



# Scoil Naomh Molaise

## Nuachtlitir

28ú Samhain 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

Thank you for attending our **Parent/Teacher Meetings** last week. We hope that you found the experience worthwhile. If at any stage you have a query or concern, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher in the first instance. The earlier a concern is brought to our attention the better the outcome. If for some reason you were not able to attend the meetings last week, please send the teacher a message on Aladdin and an appointment that is convenient for you both will be arranged.

The **festive season** is nearly upon us! This is always a special time of year in Scoil Naomh Molaise. The excitement is building and the atmosphere is wonderful. Rehearsals will be in full swing from next week. Please see below some important dates for your diary.

### **Dátaí don Fhéilire/ Dates for the Diary**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event/Performance</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day in aid of St Vincent de Paul	Our School
13 <sup>th</sup> December @ 7pm	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Classes - Christmas Carol Service	The Church
16 <sup>th</sup> December – time will be confirmed at a later date.	Christmas Mass	The Church
18 <sup>th</sup> December @ 1pm	Junior & Senior Infants – Christmas Performance	Our School Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> December @ 1:30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Class – The Wiggly Nativity Performance	Our School Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> December @ 2pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class – Christmas Carols	Our School Hall
19 <sup>th</sup> December @ 1pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class – Christmas Play	Our School Hall
19 <sup>th</sup> December @ 1:45pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Class – Talent Show	Our School Hall

20 <sup>th</sup> December @ 12pm	School will finish at 12pm for the Christmas Holidays. The school will re-open on Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.
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### **Maths Curriculum**

In September, we began implementing the new Primary Maths Curriculum. The aim of the new curriculum is that children see maths as important and useful in their everyday lives. It does not change much of 'what' children learn but the approach to 'how' children learn is developing. More emphasis is placed on learning through play, problem solving, making connections with other areas of the curriculum e.g. P.E. or Irish, using technology and the environment etc. The curriculum provides more opportunities for children to be creative, take risks and be challenged. It gives teachers more flexibility to teach in a way that meets the needs of the children.

For more information on the new Maths Curriculum visit <https://curriculumonline.ie/primary/curriculum-areas/mathematics/>

**The Department of Education has sanctioned a school closure on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to facilitate teacher training in the new Maths Curriculum. There will be no school for children on this day.**

### **Science**

- Science week took place from 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November. Children took part in many different and enjoyable experiments throughout the week. Check out our website [www.molaise.com](http://www.molaise.com) for some of the fun!
- **Space Presentation:** Thank you to Sarah McDaid (Cassie's mum) for organising the visit of David Fearon to our school. David is a STEM ambassador for NI Space Office and did a presentation for our school earlier this month. The children had a great conversation with David about space. It was a hugely interactive experience as the children got to view space in 3D.
- **4th Class Science Evening:** Our 4th classes are taking a different approach to science presentations this year. At the end of January, the classes will have a visit from 'Sea Shore Explorers' and will get to do a Sea Shore Safari on Streedagh Beach. Following this the class will have a science evening in school where families can come and see the children's presentations. We'll have refreshments in the hall and the presentations will be displayed in the classrooms. We look forward to this in the new year.

### **Aquaculture Remote Classroom**

Ireland's Seafood Development Agency, BIM, developed the ARC as part of a European wide campaign called #FarmedintheEU. This mobile classroom tours towns around Ireland, delivering aquaculture education and awareness to primary schools. Like the EU campaign, it aims to highlight the benefits of aquaculture in supplying sustainable seafood, creating employment and helping sustain coastal communities.

The remote classroom is supported by online lessons, regular webinars direct to schools and a range of learning resources and materials such as posters and workbooks. The ARC is available to schools completely free of charge and will visit Scoil Naomh Molaise next week. Children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes will experience a half day inside the ARC.

## Green Schools

Our Green Team (Green Schools Council) have been very active this term.

- **Reminder:** 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 implementing this initiative earlier this term and are keen to see the impact it makes in the coming months.
- The Green Team ran a **poster competition** earlier this month to identify our school's Green Schools' Motto. The winner will be announced very shortly. Thank you to everyone who participated and to the parents who got involved at home. A huge well done to the Green Team on their many well-planned and engaging presentations during our weekly Tionól (assembly).

## Exploring the Arts

Our school Arts Council have also been very busy this term!

- **Peter Crann**, the founder of WeDrum Ireland is working with all classes this term. Peter has been facilitating interactive drumming workshops nationwide for over 15 years. He has studied samba, African and Cuban rhythms and is also a proficient bodhrán player. A typical workshop is totally inclusive and interactive, and starts with a humorous and energetic warm up routine involving Body-Percussion and Hip Hop beats. The workshop also includes a demonstration and a brief journey around the world of drums, from Africa to Ireland. Everyone then receives an instrument and learns to play a piece of high-energy Samba music from Brazil. The workshop is thoroughly enjoyable and all children benefit in confidence, musical ability and musical understanding. Peter's visits are funded through the Creative Schools Programme.
- Earlier this week, **Fiona McGeown**, our Creative Associate through the Creative Schools Programme, visited 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes for an art workshop which they thoroughly enjoyed. The three classes made colourful wooden mobiles that are now displayed in the new building.
- The Arts Council are also running a very **exciting competition** for the month of December. Any child who wishes to enter must **write a song/rap or make a musical instrument**. The deadline for these entries is the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. Some fabulous pieces have been shown so far! Happy creating everyone!
- **Paul Curley** will bring his play '**The Bake**' to Scoil Naomh Molaise next week. On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Junior & Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will enjoy an engaging and interactive performance in our school hall. This is funded mainly through the National Arts Council with a small contribution from the school; there is no cost to parents. Thank you to the Hawks Well Theatre for affording us this opportunity. What a lovely time of year for a nice surprise like this!

