



## Scoil Phádraig Naofa

Dear Parents,

I would like to take the opportunity to wish our entire school community a pleasant and happy Easter holidays. We look forward to a busy summer term, along with reflecting on such a successful year to date. I hope you all enjoy our school newsletter and get a feel for life in Scoil Phádraig Naofa for our young pupils.

I also wish to share with you the exciting news that our school will undergo expansion over the coming months, with the addition of two classrooms. These classrooms will enable us cater for all children with specific interests and talents across our school community. The school will be adding two special classes for autism. The staff and Board of Management are very excited with these additions, which is very much in line with our school ethos and mission statement as we endeavour to “offers our pupils a rich variety of opportunities so they can grow and develop their skills and talents in a warm and nurturing atmosphere.” Two classrooms in the main building will be reconfigured to accommodate 2 autism classes and 2 main stream classes will be accommodated in the modular building. Most of the construction work will take place in the summer holidays. However, we expect some initial work to take place over the months of May/June.

As you are aware our site is very tight. Should builders arrive on site during the May/June, traffic in the morning and afternoon may be affected. Any changes to our traffic management plan will be clearly communicated to all well in advance. It would be our hope that the majority of families will take the opportunity to walk to and from school over what will hopefully be summer weather conditions. In addition, we may not be able to provide parking for all our staff while the building work is in progress. We ask your understanding in this instance, in particular the understanding of the residents of Foxwood and Mount Oval. It will be short term and necessary to accommodate all our pupils.

As a school community we are proud to support the development of all our pupils recognising the talents and individual needs of each pupil.

I would also like to thank our immensely hard-working staff for all that they continue to do day in day out. The atmosphere they help create is what makes Scoil Phádraig Naofa so very special for the children here. Many thanks also to our Parents Association who have been extremely busy on our Easter Raffle, Grandparents Day, plans for upcoming Holy Communion and Graduation Ceremonies, along with a range of other items. I would also like to thank our Board of Management, whose help ensure our school continues to develop and achieve excellence in all that we do.

I hope the boys and girls take the opportunity to rest up, enjoy themselves and return to school rejuvenated and ready for our summer term. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday, April 29th.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Edward McCarthy (Príomhoide na Scoile)

### **Dates to remember:**

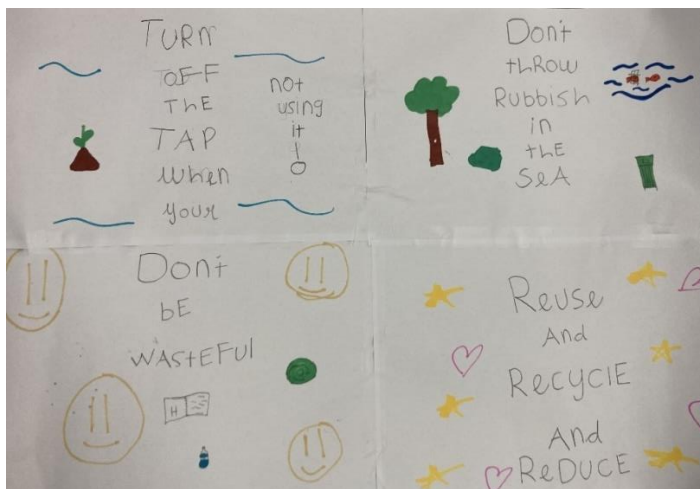
**School reopens at 8:30am on Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup>**

**First Holy Communion on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>**



### **What a beginning to the year!!!**

The new school began under a blanket of snow, ice and winter chills. Although SPN were very fortunate to escape much of the severe bad weather, nonetheless we worked together to ensure that all pupils, parents and staff arrived to and from school safely each day. Thank you to all staff who assisted with the ‘salting’ of the school grounds each morning and afternoon and to the parents for their support during the late opening times. The children arrived to school safely each morning and worked diligently alongside their teachers each day.



### **Sustainability in First Class**

Pupils in First Class held a class discussion surrounding the topic of Sustainability. As a result of their discussions in school, some children created the poster displayed above, which delivers a very powerful message. The children strongly believe that it is very important to save our environment and “we shouldn’t waste stuff and we wouldn’t throw stuff in the sea to harm the animals, and not to hurt anything in the environment”. Well done to all those involved !



## Rugby – First and Second Class

Our pupils in First and Second Class had the opportunity to engage in rugby training with our coach Gary, from the Munster Branch of Munster Rugby. The children gained experience in the basics of passing the ball backwards, kicking and catching, through a series of drills and skills development tasks. The children had great fun during these early morning workouts.



