



# Scoil Naomh Molaise

## Nuachtlitir

14ú Meitheamh 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

I hope you are keeping well.

What we thought would be a long final term on account of Easter being so early this year, has been quite the opposite! The last term has flown by. It has been an incredible few weeks of learning with lots of fun for good measure!

This week saw many classes go on their school tours and S.E.S.E. Fieldtrips – visiting Carrowmore and climbing Knocknarea (6<sup>th</sup>), Zip-It and Jump Zone (4<sup>th</sup>), Shannon Adventure Centre (3<sup>rd</sup>), Hawks Well Theatre and Sligo Library (1<sup>st</sup>), Lough Key Forest Part and Jump Zone (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Lurgybrack Farm (1<sup>st</sup>).

Our sincere thanks to you all for supporting these school tours for without your financial contribution, we would not be able to run these special and memorable events.

### **Congratulations**

Huge congratulations to our girls' football team on reaching the final of the Cumann na mBunscol Shield Competition yesterday. The girls worked hard against a strong Scoil Ursula team in the match played in Tubbercurry. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be our day on this occasion but the girls left with their heads held high, making us all very proud. Maith sibh! Go raibh míle maith agat to Mr Hallissy and everyone who has helped our school teams this year.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Class Field Trip**

2nd Class went on a very enjoyable field trip to Sligo Library and Museum and the Barnaribbon Forest Walk. This was part of the SESE curriculum. The children were able to explore their historical, cultural and natural environment.

### **End of Year Reports**

The finishing touches are being put to the school reports! The reports will be shared with parents via Aladdin next week. If you have any difficulty accessing Aladdin or your child's report, please get in touch with me. Teachers are available next week to discuss the reports should you have any concerns or questions. Please contact the teacher via Aladdin to set up a phone call or a meeting.

## **Schoolbooks Grant**

In recognition of the cost of preparing children for the return to primary school each September, the Minister for Education has announced additional funding to provide free schoolbooks, including workbooks and copybooks, for the school year 2024/2025. This scheme will eliminate the cost to parents of providing these resources. Funding is being provided directly to primary schools by the Department to implement the scheme and schools have responsibility for providing schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks to all children at the start of the school year. All schoolbooks will remain the property of the school so that books can be reused in future years. Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to children for the duration of the 2024/2025 school year and must be returned to school at the end of the school year. Parents are requested to remind their children to take care of their books and keep them in good condition during the year. It is not permitted to write on textbooks unless the class teacher directs otherwise.

There will be some related classroom resources that are not covered by the scheme, i.e. pencils, pens, colouring materials, whiteboard markers, pritt stick etc. Additional details on what items parents will need to supply for the return to school in September 2024 will be communicated to parents before we break for the summer holidays.

## **School Requisites**

Unfortunately, the schoolbooks grant of €80 per pupil (reduced from €96 last year) will not stretch as far as we would all like it to. Therefore, as has been the tradition in our school, we are asking parents for a contribution of €30 per child for art & craft materials and photocopying.

Accelerated Reader, set up by Ms Redahan, has been very well received in our school for almost five years now and teachers, pupils and parents recognise the positive impact the programme has on pupils' attitude to and ability in reading. Accelerated Reader is a graded reading programme tailored to the individual needs of pupils. Pupils complete an online quiz to assess their understanding of a book and progress to higher levels, more challenging material according to their own pace. We hope to run this programme next year in 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes but we require an €8 contribution from parents to maintain our subscription.

A payment link for school requisites will be available on Aladdin in due course. *We deeply appreciate your support through the school requisites.*

## **Pupil Personal Insurance (Optional)**

I will be sending you some information on the Pupil Personal Insurance Scheme. This insurance policy provides you with 24 hour cover for your child, 365 days per year. It is very good value at €9 per child. It is entirely optional for parents/guardians. Please note that you DO NOT need to return the form that I will email to you, I am sending it solely for your information. If you wish to avail of the pupil personal insurance, please pay the cost via Aladdin - we already have all the details that are required on that form so hence there is no reason to return it to the school.

In the event that you need to make a claim on this policy in future, please contact the school for the relevant forms.

## **School Uniform**

A reminder that our school uniform consists of our navy crested jumper, navy tracksuit bottoms and a **grey** polo t-shirt. The school tracksuit can be ordered from <https://schoolwearhouse.ie/product-category/scoil-naomh-molaise/>

Children are welcome to wear a grey skirt, pinafore or trousers with the crested jumper, if they wish.