## Sports News

- **G.A.A. Coaching:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes are enjoying a 6 week block of coaching with Sligo G.A.A. Coach, Nathan Boyle. It is hoped that Nathan will be back later in the year to work with the junior classes.
- **Cumann na mBunscol Camogie:** Congratulations to our girls camogie team who have qualified for the Cumann na mBunscol Camogie final for the second year in a row. They were defeated in last year's final but the girls are determined to go one better this year! This final will be played after school some evening next week – more details to follow.
- **There are quite a few of the school football jerseys missing. If there are any lying around at home, please send them back into the school as soon as possible.**

- **F.A.I. Futsal:** 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes are currently doing 5 weeks of Futsal coaching. Raff Cretaro, F.A.I. Development Officer for Sligo/Leitrim is working with the pupils for the first few sessions and then the class teachers will oversee the other sessions. The cold weather did not take from the children's enjoyment of their first session last week.
- **Hard Luck to the St. Molaise Gaels Senior Football Team** on their recent narrow defeat to Coolera/Strandhill in the County Final. Many of the players are past pupils of our school, and we are very proud of them all. They are a great inspiration to our current pupils and we hope that many of our pupils will go on to emulate them in the years to come.

### Student Council

Our new Student Council has been elected. This year's representatives are Faye Gilmartin, Aidan Dolan, Fiachra Lang, Sarah Coen (4<sup>th</sup> class), Kayla Currid, Patrick McSweeney, Sean White (5<sup>th</sup> class) and Zoe Walsh, Ava McAndrew and Daire McCann (6<sup>th</sup> class). The Council are busy coming up with ideas for fundraising and ways to improve our school. They have set themselves some impressive goals for 2025:

- Raise money for Breast Cancer and St Vincent de Paul – two causes close to their hearts.
- Promote mental health among pupils and staff.
- Encourage the use of Irish Sign Language in our school.
- Upgrade the equipment in the sensory room.
- Bring back 5 Fun Fridays.

### Fundraising Efforts

We are very grateful to our parent body for your support of our fundraising efforts at Scoil Naomh Molaise. At this time of year, it is particularly important that we encourage children to recognise how fortunate they are and to have an appreciation for people who are less well off. In the coming weeks, we will ask for your support for a number of very worthwhile causes, all of whom are helping families in need in our local area. We understand that this is can be a stressful time of year in most homes so please don't feel under any pressure, give what you can afford to give. Thank you.

- Our annual **Christmas Jumper Day** will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December in aid of **St Vincent De Paul**. Some parents made a contribution through Aladdin in recent weeks. If anyone else would like to contribute, we ask that you send €3 or whatever you can afford into the class teacher. The confidential number for St Vincent de Paul is 0871868490.
- We will be organising a **food collection** in aid of **Sligo Social Services** next week. Each class will be asked to bring in a specific type of food (in an effort to avoid too much of any one item) and there will be a box in each classroom for these items.
- Barretstown is an organisation that offers support to families with children who have cancer and other serious illnesses. Volunteers from Barretstown recently visited our school and spent a lovely morning working with our Junior Infants. The Parents Association will be holding a **bucket collection during our Christmas performances in aid of Barretstown**.

### Playground Fundraiser

As we have said many times before, 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.

Thank you all so much for sending in your plastic/aluminium drink containers for our playground fundraiser. With just two weeks left (the turn of Junior and Senior Infants coming up), it has been a wonderful fundraiser. I can't give you any details as of yet because of the fierce in-school competition between the classes (and teachers!). Watch this space!

### **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.

### **Blúiríní**

- A reminder that **mobile phones are strictly forbidden** in Scoil Naomh Molaise. Please do not allow your child to bring a device into school.
- Exercise and fresh air at break and lunch time is very important for children. Please make sure that your child has a **warm, waterproof coat** as we only remain indoor if the weather is very wet/windy or if the school ground are slippy. Some children also like to wear hats, scarves and gloves.
- We look forward to welcoming back **Michael Farrell, Lorna McGowan and Martin Feeney**, fondly known as the local dragons at Scoil Naomh Molaise. The Dragons offer their advice and experience to our budding entrepreneurs in 6<sup>th</sup> class who are engaged in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme at present. We are very grateful for their support. You will hear more about this next term.

Finally, I would like to remind you that our school will be used as a **polling station tomorrow** (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November) for the general elections. **The school will be closed.**

Have a lovely weekend.

Le gach dea-ghuí

**Louise O'Connor**

Príomhoide