



SCOIL NAOMH TREASA

Bellewstown
Drogheda
Co. Meath

Autumn Newsletter

October 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to everyone after the summer holidays. We've had a great first few weeks back at school and it's been wonderful seeing everyone return. A special welcome to our new Junior Infants who have settled in brilliantly. This year we were delighted to welcome sixteen new Junior Infants along with five new girls who have joined second and fifth class. We all look forward to working together with all pupils and parents, especially those that are new to our school community this September.

Parents Council:

We have had a very dedicated Parents Council for the past two years and we are very thankful, and appreciative for all they have contributed to the school and for their fundraising. They were busily involved in many school projects such as providing buses, an SEN reader scheme extension programme, anti-bullying workshops for senior pupils, graduation gifts for parents leaving school, floral displays for the front of the school, many of the coloured display boards that you see in classrooms and in hallways, along with painting the front wall and shelter and many treats/surprises for the children on special occasions - First Communion parties, Easter egg hunts. They organised raffles, purchased school furniture as well as being available, sometimes at very short notice, to assist with school events. Thanks to Kerry-Anne Black, Elaine Wall, Samantha Bellew, Doreen Ludlow and Vivienne Russell. They have been a wonderful support, always available, sometimes at short notice and you were always happy to oblige.

Uniforms:

It's lovely to see all the children in their smart SNT uniform and wearing the school crest of which we are very proud. Keep up the good practice throughout the year, and please wear track suits on PE days. Note that dark shoes are to be worn on uniform days.

Healthy Lunches:

Healthy lunches are essential on a daily basis and indeed to be encouraged throughout school life. No biscuits or sugary foods. See our Health Lunch Policy.

Insurance:

The Personal Pupil Insurance that parents pay annually to Alliance, through the school, has 24 hrs accident cover – not just school related accidents but accidents that may happen at home or anywhere. It is an excellent security to have and well worth the small cost.

School Building Insurance, which covers the safety of the school building, does not cover before 8:50 am or after 2:50pm Monday to Friday as children are not supervised outside of those times.

School Website:

Our website is now up and running. We hope you check it out regularly as many updates will be posted there first. This year we have also activated a Twitter feed. We remind any parents to let us know if they would rather their child's photo was not posted on our website / Twitter feed. A reminder that names will not accompany your child's photo. Thanks to Ms Swinburne for the upkeep of all our website data.

GAA

Well done to all the boys and girls who participated in the Cumann na mBunscoil competition this year. They had some really great matches and were extremely unlucky not to qualify for the quarter finals. Thanks to all the parents who showed up, home and away, to cheer on our players. Your support is very much appreciated. Training continues after the Halloween break on Tuesday. New players are always welcome. Please make sure to dress warmly next term for training. No bare legs, and hats and gloves are advised. Thanks to John Leonard for giving up his time to help coach the team with Ms. Breen.

Carwash 2019

Our now annual carwash took place on the 28th of September this year. We had an unbelievable turnout despite the poor weather. In total the children raised €1546!!! This money will go to funding our transport to different sporting events throughout the school year. A very special word of thanks must go to the Howard family, especially Ian, for allowing us to use their yard facilities again this year. We must also thank some particular people for their commitment and hard work on the day itself, Christopher McHugh, Brian and Edel Quinn, Jason Fanthorpe, past pupils James and Mia Grace and of course our wonderful 5th & 6th class students. Thanks to Ms Breen for organising the successful fundraiser.

Soccer

The FAI Futsal competition took place in the MDL grounds this month. A team from Mrs. Lights 3rd and 4th class travelled to Navan to participate. It was a non-competitive event and was solely based on taking part and having fun. For a lot of the children who travelled it was their first time playing in the Scoil Naomh Treasa colours. They were absolutely super and did our school proud!

Thanks to Ms O Mara for organising six weeks of in-school training from Duleek / Bellewstown GFC and Athletics from **Meath Athletics**. The children are thoroughly enjoying the programme given by Damian, John and David.

The **Cross Country** will be held on the 27th November this year. Trials and training for the event commenced in October.

Student Council

Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council. They are Ruby, Seán, Adam, Kellieanne, Andrew and Annemarie. Their planning of projects and activities for the

school community have already begun. Congratulations to them and the rest of 6th class for organising a lovely whole school Halloween themed treasure hunt. All classes had great fun.

