



Scoil Naomh Molaise

Nuachtlitir

15ú Bealtaine 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

I hope you are well.

The end of the school year is fast approaching. We have lots to look forward to in term 3. Please see below a reminder about our school uniform, and don't forget to apply plenty of suncream in this beautiful weather.

Dátaí don Fhéilire/ Dates for the Diary:

Monday, 2 nd June 2025	Public Holiday
Thursday, 26 th June 2025	Summer Holidays – finishing at 12pm

Please find attached to this email our school calendar for 2025/2026. This is also available to view at www.molaise.com.

Hot Meals Scheme

We are pleased to confirm that our school has been selected to take part in the Hot Meals Scheme, an initiative of the Department of Social Protection. This programme is designed to provide pupils with nutritious, hot meals during the school day, supporting their health, development, and learning. As the Department highlights, "Good nutrition is essential for a child's health, development and ability to learn and concentrate in school".

However, we have been advised by CPSMA and the Schools Procurement Unit to pause the scheme until updated guidance is issued, as the rollout has not yet reached the procurement stage. Unfortunately, a public announcement made via the media gave the incorrect impression that meals would be provided to pupils immediately. We are currently awaiting further information and clarification.

Enrolment

- There are currently 272 children enrolled at Scoil Naomh Molaise. We extend a warm welcome to our new pupils, Cara Gilmartin (3rd class), Hannah Gallagher (3rd class), and Matthew Gallagher (1st class) who joined our school in recent weeks. We hope that you will be very happy at Scoil Naomh Molaise. Tá fáilte romhaibh!
- Best wishes to Chloe Fallon and her family on their big move to Chicago. Chloe is sorely missed by her friends and the staff here in our school. An exciting adventure lies ahead and we can't wait to hear about it!

- There are currently 36 children enrolled for Junior Infants in September. With large numbers like this, there will be a split class in Junior/Senior Infants next year. The notion of split classes causes worry and anxiety every year. In a large school like ours, split classes are unavoidable. Planning for next year is underway and we will endeavour to release the class lists and the names of the teachers early in June to help alleviate any concerns. Please read carefully our policy on Class Division, available to view on our school website. It is strictly adhered to in order to ensure fairness and transparency. Parents/Guardians of incoming pupils will receive an information pack with general school information and details of the uniform, booklists, school requisites etc. in June also. Thank you for your support.

Ethos

- Congratulations to all of the children who made their Confirmation and Holy Communion last week. Our sincere thanks to Mr Connolly, Mr Hallissy, Ms Johnston, Ms Doherty and Ms Burnside supported by our SNAs, Edwina, Hilary, Caroline, Paula and Karina, for preparing the children so well all year and for putting together two beautiful ceremonies. Thank you to Fr Christy and Bishop Kevin for celebrating these special ceremonies. We hope that the children enjoyed a very special day with their families.
- Míle Buíochas to Ms Harvey, the musicians and the choir for making the ceremonies so special with their beautiful singing. Our sincere thanks to Pauline Kilfeather for standing in for Camilla at the Holy Communion.
- The Communion party in the hall went very well on Saturday. Huge thanks to the school staff and parents who helped tidy/set up the hall, prepare food, serve tea/coffee and organise the clean up! It was very much appreciated by everyone present on Saturday.

Extra Curricular:

- As part of the Say Yes to Languages Programme, 3rd and 4th classes are receiving 8 weeks of Irish Sign Language tuition from Brigid O'Connor. We are pleased to have Brigid back with us again this year.
- Last week, all classes were treated to an amazing biodiversity workshop with Heritage in Schools expert, Michael Bell. From discovering new plants around the school, making leaf rubbings, exploring minibeasts and even spotting a willow warbler on the nature walk, it was a fantastic experience for all. Thank you to Lucy Hayes for organising this opportunity, and to the Playground Committee for funding the workshops.
- West Midlands Theatre treated us to a very enjoyable performance of Pinocchio last week. It is always a very interactive, engaging performance.
- Ciara Connolly is working with 4th classes in the school garden this term. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour in the months ahead. The teachers will be organising a rota for garden maintenance over the summer.
- The Board of Management have invested in a new class set of tablets to enhance teaching and learning. The devices will be used to support the implementation of the curriculum, and to help develop the children's IT skills as they progress through primary school. These will be delivered in the next few weeks.
- 5th classes are currently enjoying our last Creative Schools workshop this year with the talented Maggie Kilcoyne and Peter Crann. The two classes are partaking in a Crankie workshop. What's a Crankie, you ask? It is an old storytelling art form. The children will make an illustrated scroll that will be wound onto two spools. The spools are loaded into a box which has a viewing window. The scroll is then hand cranked while the story is told and a song is sung. We are all looking forward to seeing what wonderful creation 5th class will make and show us at assembly.

