



## Meán Fómhair 2014



### Fáilte

Fáilte ar ais do gach duine, especially our new infants who have settled in so well and who are busy enjoying 'big school'. Greetings also to Fr. Diarmuid Byrne who will be chaplain to the school this year.

### Go raibh maith agaibh!

'Thank you' to all those who came to visit last Thursday night; it was lovely to meet with everybody and to chat about this year's plans.

We are now on the third year of our Literacy and Numeracy plan. The English is progressing nicely, good 'problem solving' skills in Maths remains a goal and this year we are progressing to Gaeilge; don't be surprised when you hear the cúpla focail at home.

You will find a sheet with all the phrases in your child's folder so that you too can become proficient as Ghaeilge.

### Co-curricular subjects

We have taken careful note of the feedback from the PA questionnaires last year; this year we will reintroduce a number of co-curricular

subjects during the school day. In this way every child benefits from the activities on offer and we also negotiate a much better fee based on high numbers. Each class will cost €1 per child.

This term 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will receive an introduction to yoga. After Christmas every class will have a module of Hip Hop with popular dance teacher Martina Lynch.

Ms. Van Eesbeck has kindly given her lunch break on Tuesday so that everyone who wishes to can participate in choir. Miss Kavanagh has also volunteered her services to provide some French lessons in sixth class.

The GAA coach for this term is Mr. Michael Owens. Coaching will take place on Wednesdays for 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The attached **tracksuit timetable** should help keep everybody dressed for the activities. Please also find attached a monthly timetable of the sports activities that will be available throughout the year at lunch breaks. We have already completed a very exciting Relay league where over one hundred students competed fiercely for the trophies. **Comghairdeas** to the relay runners who have secured trophies so far; this week we will run the family relays.



Winners from  
September's  
Relay  
Competition



### Surface Tablets

The classes have now established a rota for the recently purchased Microsoft tablets.

Please encourage students to report home on what they have learnt each week and to practice the new skills they acquire.

### The School Essay

Suggested titles for the annual school essay exceeded all expectations and required 'short listing' in order to select the final title "Be Careful What you Wish For" which was submitted by Alison Nic Craith. There is plenty of scope in this title for students to provide an imaginative and entertaining essay containing all the elements outlined on the school blog.

Last year the feedback from reflection sheets to parents and students reported that students did not utilise the vocabulary provided on the blog each week. Parents also suggested that an outline for each class would be helpful. All of this information including guidelines for **mind mapping** is now available on the school website. Just click on 'blog' then 'autumn essay'. The vocabulary will be added each week.

### School Trips



This year we will place a greater emphasis on educational trips throughout the school calendar. Already, sixth class has taken an interesting journey

up the Wicklow Mountains to visit Turlough Hill. The weather and scenery were magnificent and the boys and girls were a

pleasure to escort. They all took an active interest in what the guide was saying and asked lots of intelligent questions afterwards.

### Parents' Association

'Thank you' to Sol and all the parents who helped to host last week's meeting. The PA would like to inform you of the following links on the NPC website should you wish to attend an **Anti-bullying** talk in the near future:

[Anti Bullying Training sessions for Parents](#)  
[Anti Bullying Training Venue booking](#)

### Attendance

We are happy to report that attendance at the school last year was 'top class'! Eighteen students had full attendance and thirty eight more received certificates for 'almost full attendance'. We look forward to another year with 'end of month' treats and great attendance. Of course if your child is ill please **do not** send him/her to school. (please see attached graph).

### Volunteers

We are very appreciative of the help we get in the school each year. Once more the 'volunteer' board is in the hall. If you have the time (even for just a few weeks) you would be very welcome in the school or helping on the pedestrian crossing. Please phone or call in to let us know.

### Car park

Be ever vigilant of the cars and children around you. Please escort your child to/from the path. Do not stop in the yellow box or enter the teachers' car park.

*Slán go fóill*

*Máire NíBhraonáin.*

### Dates for Diary

- GOAL jersey day Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct.
- Holy Communion Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May
- Confirmation Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> May (prov.)

