

Scoil Phádraig Naofa



Dear Parents,

I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our families a pleasant and happy Easter holidays. It has been an immensely busy term. I hope the boys and girls take the opportunity to rest up, enjoy themselves and return to school rejuvenated and ready for our summer term.

I would like to introduce you all to our new school crest. We are all delighted with our school crest. It will help our school culture grow. We are all proud to be a part of SPN and we feel this school crest encapsulates that. (Please note we do not intend to place the school crest on our school uniforms as we believe it is important for our families to have the option of purchasing generic uniforms.



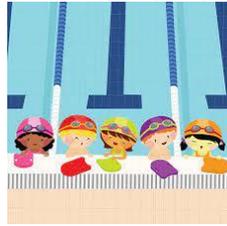
We all look forward to welcoming the boys and girls back after Easter holidays on Monday, April 17th for what promises to be a busy, active and enjoyable Term 3.

I hope you enjoy our school newsletter. Many thanks for all your continued support.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Edward McCarthy

Príomhoide



Swimming

This term saw both Third Class and Second Class take to the pool in Bishopstown. Again, it was an early morning departure to the pool but there was a great buzz of excitement. We were extremely fortunate that classes attended the swimming block session on an individual basis. They studied the basic swimming strokes i.e. front, back and breast strokes and completed a water safety component back at school.



Zumba

Our Junior Infants to Second classes enjoyed a six week block of Zumba dancing with Roslia. The children displayed their musical and dancing skills with boundless energy in every session. We observed many smiling and flushed faces as pupils slowly made their way back to their classroom after a truly robust workout.



FAI Soccer trials

It was in early January 2023 that the FAI Soccer trials were held at SPN. All participants were put through their paces under the guidance of Mr. J McCarthy and Mr. Roberts. Pupils from Fifth and Sixth classes went head to head on the pitch to secure a place on the SPN Squad.



Library Visit

Second Class travelled to Passage West to visit the County Library each Wednesday morning. They met with librarian, Paula, and enjoyed choosing and selecting their books. Paula was on hand to help the children locate their favourite books and suggested alternatives when the need arose.



Art and Creativity at SPN

Art and design play a very important aspect of life at SPN. Pupils have an opportunity to work with a variety of medium and to express their individuality in their work. Pupils from Fifth and Fourth class display their work above.



Hockey Ireland

Fifth and Sixth class enjoyed hockey coaching by Sarah each Monday morning on the Astro turf. The pupils had an opportunity to develop a range of key skills in this sport. Who knows, perhaps SPN may have some Olympic hockey players of the future!



Grandparents day 2023

As part of Catholic Schools Week 2023, we welcomed the grandparents of Third Class to Scoil Phádraig Naofa. Grandparents visited the classrooms where pupils shared songs and demonstrated our school resources e.g. Interactive White board, and listened to stories from their grandparents of school in the 'olden days'. We also thought about those who are no longer with us, but whom we still love and remember.

Following the excitement of the classroom, our special guests adjourned for tea, cake and a catch-up in the halla. It was a lovely visit enjoyed by both the children and the teaching staff.

Tea, cake and chats – Grandparents Day 2023





Friendship week

With the help of our Student Council, we celebrated Friendship Week in early February. Children worked together to create art displays with their classmates. They worked alongside their 'buddies' from the senior classes during their 'buddy Nature walk', 'buddy PE activities' and 'buddy Art activities'.

On Tuesday, 14th February, pupils were invited to wear pink and red to school to celebrate Friendship Week. A sincere Thank You to our Student Council for their assistance and support with organising all events.



House of Circuits Workshop

To begin our mid-term with a 'zap' of energy, pupils in Fourth and Fifth Class participated in a Circuits workshop hosted by the Lifetime Lab. We were most fortunate that children had an opportunity to create and build an individual electrical circuit using a variety of materials.



The Student Council

Our SPN Student Council rapidly turned their thoughts and energies to organise a special charity collection in response to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria. As a result of your generosity and support, €1900 was collected and donated to Unicef Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. Thank you!



Ceremony of Light

Our Sixth Class pupils continued their preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation in May. They were joined by Fr Pat O'Mahony and their teachers to celebrate the Ceremony of Light in the school halla.



