



# Howth Primary School January 2017 Newsletter

## A great finish to 2016

Christmas Cake Sale, Variety Show—A Taste of Christmas, Orchestra Open Days, Class Plays, Santa’s Visit, decoration of the Christmas Tree in the school, setting up of our school cribs, a brilliant Nativity Pageant in the Church on Christmas Eve and the Three Tenors concert featuring our school choir - what a blizzard of fantastic seasonal occasions. I would like to thank all who helped to make these events so successful and so enjoyable!



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## Omar Lorusso R.I.P.

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the untimely death of Omar Lorusso (father of past pupils Francesca and Matthew). Omar was a popular businessman in Howth and a generous supporter of our school.

I would like to extend deepest sympathy to his wife Suzanne (a sister in law of our Special Needs Assistant Emer Sanfey), to Francesca and Matthew and to all the Lorusso and Sanfey families.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam



## Breaking News!

Vincent Van Gogh, Jack B. Yeats, Matthew Whelan, Rembrandt, Van Rijn, Pablo Picasso What have these people in common?

They are all artists. Congratulations to our own Matthew Whelan (Ms. Breen’s Third Class) who has, for the second year in a row been selected as a semi finalist in an international art competition. The judging panel will soon select the artists who go on to the finals with public online voting to take place from February 7th 2017. ([googlr.ie/doodle4google](http://googlr.ie/doodle4google)). A Prize giving event will take place on April 3rd 2017 where the overall winner will be announced. Well done Matthew and good luck!





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### Child Protection

Our school policy on Child Protection has been revised in line with recent legislative changes and will be brought to our Board of Management for review by the end of this school year. The Designated Liaison Person for reporting concerns or making referrals to the authorities regarding school Child Protection issues is the principal Mr. John Chambers. Our Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Ms. Sile Moloney Deputy Principal. Copies of our present Child Protection policy are available for inspection in the school. In the interest of safety/child protection, and in order to reduce con-

gestion in the corridor at morning reception time (8.50—9.00) parents/guardians are asked **not to accompany** their child(ren) into the building. By now, our Junior Infants are familiar with the routine of walking into their own classroom and are well able to make their own way without parent/guardian as guide. **Parents (& children) arriving after 8.50 a.m. or who need to see the school secretary / have a pre-arranged appointment should enter via the white entrance doors on the other side of the building (main reception).** If your child is being

brought to/ or collected from school by someone **other** than the usual person please send an advance note to the class teacher. This is required in line with Child Protection best practice.

Parents with pre school children/toddlers are asked to ensure that these children do not stray into the car park or along the car ramp at assembly or collection times. In the interest of safety please check that children do not climb along the ramp way/wall/school gates/railings.

Your co operation is much appreciated.

*Please follow the guidelines set out—they are for the safety and protection of your children,*

*Thank you*

### Health / Safety

Please ensure that your child is properly dressed during the winter months and that they bring a healthy lunch in to school. School opens at 8.50 a.m. If possible please arrange that your child is not dropped off outside the school too early before school time. Parents are requested, in so far as possible, to ensure that children who have been unwell, are fully recovered before returning to school. Aside from the obvious health factors, this request is in line

with insurance/ supervision regulations which stand against us accommodating requests from pupils to remain in class during yard breaks. Please follow our One Way Traffic system at school opening & closing times and obey our school Traffic Warden at all times. The Gardaí have been in touch with the school asking us to remind all parents that cars are **not to be parked** inside the yellow box outside the school gates when dropping off or collecting

children.

We also ask your cooperation in ensuring that driveways of houses on St. Peter's Tce. are not blocked and that you reduce speed in the area around the school / preschool. We have also been asked by Fairy Hill preschool to remind parents not to drive onto the grassy areas beside Fairy Hill. Thank you for your co operation.



