

SCOIL N. PHÁDRAIG NAOFA, AVOCA 2016-17

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Enrolment Numbers: 202 Pupils

Teachers: 11 including Principal, 3 Resource Teachers/ Learning Support Teachers (2 Full time/1 part time)

Special Needs Assistants: 1.5

Ancillary Staff: 1 part time Secretary and caretaker

SCHOOL ETHOS

- The policies, practices and attitudes of the school are inspired by Gospel values, by belief in God and Jesus Christ.
- The school aims to promote the development of all aspects of the person of each pupil, his/her relationship with God, with other people, with the environment and with the place we live in.
- Religious education is provided in accordance with the doctrine and practices of the Catholic Church. Prayer is a feature of each school day. Preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation is provided in close co-operation with Father Byrne, who is regular visitor to the school.
- A wider sense of community is fostered embracing management, teachers, parents, pupils and the parish community. A spirit of mutual respect is promoted. Example and teaching give pupils an appreciation and real respect for persons from different social, national and religious backgrounds.
- Parental involvement in both curricular and extra-curricular activity is actively encouraged. Parents and teachers support and collaborate with one another as partners in guiding pupils to reach their full potential at the different stages.
- All staff members are held in high esteem and with equal respect. Personal and professional development is encouraged. Teamwork is our hallmark.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Board of Management Members:-

Chairperson:

Marian Canavan

Principal:

Mary Cahill

Patron's Nominee:	Fr D.Byrne
Representative of Wider Community	Dora Tinsley
Representative of Wider Community	Ben Tuke
Teachers' Nominee	Kathy van Eesbeck
Parent Nominee	Andy Kennedy
Parent Nominee	Sol Royo Erasquin

Dates of Board of Management Meetings:

27th September, 2016
 29th November 2016
 7th of February 2017
 24th March 2017
 9th of May 2017
 13th June 2017

SCHOOL INITIATIVES/EVENTS

Sacramental Ceremonies (in collaboration with the Parish)

Children were prepared for the reception of the following sacraments:

- First Confession
- First Holy Communion
- Confirmation

All staff and children participated in prayer services throughout the school year, in particular marking important religious dates in the church calendar.

Literacy

- Introduction of Literacy Lift Off- Sept to June
- Book Week- October 2016- We had a visiting storyteller, produced a school magazine and had a book cover and dress up as a character competition
- Book Fair –October 2016
- Training for Primary Language Curriculum
- Spelling Bee- Brian O' Hara represented us at the Leinster Finals

Numeracy .

Maths week was held in October 2016. Children took part in trails and quizzes

School Choir

- The School Choir under the direction of Mrs Ciara McGrath and Ms Kathy van Eesbeck provided music for all of the school functions.
- They participated at the Big Sing which is a local event aimed at promoting good mental health
- They also participated in the Christmas Singing in the Bridgewater shopping centre
- They sang at the Avoca Senior Citizens' Party in the Woodenbridge Hotel in January
- The choir participated in the Arklow Music Festival on Sunday, 6 March 2016

- The choir participated in the sacramental ceremonies that took place in May.

Christmas Plays/Carol Concert

The Christmas plays and carol service took place in December 2016 and all of the children were involved.

Sport

- **Athletics** – the annual Wicklow Schools' Cross Country event took place in Avondale . There were 24 participants from Avoca N.S and all of them secured a medal. Cumann na mBunscol (Wicklow athletics) took place on in May he Avoca School children got a first, second and third.
- **Spikeball**– The school in conjunction with GaeilScoil an tInbhir Mhór took part in a Spikeball training initiative. They participated in a blitz competing against other local schools and won the competition outright
- **Football** – The school team competed in the school's 3rd and 4th class blitz and emerged as winners
- **Rugby**- The school had a rugby coach come in this year. They trained with him and won the local blitz as a result.
- All children in the school had access to a GAA coach and a yoga coach this year.
- Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1ST class participated in Hip Hop Dance this year.
- The children are working hard on our walking around Ireland Initiative at present. We have applied for an Active Flag.
- Circuits- A parent came in to teach the 3rd to 6th classes some circuits and help them become fitter

Food Dudes

The whole school has been participating in the "Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme" managed by Bord Bia. Junior Infants to Second Class are getting fruit and vegetables for sixteen days and the

Junior Entrepreneur

All of the classes participated in this programme which is a joint venture with Evalon a local company

Friends for Life

A teacher in Fifth Class piloted a programme called “Friends for Life” with her class. It was a tenweek teacher-led programme aimed at increasing resilience and preventing anxiety. Information was sent out prior to the commencement of the programme.

School Garden.

Our school planters have been planted. The children are looking after these and hope to harvest the contents in the near future

Buddy system

Sixth class have been working with their buddies in Junior Infants once a week throughout the year.

Competitions

Brian O’ Hara represented us at the Leinster Finals of the Spelling Bee

Kevin Whelan was one of the National Finalists in the Doodle4Google Competition

Extra-Curricular Activities

A broad range of extra-curricular activities and clubs were available to pupils in the school, namely:-

- GAA –football
- Dance
- Music
- Tennis
- Irish for Adults

SCHOOL POLICIES

The following school policies and procedures were reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management at their meetings throughout the year.-

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Discretionary Leave Policy
- Tour Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION (to April 2016)

Reviews have taken place in respect of the:

- Literacy School Improvement Plan

Copies are available on the school website.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT/SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS

The Board of Management has met its obligations in respect of Child Protection and Anti-Bullying Procedures – Department of Education and Skills Circular 0065/2011 Appendix 2 and Circular 0045/2013

The Board of Management has reviewed Pupil Attendance returns during the course of the school year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board of Management would like to acknowledge the commitment of staff, the support of the parents/guardians and the enthusiastic co-operation of the pupils who work together to make the school a centre of excellence in Catholic primary education.