

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

I hope you are well.

### **Board of Management 2023-2027**

Many thanks to the parents who put themselves forward for the new Board of Management and to the wider parent body for engaging with the process. Alf Gregg and Kate Currid were elected as Parent Nominees. I look forward to working with you both in the near future.

My sincere thanks to our out-going Parent Nominees, Olga Lang and Mick Kennedy, for their time, contribution to board discussions and help with the overall running of the school over the last four years. I greatly appreciate all of your support and advice, and, the fun that was had along the way.

My thanks also to our Patron's nominee, Trina Phillips, to our teacher nominee, Johanna Doherty, and, to our two community nominees, Áine Kilfeather and Barry Cannon. We greatly appreciate the expertise and wealth of knowledge that you brought to the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Molaise over the last four years.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

### **Festive Fun - Dates for the Diary!**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Class</b>
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> December	1:10pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Class (Mr Coyle, Ms Harvey & Ms Gallagher)
Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Carol Singing at Mowlam Nursing Home (Mr Connolly and Ms Johnston's classes)
	1:00pm	Junior Infants
	1:30pm	Senior Infants
Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1:10pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Class (Ms Bredin)
Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December	1:10pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Class
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December	1:10pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class
	2:00pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class (Ms Burnside & Ms O'Rourke)
	7:00pm	Christmas Carol Service in the Church (4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Classes participating) – School & Wider Community all welcome.

Mr Connolly's and Ms Johnston's classes will be bringing some festive cheer to **St John's Hospital** on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks to Simon Foley who is running a bus for free.

**Christmas Jumper Day** takes place on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils are encouraged to dress up in festive colours (please do not buy anything new for this). This will be a fundraiser for a local charity. More details closer to the time.

### **Internet Safety / Anti-Cyberbullying Presentations**

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes will receive a 90 minute presentation on Internet Safety / Anti-Cyberbullying from Ger Brick on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**There will be a Parent/Guardian Information Evening - Internet Safety / Anti-Cyberbullying with Ger Brick on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm. We strongly encourage a parent/guardian from every family to attend. Ger will deliver the presentation remotely. Parents/Guardians are welcome to gather in the school if they wish or to join online from home using the zoom link below. Please find attached more details about the presentation.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86786105232?pwd=OUE0NWVtNVVHTG5tV3JGa2ZkVGtmdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 8610 5232

Passcode: 347347

### **New Primary Maths Curriculum**

The new Primary Maths Curriculum was distributed to schools recently. This current school year, schools will have to familiarise themselves with the curriculum and implementation will begin in September 2024. A suite of supports has been outlined by the Department of Education. Mr Connolly and Ms O'Connor attended a one-day seminar in Sligo Education Centre in October. There will be a school closure later in the year to allow all teachers to attend training; this date has not been given to our school yet. We will give parents/guardians as much notice as possible.

### **Languages Connect**

We were successful in our application to be part of the Languages Connect Programme this year. After Christmas, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils will receive instruction in Irish Sign Language for one hour per week for 8 weeks. This is a wonderful way to not only learn a new language but also to develop a greater appreciation for diversity and to promote inclusion. Brigid O'Connor (a parent) is a qualified ISL tutor and will be teaching our pupils. This programme is fully funded by the DES.

### **Creative Schools**

Creative Schools is a flagship of the Creative Youth plan – led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Departments of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media , Education & Skills and Children & Youth Affairs.

*Creative Schools* aims to give children the opportunity to experience creativity as an integral part of their education placing the arts and creativity at the centre of school life. Each school is supported by a Creative Associate who develops an individual school plan, and creates and strengthens links between the school and arts and cultural organisations. The long term aim is that every school will be able to fully embrace the arts and creativity, ensuring a positive experience and strong outcomes for children.

It is well recognised that engagement in the arts can nurture a child's sense of confidence and well-being. Creative activity also enables communication and collaboration, stimulates imaginations and harnesses curiosity; all necessary skills required for successful learning. The initiative recognises that schools play an important role in providing opportunities for children to participate in arts and culture and doing so, also develop socio-emotional wellbeing, cognitive development and positive attitudes towards school.

We will engage with the Creative Schools initiative over the next four years. Our Creative Associate is Fiona McGeown. She has already lead an initial workshop with 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes and has helped us to establish our Arts Council. Our sincere thanks to Aideen Bruen for preparing the application on behalf of our school and to Jacky Burnside who will lead the Creative Schools Initiative in our school. We look forward to bringing you more news soon!

### **Swimming Lessons**

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes will begin a 6 week course of swimming lessons in January as part of the P.E. Curriculum. The Parents Association will cover the cost of the lessons and parents will be asked to pay for the bus. A payment link will be available on Aladdin in the coming days. We appreciate that this is a very costly time of year for families so payment can be made in instalments at a time that is convenient for each family.

### **Science Week 2023**

As it the tradition in our school, 4<sup>th</sup> classes took part in the ATU Science Fair during Science Week. This year's theme was 'human' and there were projects created on the circulatory system, the respiratory system, the senses, muscular system, nervous system etc. The children learned so much about the human body as well as developing their oral language skills, presentation skills, the ability to answer questions posed to them by visitors to their exhibit etc. The whole school enjoyed the opportunity to look at the projects at our own Science Fair in the school hall. Many thanks to Mr Ownie Coyle, Ms Camilla Harvey and Ms Niamh Gallagher for facilitating our participation at this year's ATU Science Fair.

1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes were lucky to avail of the free Heritage in Schools Workshops as part of Science week back in October. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> classes completed the Seatrails workshop learning about archaeology, the marine environment and costal heritage, while 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes took part in a Junior Citizen Scientific Workshop with Martina Butler.

### **Policy Review**

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management, the following policies were reviewed:

- Attendance Strategy Statement
- Aquatics Policy

Please find attached a copy of both policies.