**Principal’s Report to Parents**

**Following SNI Board of Management Meeting Tuesday May 17th, 2022**

**Swimming – REALTA**

Swimming has been introduced for the first time for our Realta pupils in Athy pool. Four instructors assist the pupils in the pool and there is a hoist and floatation devices to support the pupils. This was a very enjoyable and successful experience for the pupils. Swimming is continuing with 5th class for 6 weeks until 21st June.

**Visit to Scoil Chonglais**

Sixth class SEN pupils visited Scoil Chonglais to meet Ms. Claffey and have a tour of the school. Information on how to read the timetable was available to support the transition of pupils with additional needs in September.

**Visit of Pat Hunt** heritage officer to 3rd classes on Friday 10th June

**Vaccination Programme**: The HSE vaccination programme for Junior Infants took place on June 14th.

**Memory Lane School Photographer**

Visit by the School photographer on Tuesday 7th June to take all class photos and individual and family photos. The proofs will be available to view by parent free of charge and orders for the photos will be accepted and posted out to parents later in June.

**Sponsored Walk**

The PA Sponsored walk was on 1st June with a shorter route for Infants and 1st class and the Green Road route for the Senior pupils. Almost €2000 has been raised to date and the school are very thankful to parents for their great generosity to the school.

**Skip and Rope**

All classes participated in Marc McCabe’s skipping workshops on Monday 30th and Tuesday May 31st. This culminated in a display by pupils from each class on the playground.

**Teaching and Learning**

Teachers are continuing to plan for teaching and learning. Standardised test results in Maths were very good across the school despite minimal revision. Literacy standards based on the Micra-T are also of a very high standard. Results will be communicated to parents in the end of year reports and to the DES as required. High quality displays, particularly in Literacy, Gaeilge and Art are evident in the corridors.

**Pilot School for Maths Curriculum**

Ms. Michelle Hannafin represented the staff views on the aims of the Primary Mathematics Curriculum at a meeting with the NCCA on May 19th. As one of 60 Pilot schools for the new Maths curriculum, SNI will undertake further work on the Maths and assessment of maths in the next school year.

**Open Day**

The open day was a great success. The student council greeted parents and visitors and showed them around the school. Approximately 80% of parents visited their child’s classroom, explored the playgound and had a look around the school. There was a great buzz around the school and both parents were delighted with the opportunity to chat with the teacher and view their children’s work and displays. Thanks to the Parents’ Association who very kindly organised refreshments in the school hall and to Ber Alcock Earley for providing treats for all the children. The staff were delighted with the uptake from Parents and it was wonderful to welcome parents and families into our school again.

**Active Schools Week, Cross Country and Sports Days**

The **Annual Cross-Country** race was held on Wednesday 8th June with individual races for 3rd to 6th classes in the school field and the results used to identify the winning team. Prize giving after the race. Enjoyed by all.

**Active Schools Week** -Junior Sports Day on Monday 18/6 for Infants to 1st classes from 9.30 to 12.30. There were 6 stations and the children moved to the next station after 8 minutes of the activity. The activities were - Musical chairs, potato and spoon, sack race, obstacle course, races, parachute. Every child in junior and senior infants got a ball for participating in the Fun Sports Day and the first classes received bats and a ball. All were thrilled with their prize.

**Senior sports day** on Thursday in the school field for 2nd to 6th classes. 4 events (100 m, sack crawl and potato and spoon races) and a relay race for each class. Presentation of medals and trophies on Friday

**Final of tom Hannafin Cup** for 5th and 6th classes on Thursday afternoon. Presentation of prizes to the winners and the second team.

**Circuit activities** in the PE hall were organized and supervised by the student council members and enjoyed by all classes.

**Book Lists for Third to Sixth Class**

Book and stationery lists are now organised for the 2022/2023 school year. Teachers from junior infants to second class met with various book publishers to discuss the merits of the various reading schemes and view the books and interactive resources associated with the programme. They decided to continue with the Starlight Programme for the 2022/2021 school year. In consultation with the MMT, it was concluded that phonic based/decodable readers would be needed to supplement the Jolly Phonics scheme and to enable the children to ‘read’ a book successfully and independently in their emerging reading phase. The junior teachers have requested investment in the Jolly Readers and Songbooks by Julia Donaldson so that junior infants to first class have a bank of instructional level texts to read. This would then be complimented by the more complex text presented in the Starlight Programme.

Jones Business Systems will come to the school on Monday June 20th. Parents can come to the school to order and pay for their books, and these will be subsequently delivered to the school for collection, in August.

Books for third to sixth classes can be either purchased or rented. The cost of the book rental for the 2022/2023 school year is €75.00. This price includes the rental cost for all textbooks and all workbooks.

Parents are also requested to pay €40 for Art and Craft materials, photocopying, text-a-parent and other classroom resources.

**Activities for the Children in Scoil Naomh Iosaf.**

Scoil Naomh Iosaf offers a variety of music, dance, sporting and fitness activities for all children. Some activities are paid for by the Parents Association or by the Board of Management, some by local clubs and others need to be paid for by parents. Money for activities can be paid for in full or in instalments over a number of weeks/months. In order to have a wide range of activities throughout the school to suit different children’s interest and abilities, parents are required to pay for some of the activities provided/organised.

The following in-school activities will be taking place, starting in September:

1. Skip and Rope Workshop: Monday September 5th and Tuesday 6th for all classes. Cost €2 per child and maximum €5 per family.
2. Pat Hunt Heritage Expert Visit: Wednesday September 7th for third class and Thursday September 8th for fourth classes. Cost is paid for by the Board of Management.
3. Zumba with Patricia Murphy will take place in the school hall every Wednesday morning for all classes on a rota basis over the year. Cost for 8 sessions is €12 per child. Zumba will start for junior and senior infants on Wednesday September 7th for eight weeks.
4. GAA coaching will take place every Thursday with Patsy Barrett and on Tuesday with Cormac Noone. Cost is kindly covered by Baltinglass GAA Club.
5. Music Generation: Choral singing with Leslie Dowdall for first and second classes. Ukulele teaching for third, fourth and fifth classes with Kevin. Music Generation costs are paid by the Parent Association and by the Board of Management. Small group Guitar teaching is also available and is paid for by the parents.
6. FitFun circuit and fitness classes are new for the 2022/2023 school year. Each class will have FitFun classes for a six-week block on a rota basis on Mondays. Classes begin on Monday, September 12th for third and fourth classes. The cost for six weeks FitFun is €18 euro (€3 per class).
7. Outdoor Education Centre: Fifth and Sixth classes will have the opportunity to visit the outdoor education centre to partake in a variety of activities, including, kayaking, orienteering, archery, zip lining, climbing etc. The cost per child is generally €20.00 and this will be confirmed at a later date.
8. Swimming will commence for second classes on Tuesday September 6th for six weeks. The cost per child is likely to be €60 - €70.
9. Each child is assigned two timetabled slots in the playground each week.
10. Dance Theatre – Cois Céim in Bray is available free of charge for two classes in October/November. The children are presented with a dance routine originally performed in the Ark and are given two dance workshops.

**Substitute Teachers/SNAs on OLCS**

Ms. Sinead Lord is undertaking the EAL hours granted for the Ukrainian Students.

Teacher Substitutes: Ciara Lyons, Elena Byrne, Arlene Kynch, Emily Hannafin, Diarmuid Gavin, Hilary Anne Norton, Judy Lawlor, Tom Hannafin, Bernie Donegan, Clare O’Neill, Colette Lynch and Cáit Mulreid.

SNAs: Mary O’Brien, Maria Cullen, Celina Kelly.