## Student Council

The Student Council of Scoil Phádraig Naofa is a busy and active group. They liaise with both their peers and teachers to identify and share ideas which will build upon the wonderful teaching and learning which occurs in our school. The student council meet regularly to discuss the items on their agenda and write up the meeting notes and construct an agreed “To Do List”.

The council currently has representatives from the senior classes, Fourth to Sixth Classes. This term and next will see opportunities for pupils from Second and Third Class to meet with teaching staff to present their ideas about the Student Council and how they can represent their peers and ‘voice’ their ideas to the wider team.

Our Student Council recently helped to organise and promote the SPN Friendship Week. They organised a fundraising event for the Cork First Responders, and next term they will meet the parents of our new Junior Infants 2025-26, when they come to visit SPN.



## School Activities

During our second school term at Scoil Phádraig Naofa, the children participated in various activities during the school day. These activities included a number of Zumba workshops with Rosalia, Irish Dancing with Kiely School of Dance, Rugby workshops, Cycle Right and visits from Engineering in a Box. Our after school activities continued to be immensely popular, these included Homework Club, Rang Gaeilge, Chess Club, Music Bugs, Irish Dancing, Crafty Kids, Karate, Club Spraoi, Lego Club and Tennis. It is always busy at home time as the children make their way excitedly to their various ‘clubs’, we would like to thank all those involved in organising, hosting and leading this varied selection of activities.



## Grandparents Day 2025



To celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2025, Third Class pupils welcomed VIP's (Very Important Person), their Grandparents, to Scoil Phádraig Naofa. Once the children had received some hugs from Granny and Grandad, the children performed a number of songs and poems.



The children and their Grandparents engaged in a lively Question and Answer session, the children showed their Grandparents many of our classroom resources, for example, the Cozy Corner, the Interactive Whiteboard and explained all about 'Dojo Points'. In turn their Grandparents recollected about their days in school and shared their stories with the class. They all had fun comparing notes of school now and then.

In advance of their visit the children in Third Class had created an array of beautiful art work which included 'A Family Tree' of each family and 'Thank You' posters for their Grandparents.



After the excitement and fun of the classroom, our important guests retired for tea, coffee and a chat in the halla. We were extremely fortunate that so many Grandparents came to visit us on the day, and both the children and the teaching staff thoroughly enjoyed listening to the chat and stories.



## LEGO Club

Our after school LEGO Club expanded its doors to include pupils from Senior Infants this term. They were very excited to join with their older peers as they created a Marble Maze and used LEGO bricks to create their own name.

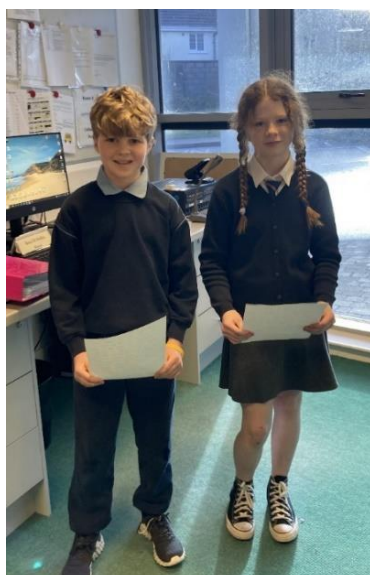
Our pupils from First – Third Class worked together on a number of projects which explored and developed their team building, creativity and imagination skills.



## Friendship Week

In the days before our February mid-term, SPN, joined together to honour 'Friendship Week 2025'. The children discussed and learned many aspects of this topic, e.g. "What it means to be a good friend", "What is Friendship? "How to listen to your friend". The children listened to friendship themed stories on Storyline Online and with a variety of PowerPoint presentations which focused on the topic.

Our Second class pupils were very busy creating and displaying our Friendship Garden which is displayed at the front door of the school. There was great excitement on Friday 14th February when the children were invited to wear pink and red clothes to school to continue to celebrate our Friendship theme.



Throughout the week, pupils from the Student Council shared our whole school Friendship message via the school intercom.

The children made friendship bracelets with the help of their Buddies from the senior classes. They used colourful beads, charms and letters to spell out their names on their bracelet design.



*Concentration and focus is the name of the game*



Some Buddies and their friends had fun with shared reading and looked at the Mr Men and Little Miss books. All of the children really enjoy working with and seeing their buddy around the school.

Some of the senior pupils noted that they have “bonded with them” and they “can see buddies becoming chattier”

One of our activities which we carried out during this week, involved asking the children the following two questions

**What is Friendship?**

**Friendship is...**

We gathered an amazing array of posters and quotations from the pupils and displayed these around the school. We have included some of these explanations on the following page.