Visit to UCC Teddy Bear Hospital

Both our Junior and Senior Infants descended 'en masse' to UCC Teddy Bear Hospital in mid- February. They had an extremely busy morning, meeting with doctors, queuing for teddy bear x-ray's and bandages.



Our many budding doctor's met with one of our former pupils, from our very first SPN Junior Infant class, who was now one of the Teddy Bear Hospital doctors...How quickly the years pass!



As teachers, we enjoy planning and organizing trips off the school campus. We are frequently reminded that the success of the day all hinges on the bus journey, as seen by the beaming faces pupils above.



Fourth Class Engineering Projects

Our pupils in Fourth Class astounded SPN staff with their amazing creations. Pupils constructed football stadia, the Louvre, robots, castles, a space rocket and a 'state of the art' hotel to name but a few. A wide variety of materials were used e.g. Lego, lollipop sticks, recycled materials and pasta. Many thanks to all the parents who assisted with these wonderful creations.



Engineers Week 2023

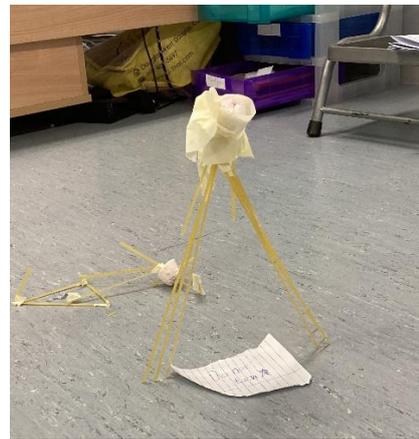
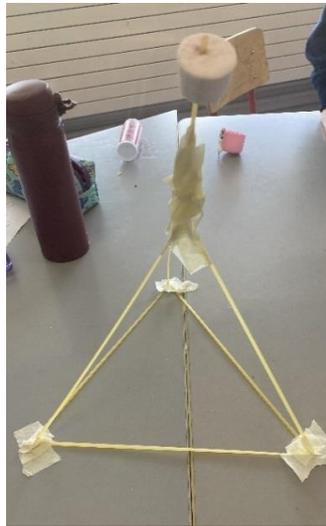
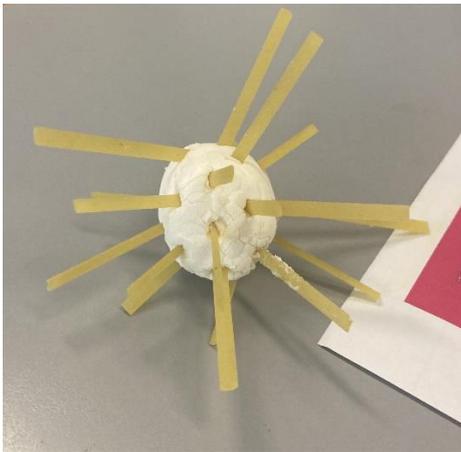
We celebrated Engineers Week 2023 by actively designing and making a variety of projects. We were very fortunate to have Richard O'Sullivan (Ava and Zoey's dad) and Rob Stevens (Liam and Ronan's dad) both engineers, to visit a range of classes during the week. Pupils were treated to power point presentations on four aspects of engineering and Question & Answer sessions focused upon construction and engineering.



Our Junior Infant pupils designed and constructed bridges using a variety of materials and equipment.



Meanwhile, our Second Class children used marshmallows and spaghetti sticks to construct a range of models, including the Eiffel Tower.



In Third Class, pupils learned about 'Dams' and discussed the various types of 'dam' around Cork and how to access those inaccessible locations. Well done to all our budding engineers!



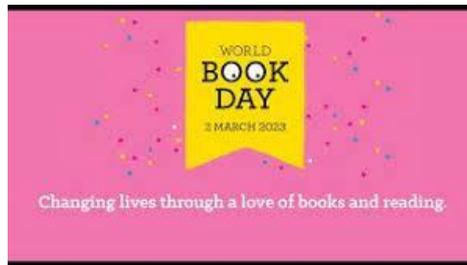
Visit to the Ursulines

Our girls from Fifth class travelled to the Ursuline Secondary School in early March. They gained an insight into "a day in the life" of a post primary student. They had an action-filled day completing a range of activities in French, Science, Art Music and Home Economics.