Sports

- It has been a very busy few weeks of sporting action. Pride of place goes to our 6th class girls' soccer team who won the FAI County 5-a-side title. They travelled to Castlebar last week for the Connacht finals, and finished in 3rd place there, with some excellent performances against high quality teams.
- Our focus then switched to Cumann na mBunscol, and continuing their sporting success, our senior girls team have qualified for the Cumann na mBunscol semi-final next week, with a hard fought win against the Gaelscoil. Hard luck to the boys who battled bravely, but unfortunately lost to a strong Gaelscoil team in the quarter final.
- We are very fortunate to have had our past pupil, Niamh Hoey, in every Wednesday, doing GAA coaching with Infants – 4th class for the past term, and the children are thoroughly enjoying this. As a finale to this coaching, 3rd and 4th classes will take part in GAA blitzes next week.
- Congratulations to Zoe Walsh who played at half time during the recent Sligo v Mayo Connacht Championship match in Castlebar. Congratulations also to Ava McAndrew who has been chosen to play in a camogie exhibition at half time during one of the All Ireland Semi Finals in Croke Park in July.
- 30 pupils from 3rd – 6th classes took part in a Swimming Gala in Sligo Sports Complex in term 2. The children really enjoyed the day out, and congratulations to Eli Duffy (3rd) and Daithi McIntyre (6th) who won medals at this event.
- Huge congratulations and well done to Ava McAndrew who competed at the CRDM World Championships in Irish Dancing over the Easter break. Hard work and dedication saw Ava achieve this dream, and place 18th in the world! An incredible achievement!
- We are enjoying Active Schools Week this week, and have been blessed with the lovely, sunny weather. We had Wake Up, Shake Up dances every morning, and every child got the chance to take a penalty against Ms O'Connor. Evan Farrell will do circuits with the senior classes on Thursday, and we are looking forward to seeing 6th class take on the teachers & SNAs in No Man's Land on Friday!
- Our annual sports day will take place on Wednesday 11th June. This will be facilitated by Sligo GAA coaches, and we also look forward to the visit of the ice-cream van.

Student Council

- The Student Council have enjoyed organising 5 Fun Fridays in recent weeks. They are also planning a Bake Sale which will take place before the June Bank Holiday weekend. All money raised will go towards creating Calm Corners in all classrooms.
- The Student Council will also be helping us to review our current Anti-Bullying Policy, and in developing our new Bí Cineálta Policy which will be shared with parents/guardians in due course and implemented from September 2025.

Green Schools

We are thrilled to announce that our hard work has paid off, and we have been awarded our new Green Flag for improving litter and waste management at Scoil Naomh Molaise. We are so proud of all of the efforts of our Green Schools Committee, ably led by Ms Harvey, and their commitment to achieve this goal. We will have a special flag raising ceremony and a school celebration before the end of term.

Parental Involvement

- Our Parents Association organised a very enjoyable Family Fun Walk at Barnaribbon on Monday 5th May. There was a wonderful crowd for the occasion, and it was made even more special with the fabulous weather. It was a lovely opportunity to meet up, chat and enjoy the stunning scenery we

are so fortunate to have all around us. Thank you to Kavanagh's Supervalu, Grange for sponsoring the snacks, and to Kate Currid for making all of the popcorn. Most of all, thank you to the Parents Association for organising this event.

- Some children from Senior Infants and their parents had great fun at our Ag Súgradh le Chéile workshop last week. This is a programme developed by the HSE and supported by Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership. It promotes active play between parents and children. A huge thanks to Sara, our facilitator, and all the adults who attended on the day.
- The PA also implemented the Voluntary Smartphone Agreement in term 2. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and participation across all classes is high. As previously indicated, the school on behalf of the Parents Association will share with the parents/guardians, the percentage of each class level who have signed up to the Voluntary Smartphone Agreement (see below). This agreement will be shared with parents/guardians at the start of each school year, and you can review your choice at that time.

	Yes	No	No response
Junior Infants	80%	0%	20%
Senior Infants	77%	4%	19%
1 st	89%	4%	7%
2 nd	65%	6%	29%
3 rd	75%	4%	21%
4 th	76%	4%	20%
5 th	71%	12%	17%
6 th	47%	16%	37%

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.

Make-up and false nails are not acceptable, as per our Code of Behaviour.

In very warm weather, 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, branded shorts etc. are not appropriate and not allowed in school).**

School Building Enhancements

The Board of Management anticipate that much work will take place around the school during the summer. This work will see upgrades and enhancements to school facilities. Preparations are underway, and while we are cautiously hopeful, some things are beyond our control and the timeframes may not align as we would wish. If this proves to be the case, these works will be completed at the next available opportunity. The following has been granted initial approval by the Department of Education:

- Minor works to be completed around the new two classroom extension
- Repurposing of a mainstream class into our new Autism Class
- Electrical re-wiring of the older part of the school

- Installation of 6KW of solar panels

The Board of Management will keep you updated on developments.

Safety Issues

Please note the following safety points:

- 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.
- **Teachers/SNAs are at the gates/doors to welcome the children in the morning. If you are running late, and there is no teacher/SNA at the gate, please ensure that your child uses the main front door to enter the school. For safety and child protection reasons, the door at the junior end of the school is closed at 9:20am. After this time, children MUST use the main door at the office to enter the school.**

In other news...

- Ms Foran is organising this year's Summer Programme which will run from Monday 30th June – Friday 11th July. She has been in touch with the parents/guardians of children who are eligible to attend. She will keep you up-to-date on any developments.
- The highly anticipated school tours are just around the corner for all classes! Teachers will be sharing with you further details of their class school tours in the coming weeks. A payment link is available on Aladdin.
- Best wishes to Méadhbh Hallissy and Sarah Kiernan who finished their work placements in Scoil Naomh Molaise since Easter. Méadhbh has been teaching in Junior Infants, while Sarah supported teachers across the school, but in particular our Junior Infant class throughout her 20 week placement. We certainly hope that our paths cross again in the future.
- We are also very fortunate to have the help of past pupils, Lucy McGowan, Katie Langan, Ally Carty and Nicola Walsh while completing their Transition Year work experience. It was lovely to have these bright pupils back at Scoil Naomh Molaise.
- Food Dudes, an evidence-based, healthy eating programme, designed to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables, will be running in the school for one week, beginning Monday 26th May. More details will be sent home next week.
- There have been some reports of head lice in the school of late. Please check your child's hair, and treat, if necessary. Please speak to your pharmacist for advice on how best to treat head lice.

Policy Review

Recently reviewed policies available from our school office or on our school website:

- Admissions Policy & Annual Admissions Notice
- Critical Incident Management Plan

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Louise O'Connor,

Príomhoide