West Cork Rapid Response (WCRR) who were most appreciative. A sincere thank you for all your contributions and support.



Crafty Kids

One of our continuing and most popular after school activity at SPN would be Crafty Kids, who meet each Thursday and Friday afternoons. During their time together, the children have an opportunity to gain experience in all areas of the Art curriculum. They use paint, sharpies, glue, fabric to work on individual pieces of art, whilst having a chat and laugh with their peers.



Karate

The new school year opened with the return of our previous pupils and the addition of our new Junior Infants to the Rising Sun Karate, under the direction and tutoring of Barry O'Regan. The children have worked incredibly hard to develop their skills and competence in a variety of areas with dedication and focus during this term.

Boys' & Girls' Football Sciath na Scol Final

Our Sciath na Scol Gaelic Football season began early in the Autumn term. The teams trained under the guidance of our experienced SPN staff with additional support provided from Gavin (Douglas GAA). Both our Boys and Girls teams attacked the season with enthusiasm, energy and fun. They played with pride and skill in all their games. Their fighting school spirit was undiminished, and the cheers that resounded throughout the school when we realised that both our Girls and Boys teams had reached the Sciath na Scol Finals, it was as if Cork had won the All-Ireland.



On a rather grey and overcast November morning pupil from First Class to Sixth class boarded a flotilla of buses and headed to Páirc Ui Chaoimh for the finals.



The roar of the crowd, the musical chants and cheers from the SPN fans was amazing as the boys took to the field for the Scoil Phádraig Naofa Boys v Inch final. It was an exciting and tense game and as the final whistle blew, the SPN boys were victorious.

Up next were our SPN Girls team for their match, Scoil Phádraig Naofa Girls v Innishannon. The girls played with skill, passion and determination. Despite their incredible work and spirit, it was not meant to be for our girls on this occasion.

We were so proud of both our Scoil Phádraig Naofa Boys and Scoil Phádraig Naofa Girls Teams. Well done



to all the coaches, teachers, parents, SPN fans and to our amazing teams!

SPN Guest Reporters

In this Christmas Newsletter edition we are very fortunate to have a number of articles by our SPN Guest 'reporters'. The children have conducted interviews, gathered and shared information. We hope that you enjoy reading their articles which show a snapshot of life in SPN.

“We wanted to get a goal back.”

Interview with Sciath Na Scoil Winner 2024 ,Conor Sugrue

By Dominic Murray

What did you feel like 5 mins before the match?

“I was very nervous, but also happy.”

When you were losing were you nervous?

“No, we wanted get a goal back.”

When you won, how did you feel?

“Very happy and excited to collect my medal.”

Could you hear the crowd chanting?

“Yes, and they were very good, especially Rory O’Sullivan.”

What was the changing rooms in Páirc Uí Caoimh like ?

“It was very good and cool.”



“The chants gave me confidence!”

Interview with Sciath Na Scoil Finalist 2024, Holly Forsythe

By Dominic Murray

How did you feel after the match?

Very disappointed.

Were you nervous at the match?

Yeah, I was very nervous.

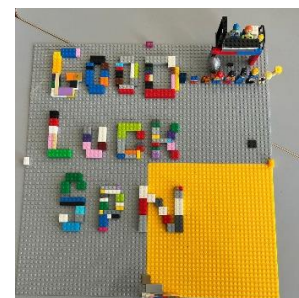
What did you have for breakfast the morning of the match?

I had Weetabix to give me energy.

Did you score any goals?

Sadly, no.

Did you hear the chants? Yes, very well. The chants gave me confidence.