Boys 'Soccer 5 a Side' Tournament

Our boys from Fifth and Sixth class journeyed to Carrigaline on March 2nd for the 'Soccer 5 a Side' Tournament. They displayed their skills in 'passing' 'crossing', 'shooting' and 'slide tackles' on the day.



World Book Day 2023

We celebrated World Book day on Friday March 3rd. Many children celebrated by dressing as their favourite book character. Some got into the spirit by bringing their book along with a key item or symbol which represented their book. We also enjoyed our World Book Day Parade in the yard. On the day children shared important information about their book character with their teachers and classmates.



Girls 'Soccer 5 a Side' Tournament

It was during a rather grey and cold day in March that the SPN Girls were in action for their 5 a side soccer qualifier's. We were all very excited to celebrate their winning success in the tournament and wish them every success as they progress to the County Finals in Turners Cross. Congratulations Ladies!

Seachtain na Gaeilge

As March dawned so too did Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023. The children participated in a range of activities which celebrated our Irish language and culture. From Seachtain na Gaeilge Céilí with Miah Kiely, reading with our buddies and decorating our classroom notice boards all the children were actively involved.



Then there was the great 'Bingo' as Gaeilge, for all pupils from 3rd to 6th class. The concentration on the faces and the aura of competition in the halla was palpable. Number 67 was the elusive number which many children sought. Unfortunately, there can only be one winner but there was enjoyment had by all.



Our festivities culminated with the 'wearing of the green' (Lá Glas) on March 16th, with Bean Uí Chiniféic as our Grand Marshal for our parade to the yard.



Our final celebration for Seachtain na Gaeilge included a céilí in the yard with our friends. Both pupils and the staff enjoyed all the celebrations and festivities. A sincere thank you, to all those involved in organising such a wide range of events this year – it was truly special!!



The Glucksman UCC

Sixth class travelled to UCC, and specifically to 'The Glucksman' in late March. Whilst there they enjoyed participating in an Art Workshop. They enjoyed a guided tour of UCC campus and completed the day by taking part in a 'Graduation Ceremony'... perhaps a little taste of what the future may hold!!!



Out and About

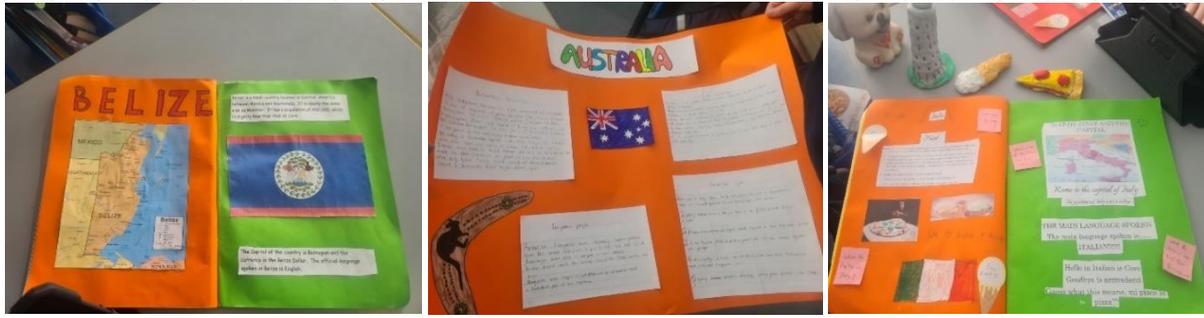
All pupils in Fourth class travelled to Douglas Community School to participate in 'a day in the life' of a student. They were actively involved in a range of activities such as Wood Work, Drama and Art.

In addition, Fourth and Fifth class were off to Rochestown Park Hotel, to view the Regina Mundi show 'Matilda'. This was performed by their Transition Year students. It was so lovely to see a number of our past pupils 'glide' across the stage transformed into their 'stage persona'.



First Confession

Our Second Class pupils received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 22nd 2023. Once again, we were very fortunate to have Rev. Pat O'Mahony, the Very Rev Canon Teddy O'Sullivan and Fr. Noel, join us on this special day. The boys and girls recited their prayers and sang beautifully. We look forward to joining with them and their parents and families on May 6th, when they receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist.



Class Projects

Fourth class recently completed their projects on various countries from around the world. Pupils selected their country and conducted their research before finally displaying their information. Many children created additional 'props' e.g. clay pizza, to showcase information which they had gathered. Thank you to all those who helped at home.



