



March Newsletter

Scoil Aodán Naofa, Carnew, Co. Wicklow
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Closures

The school is closed on March 17th for St Patrick's Day and will be closing for the Easter Break on Friday 27th March at 12 noon. School reopens on Monday 13th April.

Uniform

We respectfully ask that all families adhere to the school uniform. Navy jumper, light blue blouse or polo shirt, grey trousers or skirt. Please note that we only revert to a shorts option in the last few weeks of the school year, ie, June. Until then long trousers/bottoms should be worn. This is important for our identity as a school. A survey will be issued shortly as part of our school uniform review and we urge all families to contribute to this survey. We have not reviewed our uniform policy for some time so this would be a good opportunity to do so. Thank you.

GAA Blitzes

Children from 3rd & 4th class represented the school for the first time in recent indoor camogie and hurling blitzes in Aughrim. The teams did the school proud and it is safe to say that the future of camogie and hurling in Carnew is in good hands!
Thanks are due to Ms R Wheatley for bringing and guiding the teams on both days of competition.

Spring Concert



Our Spring 2026 concert, involving Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second classes is all set to roll on Wednesday 25th March at 6:30pm in St Brigid's Hall Carnew. Rehearsals are in full swing and excitement is building! Entry on the evening of the 25th is pay at the door with adult tickets at 10 euro and child tickets at 5 euro. Thanks to the teachers and SNAs involved for making the show happen. We look forward to a memorable night and a positive experience for the children. A huge thanks also to our parent association who are rowing in behind us to help make this event happen.



Seachtain na Gaeilge



We held our Seachtain na Gaeilge here in Scoil Aodán Naofa this week. Activities included a performance from the Trad Band from Coláiste Bhride, a Céilí mór sa halla, Tráth na gCeist as Gaeilge, Lá Glas agus Amhráin Traidisiúnta (traditional singing) with guest artist Aileen Lambert. A 6th class pupil was able to tell me "Tír gan Teanga, Tír gan Anam" (a country without a language is a country without a soul). They studied seanfhocail during the week and obviously learned well! There is an appetite among the children for the spoken Irish language and, if fostered, could blossom into something special for the future. You can help by using your "cúpla focal" at home as well!

School Development Update

Scoil Aodán Naofa Carnew are currently in the process of establishing a two classroom extension specifically for teaching autistic children. This project is valued in the region of €1.5 million to €2 million euro. Work began on this project in 2019 when the Dept of Education granted permission, in principle, for the work. Following a number of planning applications, where parking became the stumbling block, the school finally received planning permission from Wicklow Co. Council in 2025. Despite a number of attempts to purchase adjoining land for the project, unfortunately, the Dept of Education refused to fund any purchase for the land and the school has to make do with its current site layout. This includes making provision for staff parking on the existing school grounds. A Bord Pleanála decision to restrict access via the school's rear entrance has further impacted the project. Added to this is the requirement to partially demolish (and then reinstate) an existing classroom to make room for a roadway to the new school car park. These measures were necessary to satisfy Wicklow County Council planning requirements.

The school and indeed the community need this project to be realised especially for local autistic/neurodiverse children so that they can attend their local school and not have to travel by bus to other educational settings.

As a result, it has become necessary, for the purpose of the project, to use the parochial house lands during the construction works. This will involve all construction machinery using the entrance via the parochial house, to access the school grounds, with assurances given that the land will be "made good" afterwards. There is no doubt that this will significantly impact the parochial house for a period of approximately 22 months, including temporary access being provided to the house during this time. The school is extremely grateful to the parish for this, as without this help, the project would be in jeopardy. It should also be noted that the school will lose a significant amount of recreational space because of the requirement to relocate staff parking to the rear of the school. We hope that the time and energy given to the project by the Boards of Management, past and present, will bear fruit and we look forward to the day when the doors of the new facility will be opened to children with additional needs.

School Attendance

As always, every school day counts and we wish to see every child in school whenever possible. In particular, please note the previous email about dates in May when standardised testing is taking place in school.

Raffle

We are also running a monster raffle along with the concert. Raffle cards have been distributed to each family and we thank you for any and all support. The list of prizes is growing by the day and include a €250 voucher for Monart Spa resort, €100 Ultima Oil voucher, several €100 cash prizes along with vouchers from the Family Tree, the Bothy, Osbornes Pharmacy, Candys , Gorey Cinema, Kavanagh Crane Hire and a number of Easter hampers, the list is ongoing. See our school Facebook page for updates on the prizes on offer.

We are extremely grateful also for the many donations people have made towards the hamper prizes. Your kindness is deeply appreciated. Proceeds go towards school funds for the year ahead.