Green Schools Programme: Travel Theme

Congratulations to our new Green-Schools Committee – Caitlin, Liam, Taigh, Amy, Kayla, Adam L and John Paul. This year we will be participating in an action packed Green Schools Travel programme. Over the coming months the new Green Team Committee will strive to achieve our fourth Green flag here in Scoil Naomh Treasa. To kick off our Green Action Plan, we took part in “European Mobility Week”. To celebrate this theme, we invited all parents / family members to join us each morning at 9:05, as we walked around the school pathway. It was a healthy way to start the day for that week. We thank Ms Swinburne and Ms O Mara, who are coordinating this project for our school. We will keep you posted on the many more “green” activities we will be engaging in over the course of the year.

Halloween Bake Sale 2019

Well done to the children from Ms. Breen’s class for organising an outstanding bake sale this year. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who helped to bake delicious buns and cakes for them to sell. The decorations on the buns this year were incredible and it was clear a lot of time and effort was put into it. In total the children raised €451. Well done to Miss Breen for organising.

Choir:

Our local choir master, Peter Moore, has choir practice on Monday evenings from 6 - 7pm in the church. Singers, from 1st class and upwards, are very welcome. It is such a lovely contribution to our local community and they add so much to all the liturgical celebrations throughout the year, especially Christmas and Communion services, as well as Sunday Mass.

Complaints Procedure

Just a reminder that if a parent has a complaint, the first port of call is always the class teacher, by appointment. This usually sorts out any misunderstandings, or it may enlighten home/school links. If after a reasonable time frame this matter has not been solved the principal may be contacted. If this level fails to reach a reasonable solution the matter is brought to Board of Management level. The Parental Complaints Procedures Data is available through the office, for anyone who may wish to consult it.

School Closure: *Monday 18th November 2019.* This closure is to facilitate staff attending a Professional Development seminar on the implementation of the new Primary Language Curriculum.

Goodbye and Good luck:

We would like to sincerely thank Miss Sinéad Smith and Mrs Gillian Victory (SNA) for all their contributions over the past two years. We wish both of them all the best in their new positions. A warm welcome on board to Ms Mairéad O’Reilly who is joining our

staff on a shared SEN basis with Donore N.S. and our new SNA Ms Sinéad Pentony. We look forward to working with them.

Child Protection:

A reminder to all parents that our school's **DLP** (Designated Liaison Person) is Mrs Bernadette McGuinness and our **DDL** (Deputy Designated Liaison Person) is Mrs Elaine Light.

Sacraments:

- Enrolment Ceremony for First Communion - 7th November in Duleek Church @7pm
- Commitment Ceremony Confirmation - 28th November in Duleek Church @7pm
- First Holy Communion will be taking place on Saturday 9th May 2020 in Bellewstown Church @11am
- Confirmation will be taking place on Wednesday 13th May 2020 in Duleek Church

RIP:

We wish to extend our sympathies to the Hartford family, particularly David and Elaine, on the recent loss of their father Martin. **Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.**

School Planning

School Self Evaluation (SSE) – this year the focus of our SSE is SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education). Teachers will receive further training in Child Protection and SPHE related topics throughout the year, with an emphasis on wellbeing.

Also we are addressing our Digital Technology Framework through reviewing, planning, up-skilling and updating our technology. This will be part of the school SSE planning over the next three years.

Office

Please notify Loretto, of any changes in phone numbers or email addresses etc., in order to keep your information on our system updated at all times. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am - 12 noon.

Voluntary Contributions: To help keep the school's funding maintain a positive balance – we recommend a €50 family contribution which has remained unchanged for the last 10 years.

Term 1 Events

- **Mobility Week:** 16th - 22nd September 2019
- **Photography Day:** Monday, 14th October 2019
- **Cyber Bullying workshop** for pupils (in school) and talk for parents that evening – 23RD October 2019
- **Library Visit: 3RD- 6TH** class met the author Oisín McGann /comedian Jason Byrne in Solstice in Navan, Oct 9th 2019
- **Library Visit: 3RD- 6TH** : Infants went to Slane Library for Animal Crackers-Stories, crafts and singing
- **Halloween Break:** Monday 28th - Friday 1st November 2019

- **Swimming lessons commence** on Friday 8th November–Fri 13th December.
Term: 6 weeks, commencing @10:45am for 1st – 6th class only
- **P/T Meetings:** 11th - 15th November 2019
- **School Closed: Monday, 18th November:** Staff Professional Development day
- **Christmas Concert:** Wednesday, 18th @11:00
- **Christmas Holidays:** 20th December @12:00 noon