

Scoil Naomh Pádraig

November/December Newsletter

Dates for Diary

Friday 29 th November	General Election, School Closed
Friday 20 th December	Christmas holidays
Monday 6 th January	School re-opens

Christmas Holidays

The school will close on Friday 20th December (which is the last day of term), and re-open on Monday 6th January 2025.

Cinema Trips

All classes will go on a cinema trip this Christmas. Fifth & Sixth classes will go to the Brunswick MovieBowl on Tuesday 17th December and Junior & Senior Infants, First, Second, Third and Fourth classes will go on Wednesday 18th. Both groups will see **ELF**. Please note that this film is rated PG.

Separate notes will be issued to the children with arrangements, including cost for the cinema trips.

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul is our chosen charity this Christmas. All money collected locally is distributed to our own community. Our parents have been very generous in recent years and this is much appreciated. Envelopes will be distributed next week for your convenience.

Safety in school grounds & carpark

In the interests of safety, parents are asked not to drive into our school carpark. Children should always use the most convenient pedestrian entrance and exit to avoid walking through the carpark or across the vehicle entrance. (Some families do have permission to drive in. Please speak to Mrs. McLaughlin, principal if you have any concerns.)

Board of Management

The Board of management contacted the Department of Education about the change of our school name. Our official name was Scoil Naomh Pádraig Boys. The board requested that we drop the “Boys” in order to be inclusive of our girl pupils and to acknowledge our new status as a mixed school. The Department of Education agreed to this. Therefore our official name is now Scoil Naomh Pádraig.

The Board of Management have had regular meetings this school year. Policies updated include Child Safeguarding and Admission Policy. The board acknowledges the great work of our staff and children.

Creative Schools/Music

We were granted funding in recent years from the Creative Schools Fund and our focus was music. Mrs. Roisin McGrory is providing tin whistle lessons every week for all classes from first to sixth.

With Creative Schools funding, together with a contribution from the Parents’ Association, we have purchased fiddles, mandolins and bodhrans. These instruments have been loaned to the senior pupils for the year. Lessons will be provided every Tuesday. The children are asked to practise regularly, care for the instruments and bring them in for their lessons every week. We have already received positive feedback from parents who are very grateful for this opportunity for the children.

Concern Primary Debates

Well done to our debating team who opposed the motion that Every Person in Ireland Should be Given a Bike against Scoil Adhamhnáin, Letterkenny. The boys were excellent but unfortunately, the motion was carried. Team members were Rory Bradley (captain), Jaxon Logue Farren and Lochlainn Harkin (second & third speakers).

Parents’ Association.

The Parents’ Association acknowledges your support for their recent 6 week 50/50 draw. There will be a Christmas Draw launched soon with information being distributed by the P.A.

Christmas Plays

All classes are busy practising for Christmas plays. The singing is beautiful and we look forward to putting on wonderful performances to celebrate the Christmas season.



HSCL News

Home Visits

Home visits continue to be an integral part of my role, taking up approximately 30% of my time. Home Visits allow the parents an opportunity to have a chat about how they and their child are settling into school life. Many parents and children have been made aware of and have joined groups as a result of these home visits. I fully understand that home visits do not suit all of our parents but please feel free to contact me at any time on the HSCL number 0862383847.

Pilates

Zumba started on Thursday 17th October and will run for 6 weeks and is free of charge. The class is being facilitated by Stephanie from 'Balance Balance'. Everyone is enjoying it thoroughly.

'At the Family Table'

We have a lovely group of parents who are participating in this class at the moment. The focus is on gathering to share experiences and discuss tips and advice on how to make small changes, while being consistent and staying positive within your family. It's a place and space to work through some of the challenges you may have as parents E.g. managing technology and healthy eating. Thanks to Sheila Keyes and Alison Bardini for facilitating it.

Maths – Fetac Level 3

Well done to the parents who are consistently showing up every Wednesday in the Colgan Hall, working on our Maths assignments. This will continue throughout the year. Lots of credit due to these parents.

Attendance Matters!

I am looking forward to seeing all your entries for the poster competition. **Closing date Monday 25th.**

Christmas Jumpers

Thanks to everyone who donated Christmas jumpers. A lot of children were delighted with their new jumpers. I still have some smaller size jumpers if anyone wants to get one? Text me to arrange a time.

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Student Teachers

We were delighted to welcome Mary Kate McCrossan to our school to complete teaching practice. Mary Kate observed and taught in fifth class and in SET (special education) and was a great addition to our team. We wish her every success in their future studies.

We will welcome two past pupils to the school in the New Year.

Sporting Activities

Soccer: The footballers are continuing with their weekly matches against other schools with up to thirty pupils taking part every week. This month's matches were against Scoil Iosagáin, Buncrana and Scoil Naomh Fionáin, Whitecastle with two wins, two draws and two defeats.

Hurling: The hurling team took part in a local Cumann na mBunscol Blitz recently. Matches against Malin, Craigtown and Buncrana ensured that all the hurling skills were tested. Thank you to past pupils Tom Diver, Fergal Diver Hall and Ruairi Doherty for refereeing the matches. The school will be represented at the Cumann na mBunscol indoor hurling competition next Wednesday.

Swimming: Swimming lessons continue for Third and Fourth class. The last lesson in the block is on Tuesday 26th November.

John Gibbons continues to do **small games and activities** with Junior Infants and First & Second Class.

Cathal Doherty does ball skills with **Senior Infants**.