## Volume I, Issue I



### 2017/18 Enrolment for Junior Infants



Important—Applications for Junior Infants for the school year 2017/18 will be accepted until 31st January

2017. It is most important that parents who already have other children attending the school complete the application form by that date. Without receiving the completed form the school cannot send an offer of a Junior Infant place in February. Parents please check before the end of January with school secretary Ms. Lyons if you need to confirm that your form has been received.

### Enrolment Policies

As you may know, the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton T.D. recently announced that he intends to set up a consultative process to review enrolment criteria employed by Boards of Management in schools. I will be attending Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN) annual conference on 26th/27th January by which time details of this process may have emerged. Howth Primary School will fully engage in any new proposal agreed by the relevant education partners. This school has been in the fortunate position over the past number of years of never having to turn down an enrolment application on the grounds of a child's religion. I will keep you informed of any developments on this matter.

### Accommodation

We have submitted an updated submission for construction of a four classroom extension to cater for projected enrolment increases over the next few years. This application includes revised costings plus fees for design consultants, quantity surveyor, architect, engineering works etc. to the amount of €815,715.17 (including VAT). The initial funding sanctioned by the Department two years ago was for €233,000 to cover an initial two classroom structure with provision for a further funding application to cover another two classrooms if required in the future. We agreed that it would be financially irrespon-

sible to undertake two separate construction projects on the same site spread over 2/3 years. The Department eventually agreed with our position.

The Department's €230,000 (2015) grant does not cover 2017 construction prices which have escalated over the past two years. The figure of €230,000 assumed a stand alone green field construction on a flat site. This is not the case with our projected build. The figure €230,000 did not account for necessary demolition work, site alterations, restructuring of heating system, services diversions etc.

We now await response from the Department. I would like to thank all who helped during this long

running campaign, our Board of Management, school staff, parents community and the members of our Working Party: Accommodation/Admissions 2015-2020:

Mr. Joe Kirwin,

Ms. Michele Sweeney,

Mr. Berchmans Gannon,

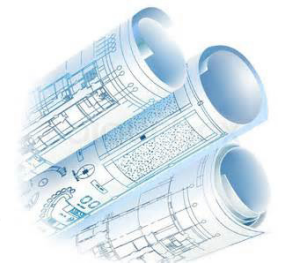
Rev. Fr. Gerry Tanham,

Ms. Clare Reilly,

Mr. Eamon Cassidy,

Mr. James Burke

Mr. James Markey



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## Extreme Weather Arrangements

Dear Parents,

Our duty of care towards our pupils, parents, teachers and staff is of paramount importance. With this in mind the following procedures will come into effect in the event of extreme weather at any future time throughout winter/early Spring:

Every effort will be made to clear safe pathways from the main school gate to the entrance doors (Junior & Senior entrances). Pupils, parents and staff are advised to make use of these routes

The school heating system will be regularly checked over weekends/holiday periods during periods of freezing weather in order to minimise the risk of breakdown

On icy mornings/afternoons parents are advised to park cars in the village /harbour /Summit car parks and walk the short distance to the school rather than attempting to drive up the steep side roads at Scoil Mhuire

During spells of extreme weather we will be happy to accept pupils arriving into school after normal opening time (8.50 a.m.). This allows a parent set out from home at a time when (s)he is satisfied that road conditions have sufficiently improved to allow a safe journey. Roll call will be delayed on these occasions to facilitate latecomers. Parents collecting junior/senior infant pupils at 1.30 p.m. may also, if they wish, collect brothers/sisters in other classes at the same time and so avoid an unnecessary extra journey

On mornings of extreme weather pupils will be allowed into the school hall where they will be supervised until brought to their classroom by their own teacher at normal reception time – please note that this procedure will apply only where exceptional weather conditions dictate and will be at the discretion of the school's Board of Management

