

## Scoil Phádraig Naofa



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wish to take this opportunity to wish Parents, Children and Staff a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. Scoil Phádraig Naofa has been an incredibly busy place since our return to school in August. We aim to provide the pupils here in Scoil Phádraig Naofa with a wide range of developmental opportunities to supplement the wonderful work being carried out across our classrooms. I hope you get a flavour of this as you enjoy our Christmas newsletter.

I would also like to acknowledge the supreme efforts of all our staff here in this regard. Our teachers, SNAs and support staff bring so much kindness, dedication and expertise to our school community each day. We strive to provide the boys and girls with a warm, caring and nurturing environment each and every school day. We all also greatly appreciate the support of our whole school community, including our Parents Association and Board of Management. Both continue to be a constant support for Scoil Phádraig Naofa, helping to ensure our school receives all that is required to help ensure a safe learning environment for all. Our pupils greatly enjoy the many wonderful events run by the PA. We are so grateful for the investment by the Board to install an Astro turf in our school's front yard. Children will be benefiting from this for many years to come.

Now is a time for family, togetherness and gratitude for all that we have. I hope this Christmas brings you all cheer and plenty of those family moments of togetherness and joy that will form life long memories for all the boys and girls of Scoil Phádraig Naofa. We look forward to 2023 with renewed hope and optimism.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!

Ní neart go cur le chéile,

Edward McCarthy

Príomhoide

### Dates to remember:

Christmas Holidays at 12 Noon on Wednesday, 21st December 2022.

School reopens at 8:30am on Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

## New Junior Infants



It was on a sunny morning at the end of August that our new Junior Infants began their learning journey at Scoil Phádraig Naofa. Despite a few tears, our pupils have settled in and have become the newest members of our SPN family.

Since those early days our Junior Infants have been very busy...



Pupils in Room 3 & 4 have made a lot of new friends with their Reading Buddies from 5<sup>th</sup> class. They enjoy sharing books and listening to stories with their buddies.

## "Is there a doctor in the house?"



Aistear remains a firm favourite activity with our Junior Infants. They have enjoyed role play in the Doctor's Surgery and in Santa's Workshop.



### Lord Mayor Visit

One of our earliest guests this year was our visit from the Cork City Lord Mayor. Councillor Deirdre Forde visited Scoil Phádraig Naofa, on September 7<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to welcome the Lord Mayor to our school for the first time since 2019. The senior pupils sang a number of songs in the halla and all pupils were excited with the 'Homework free' day granted by Councillor Forde.



### Swimming

Fourth class travelled to Bishopstown Pool for their swimming module of the PE curriculum. It was an early morning trek by bus to arrive in the pool by 9:15am. Meanwhile back at school they completed the PAWS programme online. This programme focused on Water and Farm Safety. During their final swimming session, the swim instructor asked pupils a range of questions associated with PAWS and pupils were awarded certificates of completion.



### Rugby

Pupils from second to sixth class walked to Garryduff to enjoy a Rugby workshop. The workshop was hosted by Sunday's Well Rugby Club where children were introduced to a range of key skills.



## Buzzi Bounce

Pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class had the opportunity to take part in Buzzi Bounce activities. These workshops focused on musical movement, singing and drama.



## Hockey Blitz

In October, the pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> class to 6<sup>th</sup> class took part in a Hockey Blitz organised by Hockey Ireland in Garryduff. The children played several matches against a number of schools such as St. Michael's, Blackrock and Eglantine School. They all enjoyed their energetic day out.



## The Art Library

The Art Library is an innovative approach to sharing art and knowledge driven by the principles of creativity, inclusion and participation. The Glucksman art museum in University College Cork has developed a collection that allows for works of art to be loaned to schools across the country.

Scoil Phadraig Naofa has been fortunate to borrow a work of art by renowned Irish children's picture book illustrator and author Niamh Sharkey. The artwork titled Creativity + Play is part of a series of works that respond to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Student Council guided and led discussions and activities relating to the art work with the pupils in the younger classes. There was great enthusiasm from both our budding Artists and Art Directors.



## Space Week

Pupils enjoyed a range of activities to celebrate Space Week. We listened to stories read by astronauts in outer space, created our own rockets and looked at the Solar System.



## Maths Week

October brought half term and Halloween but before those revelries we also celebrated Maths Week 2022. The children at SPN participated in a wide variety of activities which included Maths trails and board games. This enabled the teacher and children to extend their learning beyond the door of the classroom.



## Science Week

Katie and Ava from ALCON visited Second class to celebrate Science Week. The children used old cd's and kitchen roll holders to build their own periscope. They studied the human eye and looked at how glasses can help our eyesight. Pupils learned how cataracts can make your eyes 'blurry'. There was a high level of interest with all the children – perhaps we may have a few future 'Opticians' and Scientists among our second class. Pupils also brought their own science experiments to demonstrate and share with their teachers and class.



