

Howth Primary School Newsletter

March/April 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date



Special points of interest:

- School Events
- Sacraments—First Communion and Confirmation
- Vol. Contribution
- Good Friday Pageant

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School Accommodation/Extension—Update

Last month, we were informed by The School Capital Appraisal Section, Department of Education & Skills (DES) that our submission for a school extension to address ongoing/projected pupil increases had been put on hold. All such projects were being stalled due to budgeting constraints. Building projects that have already begun are to be prioritized instead. The department also challenged our updated costings proposal submitted by the design team earlier this year.

We have challenged this with the department and submitted detailed justification for our proposal contained in our design team's report. In a recent letter (28th March 2017) DES has indicated that it may revise its position with regard to costing and has proposed a figure of more than double its original allocation. We will respond to this new proposal when the design team has examined the terms / conditions.

To address immediate accommodation needs for the school year 2017/18 I have formally requested extension of the current rental of two temporary classroom units (WC's etc.) which is due to lapse in June 2017 plus rental of an additional (3rd) classroom unit/WC's. public money would be employed more prudently with one single four classroom construction project to be started as soon as possible rather than unnecessary expenditure on high rental costs.

I would like to acknowledge the sterling work by our school architect Michele Sweeney (Opperman Associates) and the support of our Accommodation Working Party 2015-2020—

Mr. Joe Kirwin, Mr. Berchmans Gannon, Rev. Fr. Gerry Tanham, Ms. Clare Reilly, Mr. Eamon Cassidy, Mr. James Burke

Date for your Diary June 16th—Tee Off for Technology

We are planning a very special event in our school calendar—a golf classic at Howth Golf Club during the afternoon of Friday 16th June followed by a great social night with premium prizes, marvelous music, fantastic food. Do not miss out. Tickets will be on sale (€25 for the social night or €100 per team member (four ball) for those who wish to play a round on this wonderful course. Tickets will soon be available from the school office or from: Money raised will purchase new Interactive Technology. The organizing team for this great event is-

John Chambers, Jenny Hutton, Eamon Cassidy, Marina Fagan, Sandra O'Rourke and Ashley Sheridan



Standardized Testing



Annual Standardised testing for 1st—6th will take place during the first two weeks of May. Please endeavour to have your child present at school and if for any reason your child will be absent please inform the class teacher in advance. The teachers of pupils in sacrament classes will be working around their busy schedule so may have to do them at a later date. The two tests being administered will be the Sigma T testing mathematical skills and the Drumcondra Reading test which tests reading, vocabulary and comprehension. More information is available for parents on the ncca website:

http://ncca.ie/en/Curriculum_and_Assessment/Early_Childhood_and_Primary_Education/Primary-Education/Assessment/Leaflets_for_parents/Leaflets_-_Standardised_testing.html

The pupils in Senior Infants will so a MIST test which tests literacy skills. The results are not standardized but inform the teacher of a child's ability in literacy.

The results of the standardized tests will be on your child's report. For the Drumcondra Reading and Sigma T, scores will be in a STen format (see NCCA website) click on the link below

http://ncca.ie/en/Curriculum_and_Assessment/Early_Childhood_and_Primary_Education/Primary-Education/Assessment/Leaflets_for_parents/RRD01251A-NCCA-ENGLISH-Tip-Sheet-STEN.pdf

Sacramental Preparation

This is a hectic time for our pupils in Ms. Clarke's, Ms. Nugent's, and Mr. Burke's classes with regards to preparation for the sacraments of Holy Communion (6th May) and Confirmation (26th May).

Our school choir, under the baton of Ms. Fox and Ms. Mannix have also been very busy getting ready for these

important occasions. Sacrament of Reconciliation for 2nd class took place on Thursday 23rd March and the Service of Light for 6th class on Thursday 30th April.

We have received sufficient enrolment applications for two Junior Infant classes 2017/20178. Information Meeting for new parents

Junior Infant Enrolment

will take place on Tuesday 16th May and Induction Day for the new Junior Infants on Tuesday 23rd May. Our school uniform suppliers—O'Farrells of Portmarnock will be in attendance on the 23rd. Thanks to our school secretary, Ms. Joan Lyons, for her work in processing the enrolment applications



Voluntary Contribution

We would like to thank those parents who have sent in their voluntary contribution. As a Voluntary Non fee-paying Primary School we are highly dependent financially on the monies raised through the Voluntary Contribution.

We are most grateful for the generous response from parents to date, however the sums so far received are inadequate to meet the shortfall in day to day operating expenses and Capital Expenditure outgoings. We have a

wonderful and vibrant school community.

Howth Primary School has superb facilities. Your financial support is essential in order that this learning environment can be maintained.



School Sports

Senior boys and Senior girls GAA football are both through to the Fingal League finals in May.

Junior boys and girls are still involved in first round games of football.

Athletics -Training takes place on Tuesdays at 8.00 am with Colette and on Fridays at lunchtime with Ms Anderson, Mr Flynn and Ms Slattery. The athletics team will compete in the Field Events in Santry on Monday 22nd May and in the Track Events on Thursday 25th May. Best of luck to all the athletes.

Active School Week took place April 24th- 28th- 10@10 activity stations, Tug of War Tuesday, Hockey, Rounders, Go Noodle Dance Day, lunchtime team training, early morning athletics coaching and a teacher V 6th class Rounders game.



