



Scoil Naomh Molaise

Nuachtlitir

30ú Meán Fómhair 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

Welcome back to everyone in our school community after the summer break. It is hard to believe we have reached the end of our first month already! We have had a great start to the school year. A very warm welcome to all our new pupils and parents who have joined us here in Scoil Naomh Molaise. We hope that you will have many exciting and enriching experiences during your time at our school. Tá fáilte romhaibh go léir.

Dátaí don Fhéilire/ Dates for the Diary

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Mid Term Break | Monday 28th Oct. – Friday 1st Nov. |
| Parent Teacher Meetings | Wed 20th and Thurs 21st November. |
| Christmas Holidays | Closing: Fri 20th December, 2024 Reopening: Monday 6th January, 2025 |
| Confirmation | Thursday, 1st May, 2025 |
| First Communion | Saturday 10th May, 2025 |

New Pupils

Our 31 Junior Infants have settled very quickly into their new surroundings, and Ms Cox and Caroline are helping to make it as smooth a transition as possible. We are all enjoying getting to know the new members of our school community.

Further up the school, eight new pupils have joined us this year. We welcome Conor Hernon and Molly Duffy (Senior Infants), Cody Watters, Edith Currid and Oisín Currid (1st class), Pearl Currid (2nd class), Ryan Duffy (4th class) and Aaron Duffy (5th class). Fáilte romhaibh go léir.

School Requisites

Thank you to everyone who has paid the school requisites (art/craft and photocopying etc.) and pupil insurance. If you have not done so already, please pay this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Pupil Absences

A reminder that a note must be furnished in the event of your child being absent for any reason. The

reason for absence should be recorded on Aladdin. Parents are reminded that under the provisions of the Education Welfare Act (2000), all school principals are obliged by law to inform the authorities in the case of any pupil who misses 20 or more days during the school year, for any reason. Missing time from school is a significant factor in educational performance. **Pupils, however, should not be in school if they are unwell.**

Parent-Teacher Communication

If you wish to meet your child's teacher, you are asked to make an appointment. An appointment system ensures that teaching is not interrupted and that classes are not left unsupervised. Day-to-day communication with the teacher can be made through Aladdin. Formal parent-teacher meetings will be held in November. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 071 9163419 if you need to get a message to your child or his/her teacher urgently.

Lunches

Pupils are encouraged to eat nutritious food and their lunches should be as healthy as possible. One small treat is allowed on a Friday only.

Please note that our school is a 'nut-free zone'. Due to the very serious nature of the allergies of some of our pupils, nuts and products that contain nuts are not permitted in the school.

Birthday Party Invitations

We kindly ask that party invitations are not distributed in school.

Sports News

- SuperValu Athletics Fest: The annual SuperValu Primary Schools Athletics Fest took place at the Atlantic Technological University on Thursday 26th September. 40 children represented our school on the day, and despite the inclement weather, a fun day was had by all. We had some success with our Senior Girls 4x100m team coming third in their final, while Oran Dolan got second place in the Senior Boys 200m. Maith sibh, a pháistí.
- Co Sligo Cross Country: also took place recently at Rathcormac NS. On a lovely sunny day, 34 participants represented our school with distinction. Well done to all who took part, and congratulations to Oran Dolan who qualified for the Connacht Cross Country.
- Mini Sevens: Our Senior girls and boys took part in the first round of the Mini Sevens football competition recently, playing against Rosses Point and Cliffoney NS. Unfortunately, our boys were defeated by Rosses Point, but the girls won both of their games and now progress to Round 2 which will take place next week. Congratulations also to Dillon Watters and Zoe Walsh who progressed to the next round in the Place Kicking Competition, held on the same day as the Mini Sevens.

School Mass/Hospice Coffee Morning

A special mass to begin the new school year took place last week, followed by a coffee morning in aid of the North West Hospice. It was lovely to have some parents and grandparents join us for these events and the amount raised for the Hospice was €191.20.

Music Generation

We are delighted to be involved with Music Generation again this year. Gavin will be teaching 6th class to play the guitar. This project has always been very well received in our school in the past and is highly commended by our teachers.