Star Dome Visit

The final week of the term had a star like quality to it. Pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class were treated to a visit from the Star Dome from Blackrock Castle Observatory. The children experienced the wonders of the night sky and gleaned information from Frances McCarthy, (BCO), all from the safety of the SPN Halla. We all really enjoyed the visit.



Tennis

As the term drew to a close our SPN tennis team took to the court. They competed in the 'Munster Primary School Cup' on a wet Tuesday in Mallow. The team were very successful in their endeavour and won the Munster Cup! Congratulations to the team, their coaches and all their supporters at home.



Sciath na Scol

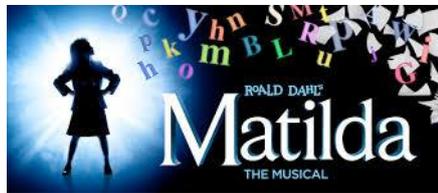
It's that time of year again... the Sciath na Scol hurling competition has begun! Our Girls SPN Sciath na Scol Team, competed a number of 'warm up' matches in preparation for the 2023 competition, against schools such as Scoil Nicholáís. Meanwhile the Boys SPN Sciath na Scol team, started their preparations with matches again Scoil Nicholáís and other schools. Both SPN teams have successfully competed in Round 1 of the 2023 Sciath na Scol to date.



Easter Raffle

The penultimate day of the school term dawned with a certain nervous energy in the air...it was the Easter Raffle!!! All week the excitement was building and on Thursday morning many held their breath as each ticket was drawn. Congratulations to all those lucky winners!

This is one of our main fundraising events of the school year at SPN. We would like to send our thanks and appreciation to our Parent Association, to those who provided prizes, and to all those who purchased tickets.



Matilda Update

"Shhhhhhhhh", the preparations and rehearsals are ongoing. The anticipation and momentum continues to build!! More information will follow!!!

Dates to remember:

Easter Holidays at 12 Noon on March 31st

School reopens at 8:30am on April 17th

Confirmation on May 5th at 10:30am

First Holy Communion on May 6th at 11am



Bon Voyage Bean Uí Chiniféic

Following her teacher training studies at Carysfort College, Bean Uí Chiniféic began her teaching career at St. Patrick's Girl's National School, Gardiner's Hill. She travelled to Western Illinois University, Chicago, to continue her studies on a Graduate Assistant Programme in the Education Department. Mary worked as a Reading Specialist in both Elementary and Junior High Schools in the southside Chicago suburbs before returning to Cork after 10 years.

Once back home in Cork, Mary worked at Scoil na Croise Naofa Primary School and St. Michaels Blackrock before she was on the move again. This time Mary arrived to the doors of Morning Star National School in Ballypheane. She continued to teach there for a number of years.

It was in September 2012 that Mary finally arrived and settled at Scoil Phádraig Naofa in Rochestown, which as a developing school continued to provide Mary with exciting challenges. Bean Uí Chiniféic, became a Senior Infant Class teacher and took up residence in Room 1.

During her time at SPN Mary taught and mentored approximately 300 of our past and current pupils. She nurtures their individual strengths and talents and strives to 'bring out the best in each child'. The children work in an environment with a strong emphasis on 'fairness' with a teacher who is very intuitive to their needs. She also provided opportunities to play, to laugh, to be creative and to learn in a caring classroom.

To her colleagues Mary shared her knowledge and experience of teaching and learning. She shared her innate sense of style and her kindness. Mary always has an anecdote or phrase to cheer you up on the days when you need it most.

Mary and her Senior Infant Classes have a great interest in President Higgins. He is a constant presence in Room 1, where there is a permanent photograph displayed. This keen interest culminates on Friday with the weekly quiz. There is frisson of excitement each Friday morning as the classroom door opens and the children arrive. The quiz is solely based on facts pertaining to President Higgins.

Mary has continued her love of learning by her studies in areas such as Mindfulness and Well Being and in Art Therapy in recent years. She believes that the wellbeing of children in her care is paramount and believes that being 'open' to children ensures that they feel happy and safe.

As she begins a new chapter in her life, Mary herself has personally paraphrased Jacinda Ardern, with her recent statement "I have more left in my tank" which hints of new and exciting up-coming projects.

Best Wishes and Love to you, Bean Uí Chiniféic. Thank you for all your dedication, support and fun.

