



Scoil Phádraig Naofa

Dear Parents,

This week is a wonderful time to reflect on what has been a very busy and immensely successful year here in SPN. We welcomed back so many activities familiar to use prior to restrictions, and added wonderfully to initiatives that we deliver here in our school. Our newsletters have been a wonderful way to keep you informed and we look forward to giving additional insights and information via our new school website in the new school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and co-operation. I would like to sincerely acknowledge all members of staff, whose professionalism and dedication are a source of great pride for Scoil Phádraig Naofa. We all wish our Rang a Sé pupils a fond farewell and continued success as they move on to academic and extra-curricular opportunities in secondary school. We are excited about the future of our pupils graduating on Thursday and are immensely proud of them all.

School will re-open on Wednesday August 30th for the new school year 2023/2024. All the boys and girls of Scoil Phádraig Naofa have been wonderful all year. I wish them all a happy, healthy and fun-filled summer.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Edward McCarthy

Príomhoide



New look school website

Our Scoil Phádraig Naofa school website has received a make-over! We will continue to update the information and links on the website as the new school year begins in August 2023.



Girls 5 a side soccer final

The summer term began with our Fifth and Sixth class SPN Girls Soccer team on the move. The team travelled to Musgrave Park for the Girls 5 a side soccer final, where they met a number of schools from both Cork City and County. Our team played with skill, determination and with the famous SPN passion on the day.



Swimming – Second Class

Room 11 and Room 12 completed their swimming module this term. It was an early start each Tuesday morning as they boarded the bus for LeisureWorld in Bishopstown. Pupils developed their confidence in the water and worked on specific swimming strokes. Well done to all our swimmers!



Zumba

Our Senior pupils, from third to sixth class, enjoyed a robust morning workout with Rosalia. They danced and moved / bopped along for a six-week block of Zumba sessions each Monday. There were many 'glowing' and energized faces as they returned to class.



Confirmation Day

Our Sixth-Class pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 5th at St. Patrick's Church, in the presence of their parents and families. The ceremony was enhanced by the beautiful singing voices of both Sixth class and from an SPN Choir. A sincere thank you to Monsignor Aidan O'Driscoll and Rev. Pat O'Mahony, the teachers and staff from Scoil Phádraig Naofa and to the parents, for all their help and support in making this such a joyous occasion.



First Holy Communion 2023

Our Second-Class pupils received the Sacrament of the Eucharist on May 6th, the mass was celebrated by the Rev. Pat O'Mahony. The children as ever were, truly amazing as they sang hymns and recited prayers for their special ceremony. Following the mass, we continued our celebrations as a school community back at SPN. A sincere thank you to all the First-Class parents and Parents Association who served tea/ coffee and delicious treats.



The Scoil Phádraig Naofa Internet and Technology Safety Agreement

Following ongoing collaboration with Dr Maureen Griffin, Parents Association, and staff, the Scoil Phádraig Naofa Internet and Technology Safety Agreement was published. The document gathered statistics and surveys from our SPN school community, thus creating a bespoke document which addresses the specific needs of our SPN families and community.



We were extremely fortunate that An Tánaiste Micheál Martin joined us to launch the Internet and Technology Safety Agreement on Friday April 28th. The Tánaiste was joined by Dr Maureen Griffin and members of the SPN Parents Association and Board of Management. There was a great sense of occasion in the school on the day, with An Tánaiste, chatting to the younger pupils as they lined the corridor and when he spoke to the wider school community in the halla.



Hockey Blitz

Fourth class pupils travelled to Garryduff to participate in an Inter Schools Hockey Blitz. All the girls had an opportunity to adopt the role of Team Captain during the various matches. Each SPN player represented their team, school, and themselves with a sense of fairness and team spirit. Well Done girls!



Lifetime Lab – Seashore Safari visit

Our Sixth-class pupils travelled to Fountainstown Beach in mid-May to complete a Seashore Safari Workshop. Under the guidance of the Explorers outreach officer from the Lifetime Lab and teachers, the students had the opportunity to gain experience about the importance of our marine environment and our ocean. The pupils ‘walked’ the shoreline, studied rock pools and their inhabitants and discussed the tides etc. All enjoyed the interactive and practical activities.



Cycle Right – Fifth class

Fifth Class once again participated in a cycling workshop which was conducted over 5 sessions. The children gained an insight into areas such as bike safety, the mechanics of the bicycle and cycling and most importantly the Rules of the Road. They all enjoyed the sessions and learned a lot of valuable information. Happy Cycling to one and all!!



A visit from our New Junior Infants

Our in-coming Junior Infants visited Scoil Phádraig Naofa on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 11th of May. The children had an opportunity to visit the classrooms for a story, rhymes and to meet some of their new friends. Meanwhile, their parents met with the school Principal, Mr McCarthy and some of our teachers, before enjoying a cup of tea with the Parents Association. We look forward to meeting them all on August 30th as they begin their journey in education, fun and friendship.