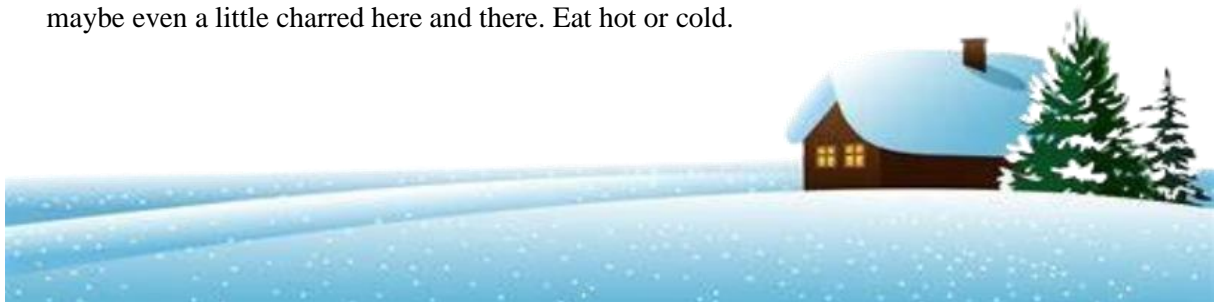


How to make roast ham

By Louis Younan

Method

1. Test the saltiness of your ham by slicing a small piece off the end and frying it in a little oil. If the ham is very salty, you will need to soak it for 12 hours in cold water, changing the water once. If your ham is quite salty, place the joint in a large pan, cover it with cold water, bring it to the boil. Drain and discard the cooking water.
2. Once the ham is ready to cook, put the joint into a large pan, cover with fresh cold water and add the leeks, onion, carrot, peppercorns, and bay leaves. Bring to the boil, cover with a lid then simmer the ham for about 20 minutes per 450g/1lb. To test that the ham is cooked, stick a cold skewer down into the centre of the ham and leave it for 10 seconds. Take it out and test it carefully against your lip. It should be piping hot.
3. Let the ham cool a little in its cooking liquid, then carefully lift it out and onto a board. (The liquid can be used as a delicious stock for split pea soup and other recipes.) Leave the ham to cool a little.
4. Using a small sharp knife, carefully cut the skin from the ham, leaving behind a good even layer of fat.
5. Score the fat into a diagonal criss-cross pattern with a sharp knife. The ham can now be chilled for up to two days, or you can bake it straight away.
6. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7.
7. Grind the coriander seeds in a pestle and mortar. In a bowl, mix the grated orange zest and sugars, then add the ground coriander seeds. Sift the mustard powder evenly over the ham, then scatter the sugar mixture over the work surface and roll the ham in the mixture to coat the fat. Push a clove into the centre of each diamond in the fat of the ham. Drizzle over the honey.
8. Cover the exposed end of the ham loosely with foil, securing it with a few toothpicks. Place the ham on a rack inside a roasting tin and bake the ham for 15 minutes until the glaze is sticky and crisp, maybe even a little charred here and there. Eat hot or cold.





Douglas GAA

Each Thursday morning we are very fortunate that Gavin from Douglas GAA joins us for Gaelic Football coaching. The children are equipped with their own gumshields from home and with boundless energy as Gavin ensures that the children complete a variety of drills and skill development.



Lego Club

Our Lego Club resumed following the summer break with much enthusiasm. As ever there is an emphasis on group creative projects with a focus on design, creativity and teamwork. This was especially evident this term as the children enthusiastically created models of Páirc Uí Chaoimh in advance of the Boys' & Girls' Football Sciath na Scol Final in early November. Their creativity even extended to creating a 'Lego team member,' in the SPN Team colours. It is always lovely to hear the buzz of discussion and activity as the children work on their projects.



Rang Gaeilge

With the support of SPN teachers, the children who attend Rang Gaeilge after school, have a lot of fun. The Rang Gaeilge children have great fun 'ag imirt cluichí, ag labhairt as Gaeilge, and there is great 'spraoi agus craic as Gaeilge'. At the end of a busy school day, it is always lovely to hear the happy laughter echoing down the school corridors.



Yard Play

The children at SPN enjoy their opportunities to play at yard time. This provides them with an opportunity to run, create imaginative games and constructions and sometimes simply to ‘hang out’ for a chat with a friend. Our senior pupils enjoy a range of activities throughout the week including basketball, football and free yard during their break times.



Sustainable Uniforms

Once again the SPN Parents Association organised Uniform Exchange during this term. This green initiative was hugely successful and a large number of SPN school uniforms and tracksuits were re-homed. Thank you to all those involved with organising the uniforms and for all those who continue to support us on our drive to be more sustainable.



Homework Club

The Homework Club is available to those from First Class, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, where the children are supported by our SPN teachers. The children receive encouragement and guidance whilst completing their homework, and they have an occasion to chat to their friends, and play some games before leaving for home at 3:10pm.



Chess Club Tournament

The SPN Chess Club opened its doors once again in early September with the support of the SPN teachers. The large group of students continue to develop their skills, whilst the new Chess Club members are learning a range of introductory skills. As the school term drew to a close, the children enjoyed participating in a ‘in – house’ Chess Tournament where they demonstrated their prowess and skills.



