



Scoil Naomh Muire Eas Géitine

October Mid-Term Newsletter 2026

23 October 2026 •

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we have already reached our first mid-term break of the 2026/2027 school year. The first weeks have been extremely busy, and it has been wonderful to see the children settle so well into their classes and become involved in the many different aspects of school life.

I would particularly like to welcome our new Junior Infants and all of the new pupils and families who have joined Scoil Naomh Muire this year. Our Junior Infants have made a fantastic start and have quickly become part of the school community.

Our New Playground

One of the biggest changes pupils returned to in September was our fantastic new school playground.

Following a major fundraising effort, the playground is now in full use and has been an enormous success with the children. It provides opportunities for climbing, balancing, movement, cooperation and, most importantly, plenty of fun.

A sincere thank you once again to everyone who supported the development, particularly the many families who continue to support our School Lotto. The continued success of the lotto allows us to invest directly in facilities and opportunities for our pupils, and we hope to continue building on these developments in the years ahead.



Our new playground and AstroTurf in daily use.

Hot School Meals

Our free Hot School Meals Programme with Carambola has continued this year, providing pupils with a hot lunch each school day.

The programme has become an important part of the school day and we appreciate the cooperation of parents in keeping orders updated and ensuring children have selected meals that they will enjoy.

Sport and Physical Activity

It has been a very active first term.

Our external Gaelic football coaching programme has been running across the school, with pupils developing their skills on our AstroTurf.

The new playground and AstroTurf continue to be used extensively for PE, movement breaks, coaching and active play. These facilities are making a real difference to the range of physical activity opportunities available to our pupils each day.

Music in Our School

Music continues to be an important part of school life.

Music Generation sessions have resumed, giving our younger classes opportunities to explore rhythm, instruments, movement, singing and performance.

Our tin whistle programme is also continuing for pupils from Second to Sixth Class, with children developing their musical skills throughout the year.

Our older pupils have also begun preparations for Peace Proms, and we look forward to seeing their work develop over the coming months.



Music and performance continue to be an important part of school life.

Maths Week 2026

We celebrated a very successful Maths Week during October.

Throughout the week, pupils took part in number challenges, Maths Eyes activities, problem-solving, estimation, maths trails, measuring, construction activities and games.

The week concluded with our whole-school quizzes, with a Junior Quiz for Junior Infants to Second Class and a Senior Quiz for Third to Sixth Class.

It was fantastic to see pupils working together across classes and enjoying maths in a fun and practical way.

Wellbeing in Scoil Naomh Muire

Wellbeing remains at the heart of our work in the school.

This year we have begun implementing the redeveloped Wellbeing/SPHE curriculum, with an initial whole-school focus on belonging, relationships and wellbeing.

Our Amber Flag Committee has also been updated for the new school year, with new pupil representatives joining the committee.

Throughout the year we will continue to focus on creating a school environment where children feel safe, included, valued and ready to learn.

Yellow Flag Programme

We are delighted to have begun our work towards the Yellow Flag, a national programme which celebrates diversity, equality and inclusion.

Our school community has become increasingly diverse in recent years and we wish to recognise and celebrate all of our students' heritage.

Staff have begun training for the programme, inclusion surveys have been undertaken and our Yellow Flag Committee is beginning its work.

Over the next two years, pupils, parents and staff will have opportunities to take part in activities celebrating the different cultures, backgrounds and traditions represented within our school.

Celebrating Our Staff

In September we celebrated SNA Appreciation Day, providing us with an opportunity to recognise the enormous contribution our SNAs make to the lives of our pupils and to the everyday running of Scoil Naomh Muire.

We also marked World Teachers' Day in October. Our teachers work incredibly hard each day to provide the best possible learning experiences for our pupils and to support their academic, social and personal development.

The patience, care, professionalism and commitment shown by all members of our staff are greatly appreciated by pupils, families and the wider school community. We were delighted to have the opportunity this term to acknowledge both our SNAs and teachers and to thank them for all that they do.

School Assemblies

Our first whole-school assembly of the year took place in September.

Assemblies are an important opportunity for us to come together as a school community, celebrate pupil achievements and recognise kindness, effort, Gaeilge and positive contributions to school life.

Assemblies will continue throughout the school year, with members of our school leadership team taking turns to lead them.

Gaeilge

We continue to promote the use and enjoyment of Gaeilge throughout the school.

Our regular Frása na Seachtaine encourages pupils and staff to use everyday Irish naturally during the school day, while our Gaeilgeoir awards recognise pupils who make a particular effort to speak Irish.

Comhghairdeas to all of our Gaeilgeoirí so far this year!

Green Schools

Our Green Schools work has continued this term with our committee and pupils promoting positive environmental habits across the school.

Activities such as WOW - Walk on Wednesday encourage children and families to think about active and sustainable travel, while also supporting healthy lifestyles.

We look forward to continuing to build on the achievement of our second Green Flag.

Halloween Safety

We were delighted to welcome Garda Owen to the school this week to speak with pupils about keeping safe at Halloween.

The children received some very practical advice around fireworks, bonfires, road safety and staying safe when out and about over the Halloween period.

Our younger classes have also been extremely busy with Halloween art and activities, and the corridors have certainly become a little spookier over the past few weeks!

Halloween Fancy Dress

We finish the half-term with our annual Halloween Fancy Dress Day.

There has been great excitement around the school and, as always, a fantastic variety of costumes. It is a lovely way for the children to finish what has been a very busy first part of the school year.

Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal

We are once again supporting the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Information leaflets have already gone home with pupils. Families who wish to take part are asked to return completed shoeboxes to the school by Monday, 9th November.

Thank you in advance to everyone who supports this very worthwhile appeal.

School Lotto

Finally, thank you to everyone who continues to support our weekly School Lotto.

The support received through the lotto has already contributed enormously to developments within the school, including our new playground.

For anyone who would like to join, our lotto is available at:

<https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/scoilnm>

Every entry provides ongoing support for projects and improvements that directly benefit our pupils.

Thank You

The opening weeks of the school year have been extremely busy, but they have also been very positive.

I would like to thank our pupils for the enthusiasm and energy they bring to school each day, our staff for the enormous amount of work that goes on both inside and outside the classroom, and our parents and guardians for your continued cooperation and support.

I hope all of our pupils, families and staff have a safe, enjoyable and relaxing Halloween mid-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed for another busy period leading up to Christmas.

Kind regards,



Brendan Hayes

Principal

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