## Maths Workshop

Fergal and Dave brought the Maths Mobile Workshop from the Lifetime Lab to visit pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class. The children had an opportunity to problem solve and discover solutions to a range of Maths problems. The hands- on learning and group work which were a feature of these tasks were a delight to all.



## Scholastic Book Fair

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair took place at the end of October. The children had the opportunity to browse the shelves which contained a wide range of books. There was great excitement to be had making their book selections. We raised a total of €7230. For each book bought at the book fair our school will receive new books for the school class libraries. A sincere "Thank you" to all those on the Parents Association who helped to organise and to those who supported the book fair.



## Visit from Douglas GAA

To celebrate their recent win, several of the team players from the Douglas GAA Minor County Champions visited our school. SPN were extremely proud to welcome seven past pupils who were members of the winning panel. They also provided much inspiration for our Sciath na Scol team just before their final match.



In late November, Fourth class travelled to Carrigaline to participate in a soccer blitz. They played a number of matches against schools from Cobh and Monkstown. All pupils returned to school happy but tired following an energetic and action filled day of football.



### Sciath na Scol

The Sciath na Scol Football season kicked off in early September. Our Girls and Boys SPN teams, successfully battled out of their group matches against Ballygarvan, Rathcormac, Youghal and Belgooly.

Our Girls' SPN Football Sciath na Scol team led by Captain Holly McLoughlin, reached the semi- finals, where they were unlucky against GS Uí Riordáin (Ballincollig). Each team member put their skills to the test and their heart on the line for each match. We are so proud of you all!

Meanwhile the Boys' SPN team led by Captain Rory McCarthy, reached the final...



### Boys' Football Sciath na Scol Final

The day of the final dawned damp and blustery. Supporters from second to sixth class armed with flags and banners travelled by bus to Páirc Uí Chaoimh. SPN took to the field against GS Uí Riordáin (Ballincollig), where the SPN team spirit was clearly evident. Despite their valiant efforts, the team were not successful on the day. Although there were many disappointed faces at the end of the match, it was truly a memorable day.



## Roots of Empathy Racines de l'empathie

Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> class have been very fortunate to participate in the Roots of Empathy programme. This programme addresses the feelings and emotional side of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum. The class are visited by a baby and parent every three weeks during the school year. The instructor coaches the children to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings. They also support the children to identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others.



### New Yard

Despite several setbacks due to the inclement weather, the new Astro turf in the Infant Yard was finally ready for action! The Junior Infants were thrilled to take to the 'field' on a bright sunny Monday morning in early November. The new yard features 'hopscotch', 'number snakes' 'target boards' 'smiley faces' and is a lined soccer pitch'. It is perhaps the soccer pitch which has currently elevated this yard to the 'Premier Space' at SPN in the eyes of the majority of our pupils.



### Out and About

Our senior classes have travelled 'out and about' during this first term of the school year. Pupils enjoyed a matinee show "I remember when...", at Christ the King, secondary school in late November. Whilst in early December they enjoyed the pantomime, 'Spiderella' performed by pupils at Douglas Community School.

In the final school days of December, Sixth class travelled to Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Carrigtwohill to play Spikeball. They had a wonderful day full of fun and fitness.



The Parents Association launched 'The Lunch Bag', initiative in November. This provided parents with the opportunity to place a specific lunch order for their child. All orders can be made via an App. The lunch bags are distributed by our Sixth class team each morning. The team busily check their lists and are super-efficient ensuring that all lunches are delivered on time. "Thank you" to all our helpers.



### Army Band Visit

The Army Band, (Band 1 Brigade), visited on December 1<sup>st</sup> and we truly opened our Christmas festivities with a flourish. They played a wide range of familiar Christmas carols and songs. Band 1 Brigade were conducted by Company Sergeant Noel Galvin. We were introduced to the band members and their various musical instruments. The SPN community were very fortunate to enjoy such a special musical treat.



### After School Activities

Our after-school activities returned in early September. Children have an opportunity to participate in Irish Dancing with the 'Kiely School of Dance', Karate with 'Rising Sun' or perhaps decide upon Tennis Coaching. For those who wish to explore the Creative Arts, children enjoyed classes with the Cork School of Music or Crafty Kids.

For some though, it is the allure of the Homework Club, which captures their interest. This ensures that homework is completed before leaving school thus the afternoon is filled with endless possibilities and fun.



### Douglas GAA

Gavin Webb, The Games Promotion Officer from Douglas GAA, has joined our school this term. He has worked initially with pupils in Third -Sixth classes and has worked on a programme developing fundamental skills, such as hand eye coordination etc. These skills may be used in a wide variety of sports. He will commence working with the Junior Infants -Second class pupils in the coming weeks.



