



# Nuacht Litir

## Scoil Sheosaimh Naofa

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### Eanáir 2023

## Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh

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Wishing one and all a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year. We thank you all for your continued support and look forward to working together in 2023. The children were very happy to return to school in early January. It's great to be back. All classes got straight back into a good routine and there was a very positive atmosphere around the school.



### Safer Internet Day 2023

Safer Internet Day will take place on February 7th and pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will be taking part in age-appropriate online safety lessons in school.

In addition to this, for Safer Internet Day 2023, Webwise will be hosting two FREE online safety webinars for parents of younger children, and for parents of teens. Please see Aladdin Connect in the coming days for further information and links for signing up for these free webinars.

### Catholic Schools Week 2023

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated in our school from 22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> January. The theme for this year is Walking Together in Faith & Love'.

On January 25<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Grandparents Day with a mass in the school and we had a huge turnout. A massive 'thank you' to Monsignor Coonan, Ms Rabbette, Parents and Grandparents, pupils and teachers and the Parents' Association for providing refreshments afterwards.

### Rugbaí Leaiste



Classes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class are taking part in tag rugby coaching with Leinster Club Community Officer, John Burns. This coaching will take place on Wednesdays and will continue until after midterm.



### GAA Coaching

Pupils from all classes are receiving coaching in Fundamental Movement Skills currently with Sinéad Moore. Sinéad will be focussing on hurling skills in the coming weeks.



### Tabhair Aire

A reminder to all drivers to please take extra care during drop-off and collection times.

### Yard Supervision

Please note: Children are supervised in the school yard each morning from 8:55am. Please do not drop your child before these times as there will be no supervision before 8.55am.

### Invitations

A reminder that school policy is that birthday invitations are not permitted to be given out in school unless in exceptional circumstances.



### 2023/2024 Enrolment

We are now accepting applications for enrolments for the 2023/2024 academic year. Forms are available to download from the website or hard copies can be collected from Reception. If you have any queries, please email [info@ballinagarns.com](mailto:info@ballinagarns.com) or call us on 05793-43615.



### Save the dates

We have been given dates for this year's sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Confirmation will take place on Friday March 10th at 2:30pm.

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 20th May at 11:30.

The children are actively preparing for and looking forward to their special days.

### Credit Union Quiz

Our two quiz teams are busy preparing for the upcoming Tullamore Schools' Credit Union Quiz which takes place on February 8th in the Tullamore Court Hotel. It is always a very tightly contested and enjoyable quiz. We would like to wish both our teams the very best of luck and thank them for all their hard work and commitment over the past few weeks.

3rd and 4th class team – Eimhin Dunne, Patrick Flynn, Kayden Mannion, Charlie Farrell and Aaron Duffy.

5th and 6th class team – Oisín Dolan, Donnacadh Molloy, Nora Flynn, Seán McConnell and Tom Dunne

### Swimming

Swimming lessons for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class students will begin this Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, and will continue for 6 weeks. Many thanks to the Parents' Association for contributing to the bus costs.

### Boird Bhainistíochta na Scoile

December's Meeting:

- The Board ratified the school's Admissions, Geography and Wellbeing policies.
- The Board would like to thank our fantastic Parent's Association for their continued support.



**Scoil Dúnta** The school will close on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February for mid-term. It will re-open on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February. The school will be closed for staff training on March 27<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Pupil Absences on Aladdin Connect

Aladdin Connect is primarily be used for communication regarding absences, permissions, money collections and school/class announcements.

If your child is absent for any reason there is no need to contact the school office unless urgent.

Please enter absence and reason for absence on Aladdin Connect and your child(ren)'s class teacher will be notified.

### VEX Robotics

This year 6<sup>th</sup> class have all been working collaboratively on designing and creating their own Vex robot. We are extremely lucky as a school to have this amazing resource available to us. It is an excellent opportunity for the children in the class to work together- designing, building and also using coding to create a robot. We will definitely have future engineers and scientists in years to come from this class.

On Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be taking part in the Offaly Vex STEM Robotics championship. We are all looking forward to it and the children have worked hard preparing for it.