

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Senior Primary, Laytown, Co Meath



Principal's New Year message:

Happy New Year! It is heartening to finally see many facets of normal life opening up and being available to us again. By adhering to the challenging guidelines and supporting each other over the past 2 years - we can now finally look forward to a promising 2022. Within our school we are continuing to observe mask wearing and the basic health guidelines to limit the spread of infection, which unfortunately is still prevalent within our community. However, we are now finally in a position to plan the resumption of many school activities which the children have missed out on over the past 2 years. Activities which improve well-being and provide joyous learning experiences for our children. I wish you all a very healthy and happy 2022.

A healthy and wholesome 2022!

In Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh we are holistic in our approach to our children's health and well-being. This comprises lessons and learning on health and personal safety, exercise, sport, music and singing, creative activities, being kind and looking after your mental health. Communication is key in our school community and with the collaboration between the Parents and Staff, we endeavour to provide a holistic education for all our pupils.

Creative flair is evident throughout our school:

The children's artistic endeavours are in evidence in every classroom window and in the corridors throughout the school, as we encourage them to express themselves – through painting, colouring, creative writing, arts and crafts, and many other creative projects. This self-expression helps to build self-confidence and discover individual talents.



Some of the children in Mr Hayes class proudly displaying their striking artwork. Hats too!

Fun with Fractions!

Mr. Whelehan's 3rd class having fun with fractions, by cutting out various different shapes and dividing them into fractions and making wonderful pictures!! Who knew maths could be so much fun!





[My Axolotl](#) by Alex Fitzsimons, Mrs Foster's 5th class.

Skittles and Bubbles Hi everyone my name is Alex! I'm going to tell you about my very fascinating pets, the axolotl or Amby stoma Mexicanum. You may have heard of them from the game 'Minecraft' as they are a feature of this game. They are a very odd pet as they have feather-like gills and come in many different morphs (colours) including: Leucosticte (pink), green, blue, black, gold, albino and brown with black spots. These colours are beautiful when you see them.

I have two axolotls myself. The first is albino which is quite rare, her name is Skittles. They are both female because unfortunately, they can produce from 1,000-1,100 babies. This is quite a lot if you ask me!

My other axolotl is named Bubbles. She is a bit younger than Skittles. Bubbles is brown with black spots. Axolotls love to eat, they're always hungry and will eat pretty much anything. They are not the most intelligent creatures that exist and are cannibalistic. That means if they get bored they nip at each other! But if they are roughly the same size they should be ok to live together. To feed them I really recommend sinking pellets, as they are great for axolotls! You can also feed them some: Night crawlers, earthworms, bloodworms, ghost shrimp and cherry shrimp as treats. If you are interested in purchasing an axolotl, I highly recommend the Seahorse Aquarium in Dublin.



This month Ms Carroll's 4th class have studied Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest. They learned about the animals and birds that call the Amazon their home. And they produced some fabulous artwork of beautiful Toucans! - well done Ms Carrolls class.

Exercise in the Classroom and play in the School Yard – sports is not the only physical activity!

Movement breaks and exercises in the classroom are an important part of our physical activity programme. These regular breaks help the children to concentrate and refresh attention and focus on their lessons. We are also pleased to report the resumption of our outdoor sports programmes and activities - and GAA coaching and basketball coaching is on the agenda.

Internet Safety week at SSN - February 7th - February 11th. Staying safe on-line is an extremely important part of looking after children's emotional welfare and personal safety. Class lessons will take place for all children during Internet Safety Week and we will also be organising talks for the children from experts in this area.

Looking after our well-being:

The whole school hosts **Friendly Friday** on the last Friday in every month. This is an opportunity for the children to re-visit what it means to be kind, to be a good friend and how to identify and deal with bullying behaviour. Correcting inappropriate behaviour is an important part of our school discipline policy. We do not tolerate bullying or anti-social behaviour within our school community.

Catholic Schools Week 2022.

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated from 24th - 28th of January. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2022 is '**Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full**'. Having a good or positive attitude leads us to find happiness in everyday things. When we build a close relationship with God, through prayer and talking to God, we understand better what God wants from us and we can reflect on all that we are grateful for in our lives. Through looking outward, we become aware of the gifts God has given us and what is truly important in life. Through this awareness and gratitude, we are enabled to live life to the full with God.



This year pupils from third class volunteered to take part in readings over the intercom. Pupils read out reflections, and prayers to encourage the whole school to embrace their strengths, talents and uniqueness. The whole school complimented the fantastic readers – well done everyone! Thank you to Ms Vaughey for arranging readers and prayers.



Ms. Delaney's 3rd class were busy celebrating Catholic Schools Week with gratitude pockets. It encouraged us to be grateful and give thanks for all the wonderful things we have in our lives.

Confirmation in March:

Confirmation is scheduled for Tuesday 29th March. Further details will be communicated to parents and guardians by the 6th class team, following discussions with Fr Denis.