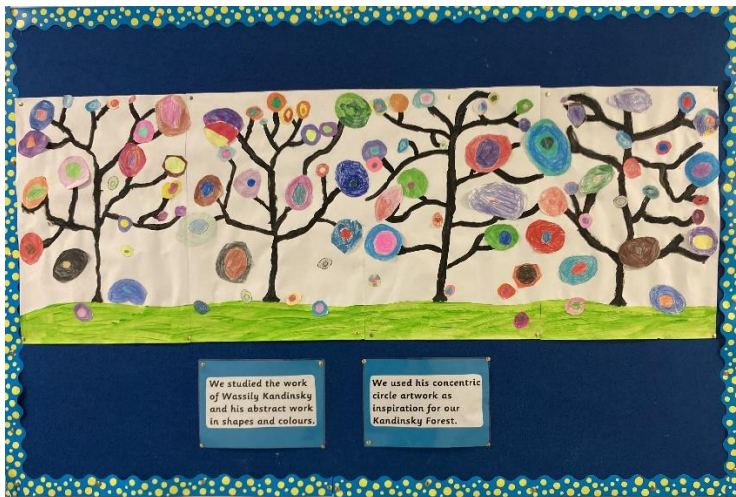
Parent Teacher Meeting

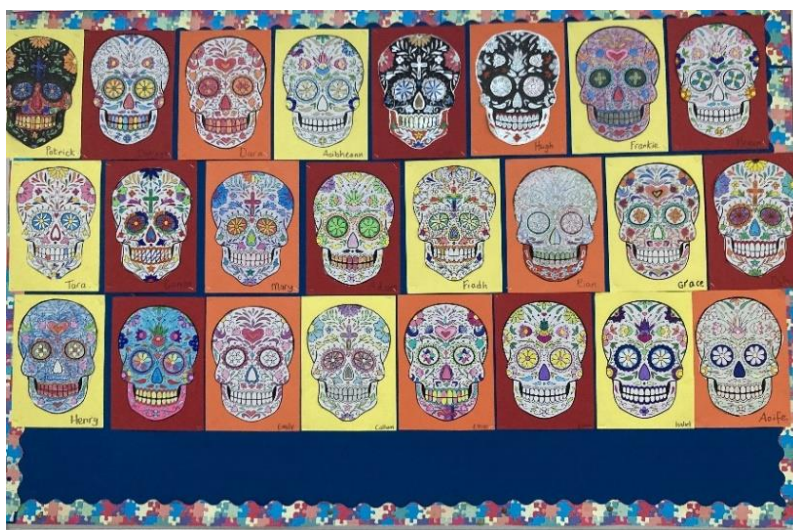
The middle of November heralded the arrival of our Parent Teacher meetings. It was an extremely busy few days at school preparing for these meetings, however the teachers enjoyed meeting with the parents of the children in their class. They always look forward to having an opportunity to share all the great efforts and work made by each individual child who they work with during each day.

Autumn Term Creativity

The children at Scoil Phádraig Naofa are provided with many opportunities to explore and develop their creative skills. These skills may be revealed in Drama and Role play, through the Visual Arts or in the creation of a ‘bespoke sandwich’.







They use a variety of materials to create and construct their amazing works of art. Their work involves planning, discussion and frequently a number of sequential steps as they evaluate and create their work. On occasion the children collaborate on pieces of creative art work.





No matter which form they may choose to express themselves creatively, it is clear that the children of SPN, enjoy the design, planning and creation process. Their art work is built upon connections with books and stories which they enjoy reading and sharing in class.





Marina Market and Hot Chocolate

On a rather wet Friday morning, some of our SPN pupils boarded a bus and journeyed to the Marina Christmas markets. Once there they, they joined the Silent Christmas Disco and had time to stroll among the Christmas stalls and finally they stopped to savor a mug of Hot Chocolate.

There were many tired yet happy faces as they arrived back to school with their friends and teachers.



Internet Safety

In our continued support of Safe Internet use, we welcomed Dr Maureen Griffin to school at the beginning of December. Dr Griffin met with pupils from Third to Sixth class for a number of interactive Internet Safety and Technology workshops. The children were very engaged with this topic and posed a wide variety of questions. Later that evening Dr Maureen Griffin met with the parent body to discuss the safety and appropriate use of Technology and the Internet.



Cork School of Music

The Cork School of Music visit SPN for after school class each Monday and Tuesday. Many of our pupils enjoy attending Music Bugs, and other music lessons with the teachers. As the festive season approached the musical notes of Christmas tunes echoed along the school hallways each Monday and Tuesday afternoon. Parents and families were treated to a special Musical celebration prior to the Christmas holidays where the

children demonstrated their musical skills We hope that all the parents enjoyed their special concert.



Science Week 2024

During the final weeks of November we celebrated Science Week at Scoil Phádraig Naofa. The children in all classes were provided with opportunities to engage in a variety of scientific experiments in their classrooms. We also visited the Science Fair which was held in the halla. The senior children displayed their work and provided practical demonstrations and explanations of their Science experiments.