# What is Friendship?

## Friendship is...

Be kind to  
one another



Love

Friends are always  
there for you no  
matter what

Loyalty

Friends  
stick  
together

kindness

the greatest  
power of all

Someone who is  
always there for  
me

Friendship is  
being kind and  
helping others

Funny

Being  
kind

Friendship  
wins !

Being there for  
them when they  
need you

Never  
tell a lie

Friendly

Friend are  
like stars that  
shine brightly

A friend is  
someone  
who is funny

Caring about  
others

Thoughtful



### Love is in the air -Valentine Art

As we approached the middle of February, the hallways were decorated with hearts and love as we celebrated St. Valentine's Day.





## Tennis Competition

The Scoil Phádraig Naofa Tennis Team came through their series of matches recently. They met a number of schools, St. Michaels, Mallow NS and Dromahane NS. Following their success they are now preparing for their Semi- final match of the Munster Green Ball Tennis Competition, against Saleen NS after the Easter break. Best of luck to all the team, their coaches and families.



## Monastery Building

As part of their History studies this term, Fifth Class examined the topic of Monasteries in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. They used this knowledge to recreate and build a Monastery from that time. The children worked collaboratively to design and build the many key features of the Irish Monastery such as, the Round Tower, Church, high walls, cells etc. The children labelled the main features of the monastery to help the other children to learn about the buildings.



As we know from our History, the high walls were used to protect the monks from Vikings and other raiders. The model was perhaps the inspiration behind the Viking drawing as completed by a First Class pupil, - it is great to see how children from all classes can share in the learning process.



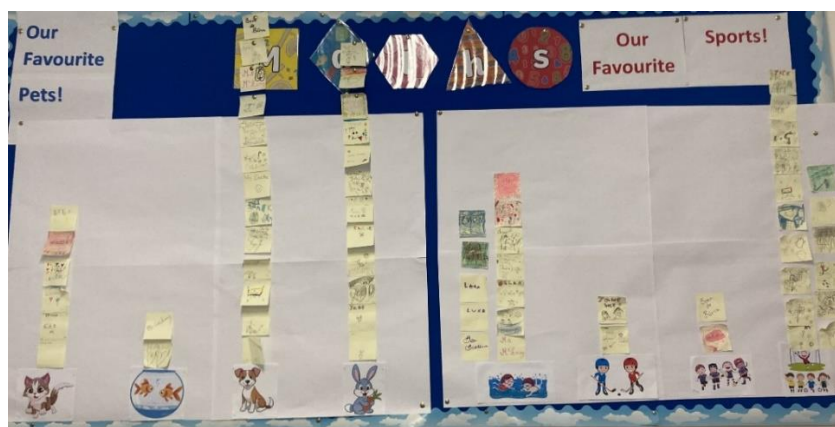
## History Projects

Fifth Class then jumped on several centuries to the Irish Famine of 1847. Here they constructed examples of the key symbols of the Irish Famine, the small home where the poor people lived, with their thatched roof and small pieces of land. This was in sharp contrast to the grand home of the wealthy landowners with their large gardens and abundance of food. Finally the children constructed a Famine Ship which carried people to various countries around the world e.g. England, America in search of a better life. Congratulations to all those in Fifth class for bringing our shared history to life.



## Maths in Action

At Scoil Phádraig Naofa we promote active hands on learning whenever possible so that children can learn process and channel their 'book learning' into real life experiences. With this in mind, it was great to see the pupils from Third Class actively involved measuring the corridors using non standard measures, i.e. pencils. There was a lot of focus and concentration which was peppered by giggles and crawling, as the children brought "Maths to life and making it real".



Meanwhile the pupils in Senior Infants were busy collecting information to construct their pictogram. They focused on two different topics, ‘Our Favourite Pets’ and ‘Our Favourite Sports’. This ‘hands on’ interactive activity provided much discussion, the use of mathematical language and the display and analysis of results, whilst also providing a lot of fun and laughter.



### It's a Hard Knock Life Update

There has been much work carried out behind the scenes as we prepare for our musical extravaganza, “It’s a Hard Knock Life” at the end of June. Parents, staff and pupils are busily gathering and storing costumes and stage props, whilst the cast rehearse their lines and movement across the stage.

Although it is several weeks away, from experience we all know that, ‘practice makes perfect’ for the cast while the back stage crew focus on ‘preparation’, ‘preparation’! These two vital ingredients are sure to make June 24<sup>th</sup> an exciting and enjoyable night.