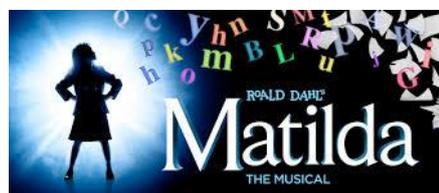
### The Christmas Box Appeal

We at SPN were astounded by the love and generosity shown by all those who created and donated to our Christmas Box Appeal. This year our shoe boxes will be donated to three local charities, Good Shepherd Cork, Rainbow Club Cork and finally Ballincollig Family Resource Centre. We gathered an amazing 320 Christmas boxes. Even as you read this, your treasure filled boxes are 'whizzing' from Rochestown, to their final destination. A sincere thank you to all involved.



### Student Council 2022-23

The SPN Student Council have had a busy few weeks. They have been instrumental in promoting 'The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal' and have led the Art Appreciation activities with the Junior classes. They have many exciting school events planned for the coming months e.g. bake sale, new in-house sports leagues, dress up days and fundraising for charity. Please keep an eye out for future updates



### Matilda Auditions

Auditions for our inaugural school musical, Matilda, were held in early December. There was great excitement, energy and a few nerves as children from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class auditioned for the various roles.

Our judges were led by Keith Greene from Bellvue Academy of Performing Arts and Ms O'Duffy (Room 4 class teacher), Musical Director of the Monfort College of Performing Arts. They were assisted by Mr. McCarthy and members of the SPN staff. The audition committee were astounded by the very high standard, level of talent, courage and commitment shown by all the children involved. It will not be long before opening night is upon us, in **Summer 2023** – look out for further details!!!!



## Karate Grading Exams

As the first term draws to a close, we would like to send our 'Congratulations' to all those pupils who recently achieved success at their Karate Grading Exams. Well done to all!

## Voices from SPN

'I liked the nativity songs and I loved seeing Baby Jesus in the crib.'

Hannah (Rm 1)

'It was scary, my heart was like a blender but it was definitely worth it.'

Jacob (Rm 8)

'At first I was scared but now I know how to swim.'

Meral (Rm14)

'I enjoyed swimming because I got better at it.'

Rian (Rm 14)

'Sciath na Scol Football is a lot of fun. You get to go on lots of buses and chat with your friends. Even though we lost some games, we won others and it was very enjoyable.'

Blaithín (Rm7)

'It shows that Art doesn't have to be perfect.'

Sophie (Rm 9)

'Most of us will never get an opportunity to play at Páirc Uí Chaoimh again, so we have to leave everything on the pitch and try to bring the trophy back to the school'

Rory McCarthy, Captain of Sciath na Scol Team (Rm 6)

'Okay guys, well done on getting this far. We all deserve to be here today and we have played really well as a team. We are here to have fun but we are also here to win! So, go out and play our hearts out, GO SPN!'

Holly McLoughlin, Captain of Sciath na Scol Team (Rm 6)

'It was very competitive and a great day out.'

James (Rm 5)

'It was very cool and creative. I also liked the squirrel.'

Oisín (Rm 9)

'My favourite part is singing "It's a long way on a Donkey".'

Conor O'L (Rm 2)

'The atmosphere in Páirc Uí Chaoimh and the feeling was brilliant. I liked talking to the person next to me on the bus going to the match. And scoring points and goals was also a great feeling.'

Dylan H (Rm 7)

## Voices from SPN

'I think the artist used her imagination and saw it through her eyes.'

Luca (Rm10)

'I really enjoyed swimming because it relaxed me and my mind'

Euan (Rm 13)

'I loved being Joseph in the Nativity.'

Ollie (Rm 1)

'I like learning about real stuff that I can't do'.

Tommy (Rm 4)

'I loved doing the actions for the songs, they were really fun.'

Carrie (Rm 2)

'I loved the picture because it was nice and big and she had lots of room to draw on it'.

James (Room 10)

'I really enjoyed the blindfold game because you had to work as a team and direct your partner to the right shape.'

Emma (Rm 16)

'I learned how to swim at our swimming lessons'

Eimear (Rm 13)

'I was nervous but I'm happy I did it.'

Faye (Rm8)

'I loved when the Coca Cola and Mentos exploded.'

Shane (Rm 12)

'I like making stuff for my teacher'

Harry (Rm4)

'It was exciting watching and supporting our SPN teams compete against each other.'

Max S (Rm 5)

'I liked showing the class my experiments.'

Ava (Rm 12)

'I like everything & playing with my friends'

Alex S (Rm3)

'Interesting how the eyes look with cataracts'

Cuan (Rm11)

'It was cool because of the colourful rainbows'.

Adam (Rm11)

'I loved the assembling of blocks to make a bed shape.' It was very funny trying to figure out where each piece fit but we got there in the end.'

Emma Lou (Rm 16)

'Swimming was fun and has taught me about water safety. It got everyone active.'

Seth (Rm 13)

The Maths Workshop was 'fun, interesting, exciting'

Simona (Rm15)

I like the 'Secret listener & secret walker'

Alice (Rm 3)

'It was interesting to figure out how to work the game, there were no instructions.'

Lily (Rm 15)