Teaching Practice Placements

Howth Primary School welcomed a number of student teachers this term. We hope Mr. Alan McDonnell, Ms. Aisling Carroll, Mr. Kieran McNamara, Mr. Paul Gilson, Ms. Neasa Flahive, Mr. Gerard McDermott -roe Ms. Deirdre Ashe, Mr. Barry Walsh, Ms. Joanne Bailey, Ms. Aoife

Darcy and Mr. Kevin O'Leary all found their stay a productive and happy one. We wish them every success in their future teaching careers. I would like to thank our teachers for facilitating these placements.

Ar aghaidh le chéile!

Good Friday

Well done to all our boys and girls who took part in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday under the guiding hand of Pat Guinan and her team.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí a lán imeachtaí ar siúil again le linn Seachtain ne Gaeilge I Scoil Mhuire chun úsáid na teanga a spreagadh sa scoil. Seachtain na Gaeilge this year was marked by several special events / activities in Howth Primary

School culminating in our annual Céilí Mór in the school hall. On that day, our school was transformed with pupils, teachers and staff all wearing something green. From Junior Infants to Sixth Class every child took part

in our annual Céilí Mór. Buíochas mór chuig Ms. Reilly and Ms. Heerey who co-ordinated Irish dancing practices for each class prior to the event.

Ní neart le cur le chéile.



School Events—Recent/Current/Ongoing:

Feb 28th & March 20th	Green School Action Days
Feb 28th	Pancakes delivered to all classes—thanks to our Parnets’ Association and Super Value Sutton
1st March	Ashes were distributed by Fr. Gerry Tanham & Canon Ray Moloney to mark the start of Lent
2nd March	World Book Day—Bookmark competitions/Teacher swap story reading lesson. Bring your favorite book
3rd March	Principal attended Deanery Association AGM (Primary and Post Primary schools in Dublin N.E.)
4th March 6th—10th March	Congratulations to Izzy Markey who represented the school in Croke Park Wellness Week 2017 was marked by several events/activities including a presentation by local man Joe Clarke at school assembly. Launch of our Buddy Bench by Ms. Audrey Clarke, Whole school Mindfulness Art and Yoga classes. Thanks to Ms. Vivienne Buckley & Ms. Aisling Heerey for coordinating events
March 9th	Mind your dog. Presentation by Dogs Trust for Senior infants and First classes Information/Discussion workshops on drugs with Dublin NE Drug Force—6 separate sessions with 5th & 6th classes
March 10th	Congratulations to all members of our school Squash team at the recent tournament in Sutton L.T.C.
March 13th	Meeting of our school Board of Management Rita Burtenshaw Fingal Development Planning Officer coordinated focus group research with Mr. Burke’s 6th class
March 13th—16th	Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated in the school with many lessons/activities. The week culminated with a whole school Céile Mór in the hall on Thursday 16th. Thanks to Ms. Clare Reilly for coordinating a most enjoyable event
March 23rd	Sacrament of Reconciliation (2nd classes). Well done to class teachers—Ms. A. Clarke & Ms. A. Nugent, choral director Ms. C. Mannix and all involved
March 24th	Daffodil Day Coffee Morning in the school (our 14th Daffodil Day) raised €1,950 for the Irish Cancer Society. Well done to Teresa Carruthers (Weston) and all her team of volunteers
March 28th	Fire Drill (Whole school orderly evacuation in less than 5 minutes) I met Fingal Councilor Dáire O’Laoi, Fingal Road Operations Manager Stephen Peppard and local residents to assess traffic situation at school opening times

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- March 30th School Orchestra from St. Finian's N.S. Finglas joined our Music Makes Magic orchestra for a concert in our school hall. Well done to all our young musicians!
- Service of Light (6th class pre-Confirmation ceremony). Thanks to Mr. J. Burke, coral director Ms. C. Mannix and all involved
- Easter Confessions were heard by Fr. Gerry Tanham and Canon Ray Moloney
- April 2nd Our school orchestra shared the stage with adult orchestra (OffBeat Ensemble) in the Church of the Assumption
- April 4th First classes (Ms. Duane & Ms. O'Hanlon) visit Transport Museum. Thanks to Mt. Niall Doonan who drove our pupils to the Museum on the O'Malley train
- April 6th New Musical project. Tin whistle classes (by well known musician Tina McLoughlin) for girls and boys in 4th class

Calendar for May/June 2017



MAY

Monday 1st Public Holiday School Closed

Saturday 6th First Holy Communion 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 16th Meeting for New Parents 1.30 p.m.

Tuesday 23rd Induction Day for New Junior Infants 1.15 –2.15 p.m.

N.B. Present Jun. Infants will finish at 12.15 to facilitate use of classrooms

Friday 26th Confirmation 11.00 a.m.

N.B. School will close at 1.00 p.m.

JUNE

Friday 2nd-Tues 6th(inc) School Holiday/Public Holiday School Closed

Friday 30th School closes for Summer Holidays at 12.00 noon



Outline Calendar for 2017/2018

August/September

School Reopens on Wednesday 30/08/17

October/November

Mid Term Break Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November

December/January

Christmas Holidays Monday 25th December – Friday 5th January

February

Mid Term Break Monday 12th - Friday 16th

March / April

Public Holiday Monday 19th March (for St.Patrick's Day)

Easter Holidays Monday 26th March - Friday 6th April

May

Public Holiday/School Holiday Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th

June

Public Holiday/School Holiday Friday 1st, Monday 4th

Summer Holidays Friday 29th June