



# Nuacht Litir

Scoil Sheosaimh Naofa

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Príomhoide: Mr. Niall Spain Leas-Phríomhoide: Ms. Sheila Lynam Cathaoirleach: Monsignor T. Coonan

## **Deireadh Fómhair (October) 2021**



We are now back in school for more than a month, so everybody is well settled into the school routine. We'd like to especially welcome our new pupils who all seem to be very happy in their school surroundings. We wish all our pupils a happy, fulfilling and safe school year. Also, a big fáilte romhaibh to our new staff: Mr McNamee, Ms Scally and Ms McLachlan! Go n-éirí libh go léir!

A big thank you again to all our pupils, parents and staff who have done their utmost to keep our school community safe for everyone.

### **Ábhar Múinteora**

Orla Mangan and Laura Garry are doing teaching practice placement in our school at the moment. Orla and Laura have been doing great work with Ms. Dolan's & Ms. Daly's classes.

### **Parents' Association & Community Lotto**

In line with the Government reopening announcement, we are pleased to announce the Ballinagar Community Lotto is recommencing on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> October. The Lotto is the only source of weekly funding the school receives to support your child's education. The Lotto supports a wide range of School activities and funds projects, such as the development of the school yard. We would ask for your continued support of the Lotto by purchasing an annual ticket for €90 and supporting the sale of weekly tickets. Tickets are available from the Parents' Association and other ticket sellers.

### **Cruinniú Tuismitheoirí is Múinteoirí**

Parent-teacher meetings will take place on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. We expect to receive guidelines in the coming weeks as to whether these meetings will be held remotely or in-person. Teachers will be in contact to arrange meeting times at this point.

### **Chóineartú agus an Chéad Chomaoineach**

Confirmation and Communion for 2020-21 took place on September 24<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Well done to all the boys and girls and many thanks to Monsignor Coonan, Ms Whelan, Ms Daly, Ms Ryan and all the parents for the preparations and support to allow the children to receive these special sacraments. Many thanks to Ms Rabbette also for providing the beautiful music for both ceremonies.

Dates for 2021-22 sacraments have not been finalised yet. These will be communicated to parents as soon as that decision is made.

### **Briseabh Lár Téarma don Oíche Shamhna**

The school will be closed from Monday October 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday October 29<sup>th</sup> for mid-term.



### **Freaky Friday**

It's that time of year again! No uniform day will be Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. As is our tradition, children come to school in Halloween costume. We also ask for a donation to charity. This year any proceeds will be given to the local St. Vincent de Paul. Dressing in costume and offering a donation is voluntary.

Also, we would ask parents not to send in any treats containing nuts on Friday and throughout the year.



### **Naomh Molaise Visit**

This week we had a visit from representatives of the Naomh Molaise team who won the Offaly U-14 County Championship recently. Past pupils, Aoife Farrell, Lauren Duffy, Rebecca Gorman, Bella Gettings, Ella Cuskelly, Éabha Owens and Keelin Dunne visited with the cup along. Well done to everyone involved.

### **Cumann na mBunscol**

While there has been no Cumann na mBunscol games for the boys or girls this term, we hope that games and training will resume in the spring.



### **Offaly Sports Partnership Inclusion Programme**

The Offaly Sports Partnership have been working with pupils from our Solas class over the last number of weeks as part of the Offaly Sports Partnership Inclusion Programme. The class is having great fun working with Eimear they are learning lots of new skills.



### **Christmas Shoe Box Appeal**

Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Children have received information from their teachers this week and we are asking that all shoeboxes be returned to school by November 5<sup>th</sup>.



### **Bingo**

We would like to thank Ballinagar GAA for running their bingo night on October in association with the school. A huge thank you to all involved and all the parents who supported the night.



### **STEM**

This year 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils will enter an exciting STEM programme called 'VEX Robotics' in association with Offaly County Council. We will be receiving exciting new equipment in the coming weeks that some other classes will get to use throughout the year also.

### **Aistear**

Over the last few weeks, in Junior and Senior Infants we have been having so much fun doing Aistear. Recently they have been learning about the theme of Halloween and have created some of the most disgusting potions you could ever imagine in our Witch's Potion Lab! We can't wait to see what we will be doing in Aistear after Halloween!



### **Food Dudes**

We are delighted to say the 'Food Dudes' initiative will return to our school in November. This provides children with a great opportunity to develop a taste for healthy snacks. Many thanks to Mr McNamee for leading the initiative in our school this year.