In the interest of health & safety, worsening weather /breakdown of heating system/ disruption to water storage system may make it necessary to close the school. Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by one of the following means. Text messaging service / iSchool app /Note in journals/ notices on school doors/letters home, Church announcements – where time allows. Parents will also be informed of predicted re-opening dates. Parents may also contact the Parents' Association class representative:

Jnr infants –	Ms Heery	Ciara Gannon	0872555658
Jnr infants –	Ms Anderson	Jacqui Pomeroy	0861649628
Snr infants –	Ms Cushin	Christina Dwyer	0868785419
Snr infants –	Ms Fox	Flor Sylvester	0851574745
1st Class –	Ms O Hanlon	Jude Jarvis	0831309093
1st Class –	Ms Duane	Roisin Sheridan	0876081522
2nd Class –	Ms Clarke	Siobhan Hughes	0876077438
2nd Class –	Ms Nugent	Yvonne Whelan	0863365325
3rd Class –	Ms Donegan	Ger Moloney	0876538576
3rd Class –	Mr Cassidy	Dee Durkan	0863774472
4th class –	Ms Reilly	Catherine Flanagan	0872402297
4th Class –	Ms Mannix	Louise Fearon	0876125720
5th Class –	Mr Sunderland	Jenny Andersson	0866040789
6th class –	Mr Burke	Sandra O Rourke	0863519381





# Volume I, Issue I

## School Events—Recent/Current/Ongoing

### January

- 10th School Assembly for Senior Classes (Mr. Cassidy)  
11th School Assembly for Junior Classes—Junior  
Infants—1st Classes (Ms. O’Hanlon)  
16th Reception in the Mansion House for our Girls GAA team following their recent Cumann na  
mBunscoil Final win in Croke Park. Thanks to Senator Aodhan O’Ríordáin, Deputy Lord  
Mayor Rebecca Moynihan and the Mansion House staff  
24th Fire Drill  
26th Meeting of the Teaching Staff  
26th/27th Principal attends Irish Primary Principals’ Network Annual Conference  
28th Deanery Post Primary Assessment Morning. Best of luck to all the girls and boys in Mr.  
Burke’s 6th class  
29th-3rd Feb Catholic Schools Week 2017. this year’s theme is:

### Caring for our common home—the Earth

### Ongoing events include:

After School Club / French / Chess club / After School Maths / Singing lessons / Music Makes Magic /  
Orchestra / Violin lessons / Hip Hop / Walk on Wednesday / Trowel on Thursday / GAA coaching / Fencing /  
Speech & Drama / Irish Dancing / Coder Dojo



## Nativity Pageant 2016

The annual Nativity Pageant took place in the parish church at Mass on Christmas Eve. Pupils from our senior classes took part and did a wonderful job. Many thanks to the team —Ann Delaney, Norma Gray and Eila Fitzgerald and all who helped under the direction of Pat Guinan. The church was full on the night and the children received many compliments on their performance and on their behaviour during the evening. Well done all!!



## School Calendar for February—June 2017

### February

Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	– Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> (inc)	Mid-term Break	School Closed
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup>		Shrove Tuesday	School closes at 12.15p.m.

### March

Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>		St. Patrick's Day/Public Holiday	School Closed
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Sacrament of Reconciliation 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup>		Sacrament of Light 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	7.30 p.m.

### April

Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>		School closes for Easter Holidays	at 12.00 noon
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	April	School Re-opens after Easter Holidays	

### May

Monday	1 <sup>st</sup>		Public Holiday	School Closed
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>		First Holy Communion	11.00 a.m.
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>		Confirmation	time to be confirmed

### June

Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	- Tues. 6 <sup>th</sup> (inc)	School Holiday/Public Holiday	School Closed
Friday	30 <sup>th</sup>		School closes for Summer Holidays	at 12.00 noon



### Department Guidelines on 2017/18 Calendar



Waiting for details  
for 2017/18

Please note that at time of writing the Department of Education and Skills has not yet published it's School Year 2017/18

Calendar directive. Parents will be informed when this has been done by the Department.