During our November school Assembly, a cross section of science experiments were demonstrated to the entire school community. All the children and staff had a most enjoyable week. Thank you to all the SPN Science Squad, pupils and parents at home for all your assistance and encouragement.





Election 2024

Our doors closed for the General Election on November 29th. However prior to this, children in the senior classes had an opportunity to view the voting booths and the behind the scenes preparation before the big vote.



Christmas has Arrived !

As the final days of November dawned with its spell of chilly weather, SPN began its preparations for the festive season. With the assistance of many ‘helper elves’ our school was transformed into a Christmas wonderland. The children enjoy counting the stars hanging in the corridors, and pausing to gaze at the Christmas tree in the hallway. The children also stop to look at our beautiful Crib which is located at the front door of our school. Many thanks to everyone for sharing their energy to decorate our school for Christmas.



Christmas Show

The children in Fourth and Fifth Class travelled together to visit Douglas Community school during early December to enjoy their annual Christmas show. The children were treated to a production of “Robin the rich boys in the Hood”, which was a fun filled morning full of dramatics and laughter.

Nativity Rehearsals

As the tree was decorated and the stars were hung up about the school, the SPN Christmas Nativity rehearsals began in earnest! The children in all the classes worked with their teachers on their songs, actions and stage presence.



Meanwhile, our narrators met collectively to practice and to ‘read their lines’ in preparation for the big event. Over time the children became more relaxed and confident projecting their voice and incorporating that additional dramatic flair in their delivery. The children and staff were bubbling with excitement and enthusiasm as the big performance approached.



Christmas Nativity 2024

The day of the SPN Nativity dawned bright and clear. This is a very special school event that we all look forward to each year. It provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the Christmas story with all of our Scoil Phádraig Naofa family and community. The children skipped into St. Patrick’s Church with much enthusiasm and energy. Through their words, songs and actions they shared the Christmas message with all their family and friends. A huge thank to all the pupils, staff and parents of SPN who ensured that this was such a memorable occasion.



Christmas Box Appeal

A sincere thank you for your most generous support for the 2024 Christmas Box for Cork Appeal. Once again this year the children and families of SPN were very thoughtful and kind as we collected a mountain Christmas boxes. These incredible gifts, which included art & craft supplies, toys, pjs etc will provide much cheer and happiness to many children who are in need in Cork. This year our boxes of Christmas cheer will support the

Mahon Resource Centre and St. Vincent De Paul. Thank you.



Christmas Quiz

During our final week at school the children from Fourth to Sixth classes assembled in their teams for the annual Christmas SPN Quiz . This eagerly anticipated event is always filled with a sprinkling of healthy competition, much laughter and fun. The questions were based on a wide range of topics with prizes galore awarded to the winning team. Many thanks to all the organisers and Congratulations to the winning team.



We are all looking forward to Opening Night of 'A Hard Knock Life,' which will take place at 'The Everyman Theatre' June 24th 2025.



Au Revoir



As we bid a fond farewell to 2024 and all our wonderful memories we also reflect back on two members of our school teaching family who have left us this term.

In September Trish Coakley one of our invaluable Special Needs Assistants retired. Bean Uí Coakley, joined our school in 2015 and worked closely with the children and teachers in her care for the past nine years. She enjoyed working with pupils in classes First to Sixth during her time at SPN. Bean Uí Coakley helped to guide children in their learning in the classroom and when completing tasks in the carpet room. Bean Uí Coakley was a firm supporter of the benefits of listening to relaxation music in the carpet room and introduced a wide selection of music to our pupils.

We send our very best wishes and thanks for all her care, team work and support during her time at SPN.





Ms. Kingston

Ms. Kingston graduated as a Primary Teacher from Carysfort College in Dublin. During her early teaching career she taught in a variety of schools such as St. Josephs NS Mardyke and Scoil Naomh Iosaf, Riverstown, in the Cork area.

In 2008, as the primary schools across the country opened their doors for the new academic year, Ms. Kingston joined Inion Ní Bhaoill as they opened the doors of Scoil Phádraig Naofa for the very first time. On a bright sunny September morning, they welcomed the Junior Infant pupils to Scoil Phádraig Naofa.

In the successive years Ms. Kingston has taught children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class as both a class teacher and as an SET teacher. Ms. Kingston advocates for the children in her care and worked closely with her colleagues and with the SPN parent body.

As Ms Kingston prepares to leave us at this memorable time of year, it is fitting that she has one last opportunity to share her love of the festive season with her final class of children.

We wish to Thank Ms. Kingston for all her passion and dedication during her entire teaching career, and wish her Bon Voyage as she embarks on a new and exciting chapter of her life, from the entire Scoil Phádraig

Community. 



Love and Best Wishes for 2025 from all at SPN