Gymnastics 'al fresco'

Our Junior Infant pupils took advantage of the early morning sunny weather in late May. They completed a number of Gymnastic tasks as part of their PE lesson in the open air. We all really appreciate the wonderful 'Astro yard'.



Cork School of Music Concert

As the school year drew to a close, parents were treated to an evening musical concert by those children who participated in the Cork School of Music after school class. Pupils played their musical instruments with enthusiasm and gusto and received well deserved praise and congratulations.



Yard Time in the Summer

Yard time provides children with a chance to run and play tag and other yard games. However sometimes children may prefer to play with less running involved. We are most fortunate at SPN to have at our disposal a wide range of yard equipment. The children can design and create various construction models using large polydron, giant Lego bricks, foam concrete blocks to mention a few. Pupils can play soccer and basketball and they have access to chalkboards. Our senior pupils rotate between the yards daily as they follow a rota of activities. These activities include soccer and basketball to name but a few.



Buddies, Buddies Everywhere

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of SPN is encouraging and fostering our 'Buddy' friendships. Each year a senior class is paired with an Infant class. The children complete many tasks and activities throughout the year, e.g., Nature Walks etc. Recently our Junior Infants and their Buddies in Fifth class were very busy. Junior Infants travelled upstairs to visit Room 8. They completed chalk drawing activities together in the yard.



It was lovely to see the Junior Infants replicate their chalk drawings outlines in the yard several weeks later during their class Art activity!



Senior Infants spent some quiet time during a busy morning to collaborate with their friends on their chalk drawings. As you can see, we have some very creative pupils at SPN.

What fantastic work everyone, well done!



Drama Workshop

We were most fortunate to welcome Bernard Casey to SPN in early May. Pupils in sixth class worked alongside Bernard for a drama workshop. The workshop provided opportunities for role play, improvisations etc. It was great to see the ‘budding actors’ of SPN relish the experience and become immersed in their character roles and scenario’s.



Sciath na Scol Final

On Tuesday May 23rd over 300 pupils and staff travelled via bus to Páirc Uí Chaoimh for the Sciath na Scol Hurling Final. Pupils were armed with flags, posters and SPN cheers as they arrived at the stadium to cheer on our team. The SPN Hurling team stepped onto the pitch with equal amounts of excitement and nerves.

Ballinora our opponents on the day, played a fair game with great skill. Despite the disappointing final score, the team from SPN made us proud. They continued to battle throughout the match to get points on the board. They worked as a team and used their skills and experience.



Although, the final score was not to favour SPN on this occasion, however the SPN Sciath na Scol Hurling Team received a warm rousing welcome upon their return to school.

A huge thanks and congratulations to the team, coaching staff, and parents.



Fourth Class Art Project

Our Fourth Class displayed their creative and artistic flair when they created their self-portraits. As can be observed, they succeeded in capturing their 'likeness' using a range of pencil and shading techniques. The children enjoyed completing this project and proudly displayed their drawings for all to view.



Bridge Building Project

The children in Room 9 and Room 10, First Class were also very creative this term. They used a range of materials e.g. plastic cups, Lego etc to create a variety of bridges.



Our budding designers and engineers tested their constructions using toy cars and lorries. This was to ensure that their model bridges could carry the weight of the cars etc. The children from Junior Infants also popped by to look at their bridges. Well done First Class!!



Fifth and Sixth Class Hockey Blitz

It was one of the few damp days in the month of June that Fifth and Sixth class pupils journeyed to Garryduff to participate in a Hockey Blitz. Despite the weather the children were enthusiastic in their participation and encouraged their teammates in true SPN spirit. Thank you to all the organizers and coaches who supported the children on the day.



Sunflowers

The pupils in Room 16, Third Class were busy this term planting sunflower seeds. They took great care of their seeds by watering them daily. They were very fortunate to have the recent wonderful sunshine to encourage their seeds to grow.



Cork City Sports

The sun rose early on the morning of June 1st to usher in the annual Cork City Sports held at MTU sports grounds. The day was organized into two sessions this year with our Boys SPN team taking to the track for the morning session. We were represented by an amazing group of athletes who ran in individual races and as part of the relay team.



The afternoon session of races featured our SPN girls again in both individual and relay races. Our Girls Relay Team was awarded Second Place in the final race. Despite the warm weather and crowds all our pupils displayed great team spirit, competitiveness and speed.



Congratulations to our SPN running team. A sincere thank you to the coaching staff and parents who supported the children on the day.



Children from the Rising Sun School of Karate, after school classes travelled to Cork City Hall in May. Along with Sensei Barry, the children met with and visited Councillor Deirdre Ford, Ardmhéara Chorcaí, in the council chambers. Following the visit, a number of our SPN pupils also completed their Karate Grading.



It was a proud day for both pupils, parents and Sensei Barry. Congratulations to all!



