



Scoil Naomh Molaise

Nuachtlitir

19ú Nollaig 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

After a very busy but tremendously enjoyable few weeks, the Christmas holidays will arrive tomorrow and spirits are high in Scoil Naomh Molaise. I would like to congratulate the children and teachers on their wonderful Christmas performances, showcasing all of the talent we have in our school. The children did us all proud but most importantly, it was clear to see how much fun they had. Thank you to the Parents Association for providing refreshments during the performances this week and to all of the parents/guardians, family and friends who came along to show their support. We greatly appreciate it.

Dátaí don Fhéilire/ Dates for the Diary:

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| Friday, 20 th December 2024 | School will close at 12pm for the Christmas Holidays |
| Monday, 6 th January 2025 | School will re-open for Term 2 |
| Monday, 6 th – Tuesday, 7 th January 2025 | Public Health Nurse – Junior Infants & new pupils |
| Monday, 20 th January 2025 | Maths Curriculum Day – No school for pupils |
| Monday, 27 th January 2025 | AGM of the Parents Association – 8pm |
| Monday, 3 rd February 2025 | February Bank Holiday |
| Monday, 17 th – Friday, 21 st February 2025 | Midterm Break |
| Monday, 17 th March 2025 | St. Patrick's Day |
| Friday, 11 th April 2025 | School will close at 12pm for the Easter Holidays |

Reminder - 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 20th January 2025 to facilitate teacher training in the new Maths Curriculum. There will be no school for children on this day.

Swimming

3rd & 4th classes will begin a 6 week course of swimming lessons in January as part of the P.E. Curriculum. The first lesson will take place on Wednesday, 15th January 2024. Class teachers will give more details closer to the time.

The Parents Association subsidise the cost to parents/guardians and pay for the swimming lessons which include hire of the swimming pool at Ballyshannon Leisure Centre. This costs €4.50 per child per lesson - €27 per child for the 6 weeks.

Parents/guardians are asked to pay for the bus. The bus will cost **€40 per child** for the 6 weeks.

Please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or the Principal in strict confidence if you have concerns, financial or otherwise.

The Junior Entrepreneur Programme

The Junior Entrepreneur Programme is in full swing in 6th class. Earlier this term, the children established mini companies brainstorming and refining their ideas until they were happy with their business model. Each group researched the cost of materials and the time required to develop their products. Marketing strategies were discussed and there was great fun had in recording marketing videos which were shown to other classes this week. Each group had the opportunity to present their business idea to some local dragons – local business people who very kindly spent a day listening to each of the groups and offering their professional feedback. We are very grateful to Michael Farrell (Five Star Fun), Lorna McGowan (Grange Pharmacy), and Martin Feeney (Atlantic Sheepdogs) for supporting the programme again this year.

Taking into account the feedback from the dragons, as well as the valuable market research gained from the wider pupil population, going forward, one business model will be developed and made available for purchase in the New Year. This is a different approach to last year when each group sold their own products, however, issues arose with younger children bringing in and losing money. The approach is more streamlined this year - As per the JEP guidelines, the entire 6th class will come together to get behind one idea, and as a class, will be responsible for the production, marketing, sales and PROFITS of the company!

Mr Connolly will let the children know shortly which group's business idea will be going forward for the next stage in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme.

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. Thank you for your support of the very worthy causes, all of whom are helping families in need in our local area.

- Our annual **Christmas Jumper Day** held on Friday 13th December raised **€904.55** in aid of **St Vincent De Paul**. The confidential number for St Vincent de Paul is **0871868490**.
- **A food collection** was organised in aid of **Sligo Social Services** last week. Once again, your generosity was incredible. Thank you.
- Barretstown is an organisation that offers support to families with children who have cancer and other serious illnesses. Volunteers from Barretstown visited our school in October and spent a lovely morning working with our Junior Infants. The Parents Association organised **a bucket collection during our Christmas performances in aid of Barretstown**. Details of the funds raised will be shared with you in due course.

Playground Fundraiser

As we have said many, 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. The committee are always looking for new faces to join them – if you are interested, please let me know and I will pass along your details.

Thank you all so much for supporting our Re-Turn Fundraiser. Your contributions of used plastic/aluminium drink containers raised an outstanding €1245. Congratulations to Ms Kelly & Ms Redahan's class who raised the most money for the playground.

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.

Policy Review

Please find attached two policies. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated.

- Homework Policy
- Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Scoil Naomh Molaise, I would like to wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2025.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!

Le gach dea-ghuí

Louise O'Connor

Príomhoide