No Mobile Phones – a reminder that Mobile Phones are strictly forbidden in Scoil Naomh Molaise. Please do not allow your child to bring a device into school.

Administration of Medicine forms were distributed to the relevant pupils recently. Please return to your child's teacher, if you have not already done so.

Safety Issues

Please note the following points which will ensure that everyone can approach/leave our school in a safe manner.

- Use the playground car park and cross carefully at the traffic lights.
- **Do not park in the bus area/staff parking area in front of the school**
- Please exercise extreme caution when dropping children at the rear of the school as this is the staff parking area and thus poses a danger to small children entering/exiting the school.
- The school gates will be opened at 9am. Children are not permitted access to the school grounds before 9am. Children will walk directly to their classroom once they arrive at school.

Green Schools Initiative – Hand towels

In an effort to reduce the amount of blue tissue paper used in our school, the Green School Committee have asked that all children bring their own hand towel in their schoolbags to dry their hands throughout the day. A facecloth is the perfect size and can be stored in a small reusable bag. We started implementation of this initiative last week, and many children have already started to bring in their own hand towel. We are hoping that everyone will be on board within the next week or two!

Playground Fundraiser

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful playground in such close proximity to our school. For over 13 years, children from Scoil Naomh Molaise have enjoyed the amenities of our local playground. We are extremely appreciative of the ongoing efforts of the playground committee who voluntarily give freely of their time to ensure the maintenance and development of the playground for the benefit of our community and those who visit North Sligo.

As you can imagine, the ongoing maintenance and insurance costs is a considerable challenge for the playground committee. Every year, our school endeavours to hold a fundraiser in aid of the playground. Unfortunately, that did not happen last year due to other charitable commitments, so this year, we would like your help to make this fundraiser the biggest and best yet, and it couldn't be easier!

Over the next 10 weeks, each class at Scoil Naomh Molaise will be asked to gather all plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans that feature **the Re-turn logo**. The school will return these on your behalf and donate

the funds collected to our local playground. Please remember that drink containers must be **empty, clean and undamaged** or the Re-turn machines will not accept them.

To avoid a mass build up of containers in the school, a different class will be asked to bring in the drink containers each week. Mr Connolly's and Mr Hallissy's classes have already been busy collecting, and next week, it will be the turn of Ms Harvey and Ms Gallagher's 5th class.

For some added fun, we will have a little in-school competition to see which class can raise the most money. Time to get the Grannies, Grandads, aunties, uncles and all the neighbours involved! Thank you for helping us to support our local playground.

National Tree Day

Today (3rd October) is National Tree day. This year's featured tree is the *Hawthorn Tree*. You can find information about the Hawthorn Tree at the link below.

<https://www.treeday.ie/learnabouttrees/about-the-hawthorn-tree/>

Remembering the Armada

As part of the recent Armada commemoration weekend, a beautiful ceremony was held on Streedagh beach, followed by a procession to the monument, music, a wreath laying and a drama, performed by some of our 6th class pupils. Well done to all the pupils involved.

Blúiríni

- Good luck to last year's 6th class pupils who have started their secondary school adventure. We wish them every success and they will always be welcome to visit us in Scoil Naomh Molaise.
- Congratulations to Ms. Clara McSharry (a member of our staff last year) on the birth of her beautiful baby boy Mac during the summer.
- I would like to extend sympathy to Mr Tony Hallissy on the death of his mother Mary during the summer. May she rest in peace.
- Everyone in S.N. Molaise would like to congratulate our local athletes Mona McSharry and Christopher O'Donnell on their success over the last few months in the European Championships and Olympic Games. We are so proud of Christopher, one of our past pupils and of Mona and we all followed their journeys on TV over the summer. They are fantastic role models for our pupils here, and we have no doubt that their successes will motivate and inspire some of our current pupils to reach similar heights in the coming years!
- A reminder that the confidential mobile number for **St. Vincent de Paul** is **087 186 8490**.

Finally, I would like to wish the pupils, parents and staff a safe, enjoyable and successful year of learning together.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Louise O'Connor

Príomhoide