

# Mercy Convent Primary

## Newsletter

### September '24



September  
2024

EDITION

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WELCOME TO  
OUR TEAM!

Dear Parents and Guardians, we have had an enjoyable but quite a busy start to the new school year. Our pupils are now fully settled back into the daily routines, which has been lovely to see.

It has been a great two months with construction back in full flow and the contractors are on target to finish in early August 2025. The contractors are really supporting us with the completion of the new temporary classroom and the near completion of the carpark area.

We had a historic day on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> as Bishop Dennis Nulty wrote to the Department of Education to request that our school go fully co-educational from September 2026. We are hugely proud of our Mercy tradition, that will always continue, with this being an exciting new chapter for our school.

We will no doubt have a very beneficial year ahead for all our school community. Slán.

*Cathal Ruane*

We were delighted to introduce ten new members to our school staff. Our warmest welcome to: Ms. Ciara Flood, Ms. Róisín Meehan, Ms. Áine Kavanagh, Ms. Niamh Humphreys, Ms. Cora Allen, Mr. Cal O'Flynn, Mr. Damien O'Flynn are our mainstream teachers.

Ms. Ciara McCormack who has joined our Special Education Team while Ms. Rafter is on leave. Ms. Ary Gonzalez and Ms. Amalia Saucedo Castillo are our two new Special Needs Assistants. We look forward to them all being with us for many years to come.



**Ms Clancy's Junior Infants  
Ms. Flood's Junior Infants**



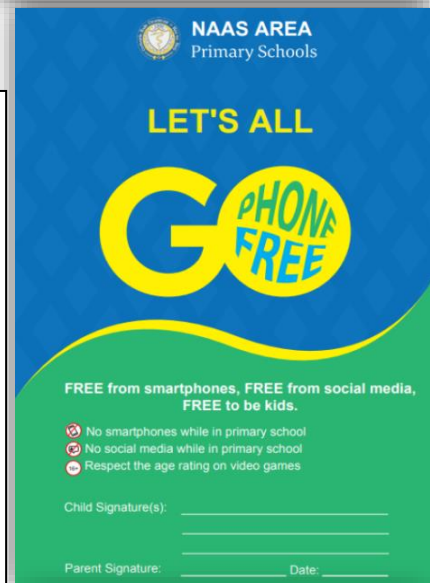
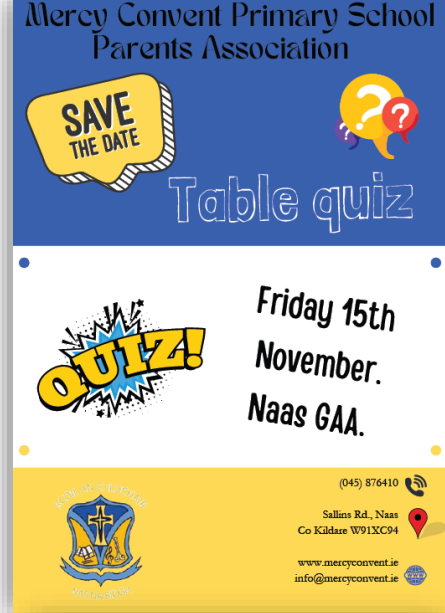
**First day of School**  
We welcomed 88 junior infants into our school. They have settled in so well.

Huge thanks to Ms. Clancy, Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Flood and Ms. Meehan for all the hard work and dedication with our newest members in our school community.



**Ms Fitzgerald's Junior Infants  
Ms. Meehan's Junior Infants**





A photograph of Reuben and the third and fourth classes that attended the "Hacked" workshop last Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.



### Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R.)

We're very excited to have started this new initiative. We hope to instill joy and fun in reading, by encouraging classes to stop what they're doing to read each day.

Reading for pleasure is important and something for which we should all make time.

We hope this will cultivate a love for books, expand vocabulary and encourage increased independent reading.



The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go.

- Dr. Seuss



The Mercy Value for October is **Manners**. We'll be focusing on greetings each morning and how to show consideration and respect to all members of our school community.



### Parents Association News

Our Parents Association have hit the ground running this September! The term kicked off with our **Autumn Clothes Collection**. We managed to raise **€420.80! €42.08** was donated to the Laura Lynn. Many thanks to all that donated. We will have our Spring Clothes collection in term 2. The date will be shared closer to the time.

We also had the official launch of our "Go Phone Free" Initiative on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Information on this initiative was sent home last Thursday. If parents wish to opt in they can complete the hard copy form or online one. Please **do not complete both**. Here is the link to the online form.

Link: <https://forms.gle/TS46iToGte8s3cPr9>

Forms can be returned up until **October 25<sup>th</sup>**. It would be great to see as many families get involved as possible. To complement this launch and highlight the dangers of social media the classes from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> watched the "Hacked" workshop.

Finally, two important dates for your diary. Our **AGM is next Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm**. It would be great to see as many people there as possible. We have our **PA Table Quiz fundraiser Friday November 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### Visit to see Author Ger Siggins

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, our two sixth classes were delighted to be invited to meet the Irish author, Ger Siggins in Barker & Jones. The girls really enjoyed his workshop. Ger chatted freely his work as a sports journalist about where he gets his inspiration for his books.



This week saw the return of Aisling, our Spanish tutor. As part of the "Say Yes to Languages" initiative our third, fourth, fifth and sixth classes will have Spanish lessons over the next ten weeks.



**Junior Infants Library Visits.** Two of our junior infant classes had a visit from two librarians On Wednesday. Yesterday they visited Naas library. Next week our other junior infant classes will do the same. Visits to Naas library are planned for all classes in term one.

### School Sports

As an Active school we will continue and enhance the many activities from last year. Fourth classes have started swimming with third and second classes going later in the year. Emmett from Naas GAA is coaching camogie to our first and second classes. Camogie and football training has also restarted for classes from third to sixth. Mario, our physical activity volunteer, is working with our senior classes each week. Basketball training with Ms. Smyth is on every Friday afternoon. New for 24/25 is our soccer team taking part in FAI Schools Kildare Primary competition. Michal has returned and our fifth and sixth classes have spent the past few weeks learning rugby drills. Not forgetting our infants, we have Pat Behan from FAI providing Futsal coaching to our infants classes for the next four weeks.

### Coming in October

- Parents Association AGM Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>
- Maths Week 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October
- Junior Infant Open Night 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- Halloween Dress Up(optional) October 25<sup>th</sup>

### Gentle Reminders

- Kindly update Aladdin should your child be absent.
- Punctuality is important and greatly assists with a smooth day.
- Please wear school tracksuit on PE days only. Formal uniform every other day.
- We have a healthy eating policy and encourage healthy eating. Please click [here](#) for details.



### School Building Update

Work is underway on our staff car park which will be located to the back of the Old School. Initially, on completion this will be the yard space for classes from 3rd to 6th at breaktimes. Within the new school building, internal works have commenced and appear to be on track. We look forward to being in situ this time next year.