The tickets for “It’s a Hard Knock Life” went on sale at The Everyman on Friday last, so to avoid any disappointment we encourage you to purchase your tickets early.

Best of Luck to all our performers, back stage crew, staff and parents with your preparations.



### Artistic and creative delights at SPN

Our pupils really enjoy all opportunities to engage in artistic activities. Although some of the lessons may be the same, the children have the chance to develop and reveal their creative ideas, flair and individuality.



## Chess Tournament

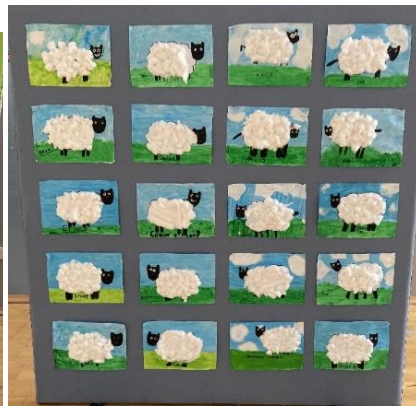
A large team from SPN travelled to Star of the Sea, Passage to represent our school at the Chess Tournament in mid-March. Our pupils met with a number of other local schools which included, St. Lukes ( Douglas), Star of the Sea (Passage), etc.

The team were excited to display their Chess skills and to show their team work, focus and concentration as they competed in each match.



The team agreed that you can feel quite “nervous for your first match...when you win your matches you feel more confident”. At the close of the tournament, SPN was very well placed, and we were awarded a certificate of participation. Congratulations to everyone!!





## First Confession 2025

Our Second Class pupils received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in early March this year. Once again we were very fortunate that Rev. Pat O'Mahony, the Very Rev Canon Teddy O'Sullivan and Fr. Pat Stevenson joined us for the special occasion. The children's preparation for their First Confession, was supported by their parents and teachers as they learned their prayers, songs and created some art work. We look forward to joining with them and their families on May 10<sup>th</sup>, when they will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Thank you to all those who made it such a lovely occasion.



## Spring is Here!!

At last the Spring sunshine arrived and with it a "host of daffodils". A number of children from our Junior and Senior Infants planted Daffodil blubs in those cold days of Winter. They have watered the blubs and kept a caring eye on them for the last number of weeks and with great results as the bright yellow daffodils truly lift the spirit.

Meanwhile pupils in First Class, Room 9, put pencil and crayon to paper to create their own Delightful Daffodil drawings. Well done to our keen gardeners and artists!!





## Engineering in a Box

Fifth class pupils were joined by Brian and Kieran over a series of weeks for Engineering in a Box. The children learned about Environmental Engineering and renewable energy. They used a range of everyday objects such as cardboard, popsicle sticks and pipe cleaners in their constructions.

One of our students in Fifth class has provided additional information on their activities below.

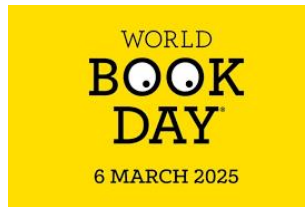
### *Engineering in a Box*

*An article by Dominic Murray 5th*

Everybody in room seven fifth class have been doing a thing called engineering in a box. Aka STEAM. We do engineering in a box for ten weeks. STEAM is about engineering, so let me tell you about what we did at engineering in a box!

For the one of the weeks, we made boats that float in water! The next week we made a marble run, the theme was a sweet factory, and that involved a lot of teamwork. Another week we made buildings out of paper which involved creativity and it was very fun. One of the activities we did was the wind turbine, to learn about how to harness wind energy. The last lesson that we did was how to make a water lake with cities, farms and dams. It showed us how to filter river water!

In conclusion I think it would be good if the whole senior end of the school should do engineering in a box.



## World Book Day at SPN 2025

On Friday, March 7th, the children were invited to join their friends and teachers to celebrate World Book Day 2025. The children were invited to dress up as their favourite character from a book which they have read. Some children decided not to dress up, however, they were very creative and imaginative in the selection of their key item or symbol which represented their book of choice. There was a wide variety of costumes and book titles which included both fiction and non-fiction books.



Some children made their own costumes with the help of their family, whilst others met with their fellow book characters in school on the day. The teachers also got into the spirit of the day with their costumes.

Despite the cool temperatures on the day, the entire school participated in the Book Costume Parade which was held in the yard. As the morning progressed, a number of students took to the SPN 'airwaves' as they spoke about their favourite books on the school Intercom.



Other activities included DEAR Time (Drop Everything and Read), and Buddy book reading. This was particularly popular as the children love spending time with their Buddy from the Senior or Junior Class.