Project Work in Fourth Class

Pupils in Room 14 had an opportunity to work on and complete a range of different projects this term. They grew corn plants from pieces of popcorn and also designed and constructed t-shirts using card and other materials. We have several future designers and horticulturalists in our midst!!



Sustainable Uniforms

Our SPN community were delighted with the pre-worn uniform exchange, organised by the Parents Association, which took place during the final week of the Summer term. This is a new initiative for our school and supports us on our path towards sustainability and waste reduction.

Thank you to all who contributed and organised the event.



Summer Musical Rehearsals

This term saw the preparations for our Summer Musical continue. Pupils and staff stayed after school to work on their lines, to rehearse both dance routines and songs. The excitement continued and increased as we glimpsed little snippets and heard singing voices wafting down the school corridor as Opening Night drew closer and closer.

The inspiring vision of our Musical production team and talent of our pupils is utterly amazing. We hope our entire school community enjoyed the wonderful night and their memories from the stage of 'The Everyman Theatre' on June 15th. Thank you to all those in front, behind, and in the 'wings' who supported this wonderful endeavor.

Look Out Broadway, here we come!!



Impromptu 'open air' final rehearsal



Sports Fun Day 2023

Although the day began quite overcast, it was yet another extremely active Sports Fun Day at SPN. The emphasis on participation and fun was ever present as children navigated obstacle courses, completed parachute games, target practice, tug of war and played crab soccer. We also had a visit from Roslia for a Zumba session, Ronan Dooley a former SPN pupil helped with the GAA shoot out and we had a dance session in the halla.



The SPN traditional favourites were also included, running races, egg and spoon races and the wellington boot race competition. The Infants who had remained back at base at SPN finished their day off with a delicious ice-cream cone.



Meanwhile pupils from third to sixth classes enjoyed the walk to and from Douglas Hall. A sincere thank you to all the organisers and sixth class helpers – it was a truly fun and sporty day!



School Tours

Our school tour season began in late May this year as First Class were the first pupils to travel for their annual school tour. All the tours had much in common, and with a number of essential school tour ingredients:

1. Bus journey
2. Friends
3. Fun
4. Scrumptious lunch
5. No homework



On this occasion First Class travelled to Leahy's Farm, where they enjoyed meeting the farm animals, the playground and their yummy, packed lunch.





The tour season continued with trips to various locations around Cork City and County. Pupils enjoyed days at Rumley's Farm and the Let's Go Summer Camp.



Others travelled to Kartworld, Tir na Sí, Cork City Goal and Planet. Meanwhile some of the senior classes ventured to Oysterhaven and Ballyhass Adventure Centre. All the children thoroughly enjoyed their days out and about.



Thank you to all those at home who prepared the yummy lunches for each of these trips. They were very much appreciated by all the children.



Opening Night at The Everyman Theatre

The much anticipated Summer Musical took place in The Everyman on a very warm and busy Thursday night. The energy in the theatre was electric – and this was before the curtain rose!

Our pupils were absolutely AMAZING- their musical talent, acting, dance skills, and seamless skills organising the props on stage ensured that this night will live long in their memories and of all at SPN.

Thank you to the pupils, production team, all staff and parents for all their help and support.



Final School Assembly

Our final in person school assembly was a hive of activity. We celebrated the success of our Summer Musical with a medley of songs from our cast. We sang Happy Birthday to all our 'June birthdays'.

We had a visit from a surprise guest, Seán O'Donoghue, Captain of Cork Senior Hurling Team. Seán spoke to the pupils and answered a range of questions from the student body.



As this was our final school assembly Seán was on hand to hand out a number of trophies to several GAA collaborators.

We were so lucky for Seán to visit us on the day. A sincere thank you to all our GAA coaches, trainers, and supporters for all their dedication this year.



Annual End of Year Quiz

Our annual end of year quiz took place in the hall as the school began to ‘wind down’ for the year. Children from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth worked together to problem solve and answer a wide range of questions. There was much discussion and deliberation when pupils were tasked with identifying some of the SPN staff from their baby photographs!!!!

It was a most enjoyable morning for all those involved.



Graduation

One of our final school events took place as the final days of the school year dawned. Our Graduation Ceremony led by T.J. Coakley, pupils and staff reflected upon and celebrated their time at Scoil Phádraig Naofa. Pupils were joined by their parents in the halla to enjoy the songs and reflections.

And so, it is time to say 'Goodbye' and 'Bon Voyage' to our sixth-class students as they prepare to leave us. We wish them every success and happiness as they continue their education journey. Remember your time at SPN and strive to live your very best life.



Thank you and Keep Safe

As another busy year comes to an end, we reflect back upon a very busy but fun year, where children and staff had an opportunity to experience new learning both within and outside of the classroom. We would like to express our thanks to the support from the parent body, the Parents Association, the Board of Management, and to all the pupils and staff of SPN.

We hope that you all have an exciting and safe summer ahead.