If the weather gets very warm, pupils may wear **knee-length, navy shorts** in a similar material to their tracksuit bottoms. These can be purchased from Dunnes, Penneys, Tesco etc. If your child has outgrown their school tracksuit bottoms or the knees are beyond repair, it is acceptable to turn these into shorts for the summer term.

Only the shorts mentioned above are acceptable. **No other type of shorts are permissible (i.e. football shorts, denim shorts, tight fitted shorts etc. are not appropriate and not allowed in school).**

**We have accumulated a lot of lost property (jumpers & coats) and donated uniforms. Parents are welcome to come into the school between 9-10am and 2-3pm on Tuesday & Wednesday of next week and hopefully, we can find homes for these items.**

### Coming up next week...

- ❖ Monday 17<sup>th</sup>
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Class Drama Performance** at 1:30pm in our school hall. Parents/Guardians are most welcome to attend.
  
- ❖ Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Class Tour** to the Connacht Dome for fun and games with Just 4 Fun School Tours.
  - Our girls' team will compete in the **Cumann na mBunscol Camogie Finals** against Carraroe N.S. on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 4:30pm at St Mary's GAA Grounds.
  - Our boys' team will compete in the **Cumann na mBunscol Hurling Finals** against Ballymote N.S. on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 6:15pm at St Mary's GAA Grounds.
  
- ❖ Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>
  - **6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation** takes place beginning with a prayer service in the Church and moving to the school hall for refreshments and entertainment provided by our Graduates.
  
- ❖ Thursday
  - **4<sup>th</sup> Class Sponsored Walk** – Marie's 200km in aid of Sligo Cancer Support Centre. As you know Marie was a dear colleague of ours who passed away last October. The children have been training for this event and are seeking sponsorship. Your support for this very worthy cause is much appreciated.
  
- ❖ Friday
  - **Junior and Senior Infants Tour** to Castle Adventure Farm in Ballyshannon.

### Items the school was asked to share with parents

- **Traditional Music** - Knocklane Traditional Festival is taking place this weekend 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June in Maugherow. This is the flagship event in your local comhaltas branch, Benbulbin Comhaltas, promoting music, song, dance and language. There are FREE events aimed at children of all ages to come and trial a range of instruments including for the first year the Harp, Guitar and Drum workshop led by the current All Ireland Champion, Amy Cullen. There is also a beginner workshop

for Bodhran, with a limited number of bodhrans available on the day. All bookings through Eventbrite (pay on the day, cash only and places limited so don't be disappointed!).

- **GAA** - Children attending the Sligo v Limerick match on Saturday, June 15th at 5pm and/or the Armagh v Galway match on Sunday, June 16th at 1:45pm are welcome to bring a ball for a kick around on the Markievicz Pitch at half time. At the end of games, children are also welcome on the pitch to get autographs from the players.
- **Basketball** - Atlantic Eagles, Sligo's newest basketball club are taking expressions of interest from players of all ages and experience that might be interested in joining for 2024-2025 season starting in September. Link: <https://bit.ly/AE-Expression-Of-Interest> Atlantic Eagles will be running taster sessions over the summer and will be advertised on Facebook and Instagram very soon. If you have any questions or would like to talk about the new club, please contact Jordon Cummins on 0874114975.
- **Basketball** – Sligo All Stars are running free basketball classes for girls in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes for the few Wednesday afternoons at Mercy College in Sligo. Leaflet attached.

### **Summer Holidays**

As is the tradition in our school, we will finish with a half day on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June. In the interest of safety, we will need to stagger dismissals at home-time.

#### *Junior and Senior Infants:*

Junior and Senior Infants can be collected from their usual collection point (red building) at **11:45am**.

#### *1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes:*

Children who are normally collected at 2:40pm (group 1) will finish at **11:50am** and must be collected from their usual collection point at the back of the school.

Children who are normally collected at 2:50pm (group 2) will finish at **12pm** and must be collected from their usual collection point.

The school buses are operating on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and have been notified of the half day.

With the building work expected to be finished very soon, we anticipate that this is the end of the staggered dismissals. We appreciate your patience, support and understanding over the course of the last year in this regard. We look forward to using our new facilities in September and seeing our yard returned to its former glory!

Have a lovely weekend.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Louise O'Connor

Príomhoide