Our pupils in Sixth Class were fortunate to take part in a zoom discussion with Screenwriter David Gleeson, whose nieces and nephews attend SPN. The children had an opportunity to discuss and ask David a variety of questions about his creative role in writing a script(s) for the ‘big screen’.



*Joint Winners of the “Decorate your Classroom Door” competition*

Traditionally in the days prior to World Book Day, each class decides upon a book title and decorates their classroom door to resemble the book cover. This year we added a competitive element with the Classroom Door Competition. Once again we had an array of wonderful and creative book titles displayed around the school. This year we had joint winners of the competition, Room 13 and Room 14, our pupils in Fourth Class.



*Some of the other amazing examples of the “Decorate your Classroom Door” competition*

Finally each child returned home from their exciting World Book Day celebrations with a National Book Token (€1.50) to be used towards the purchase of a book.

## Sciath na Scol

Our Sciath na Scol season got off to a promising start and good weather. The boys and girls SPN Sciath na Scol teams played a number of other school teams, Scoil Nioclais, Ballinora NS and Inishannon NS.



Both of our teams developed their skills through their training and on the field experience. They demonstrated resilience, teamwork and continued to encourage their team even when the 'match' did not go in their favour.

This year our season drew to a close early, despite our huge efforts, but we continue to look back on the happy memories of our 2025 season. Congratulations to all the team, their coaches, parents and supporters.





## Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025



The month of March arrived and with it came Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025. This provides us with opportunities to celebrate our Irish language and culture. The children created wonderful colourful displays in our classrooms and hallways. They enjoyed “Cairde ag Léamh” (*Buddy Reading*) and our senior classes, Rang 3 - 6, met together in the halla for our annual Cluiche Biongo.



Children from many different classes around the school, once again took to the airwaves for Radio SPN, to share Nuacht (*news*), Aimsir (*weather*) agus Rabhlóga (*tongue twisters*) each morning.



Meanwhile our pupils in Fourth class illustrated the “Seanfhocail timpeall na háite” which explained and illustrated the meaning of these wise words to their fellow pupils.



One of our final events for our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations, our Lá Glas (*Green Day*) agus Mórshúil (*Parade*) took part on a bright sunny morning in the yard. There was a lovely buzz of excitement and friendship.



The children proudly paraded around the yard agus ag rince le do chairde ar an gclós (*danced with their friends in the yard*).



### Confirmation 2025

Our Sixth Class pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation on the final day of March at St. Patrick's Church, in the presence of their parents and families. The wonderful singing voices of the Fifth Class Choir joined with the Sixth Class pupils ensured that this was a truly beautiful event.

A sincere thank you to Bishop John Buckley and Rev. Pat O'Mahony, the teachers and staff from Scoil Phádraig Naofa and to the parents, for all their help and support in making this such a joyous occasion.



### Out and About

On a bright April morning that saw our Fifth class students and their teachers ventured off on an excursion to Rochestown Park Hotel, to enjoy "The Wizard of Oz". The production was performed by the students from Regina Mundi, some of whom attended SPN many years ago. They all enjoyed the adventures of Dorothy and her companions on the day and perhaps provided some dramatic inspiration for our own upcoming musical "It's a Hard Knock Life".



### 5th Class Cycle Right

It was a beautiful Spring morning when the Cycle Right Team arrived at Scoil Phádraig Naofa. Our pupils in Fifth Class joined their instructors in a cycling workshop which was conducted over 5 sessions. The children studied areas such as bike safety, the mechanics of the bicycle and cycling and most importantly the Rules of the Road. The pupils will complete their final workshop following the Easter Holidays, which will see them 'take to the road' as they cycle around Foxwood. Happy Cycling and Congratulations to all !



### Creative Pursuits

The children in First Class recently engaged in a multi-step art project using design, clay and paint. The children carefully used a number of techniques such as ‘pinching’, ‘rotating’ and ‘smoothing or scraping’ the coil of clay onto its base. Once the clay dried, the children had an opportunity to further reveal their individual artistic originality through their use of colour and design. Well done to everyone in First Class.



### Easter Raffle 2025

Once again our Parents Association worked untiringly to organise our annual Easter Raffle. There is always a great buzz in school when the raffle tickets are distributed and this excitement reaches fever pitch along the hallways on the morning of the raffle.

This year thanks to your generosity, we raised an outstanding total in excess of €10,000, this will be used on range of exciting school projects. The annual Easter Raffle is one of our main fundraising events of the school year at SPN.

We send our special thanks and appreciation to our Parent Association, to those who provided prizes, sponsorship and to all those who purchased tickets.

Congratulations to all those lucky winners!