

Scoil Mhuire—Beann Éadair

Howth Primary School

October 2017 Newsletter



Accommodation 2017/2018

The Department of Education and Skills has given us the green light (following tendering) to appoint the company which installed the two temporary classrooms last year to oversee the installation of a third unit within the next few weeks. As the third classroom will encroach on existing playground area we have secured permission from Fingal County Council to use the Astroturf facility (adjacent to the school) as a temporary playground area at the two break times each day (10.50-11.00 and 12.15 – 12.45). With this in mind we have re-structured our supervision rota with 3 teachers on duty for the playground area on the school

site plus a 4th teacher supervising the Astroturf facility. I would like to thank our Deputy Principal Ms. Aisling Heerey for her help in setting up this new supervision arrangement. When the third temporary classroom is in place our Multi Purpose Room will revert to its original function. I would like to record my appreciation of the patience shown by Ms. Siobhan Breen and the girls & boys of 5th class over the past two months and to thank Ms. Muireann Ridge and Mr. Osmund Devlin who have relocated to the SNUG area from the Green Room (adjacent to the Multi Purpose Room) .

School Extension— As required, we have submitted a revised Stage 1/2 A report to the Department and await final ratification prior to the commencement of tendering for the construction of a 4 classroom extension/WC's/Corridors etc. it has been a multiple long process involving lengthy negotiations with the Department regarding costings and protracted legal dealings with regard to land provision between Fingal Co. Council and St. Lawrence Trust (owners of the site on which the school is built). I met with the school architect (Ms. Michele Sweeney) on site last week and she hopes that if construction begins by

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Spring 2018 we should be ready to open up our new classrooms by Autumn 2018.



Busy start to the year!

Tá imeachtaí na scoile faoi lán sheol anois, cuid acu le fail sa nuachtlitir seo. It has been a busy start to the school year. Included in this issue are items of current news and events of the last few weeks. Please ensure that your child is properly dressed during the winter months and that they bring a healthy lunch into the 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. Our school's official opening time is 8.50.

COW/WOW Schedule for Walk on Wednesdays and Cycle on Wednesdays continues as before. If your child is using a skateboard or bicycle to travel to school please ensure that he/she wears a helmet. I have spoken to the children regarding road safety rules—you might like to discuss this with your child from time to time. Children are expected to dismount from skateboards/bicycles before they enter the school grounds and walk towards the allotted 'parking' zone behind the hall where bicycles etc

should be parked. Parents are asked not to bring their dogs onto the school grounds or to leave them tied to the school railings /gates. This is especially important on Wednesday when an increased number of children are walking to school. The school does not approve of pupils gathering in the Fingal Co. Co. Astro Turf facility (beside Fairyhill Preschool) due to the fact that this is an unsupervised area outside of our jurisdiction. Children should gather, as usual, in the school yard at c 8.45

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Karen Fox back to the school fresh from Maternity Leave following the birth of son Ciaran. Thanks to Mr. Ian Sunderland who filled in with

her Senior Infant Class so ably in her absence. Congratulations to Mr. James Burke and his Ballymun Kickhams team who overcame Kilmacud Crokes in the Dublin Senior

Club Championship Semi Final. They are due to face old rivals Vincents in the upcoming Final at Parnell Park next week. Best of luck James!

2017 Enrolment

If you have a child whom you intend sending to school in September 2018, please collect an application form from the office, complete and return it to the school as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is January 31st, 2018 and 1st round offers will be sent out during March 2018.



Keeping up with the News

Parents have their own designated noticeboard as you enter the Junior entrance. Keep an eye out for notices/posters of upcoming events/meetings/ social occasions. There is also a designated Community notice board outside the Secretary's office. Leaflets/Notices &

Messages for all noticeboards should be cleared with the school secretary before they are placed on these noticeboards. Please ensure you do not obscure any existing material and that notices are positioned in a neat manner. Out of date items should be removed.

Halloween Safety

Parents, Halloween is a time of great fun but we ask all our girls and boys to be aware of the danger of bonfires and also to take care on the streets after dark. You might remind your child that Hallow'een can be a very difficult time for elderly people living alone and also for dogs. This is especially the case regarding Guide Dogs for blind and visually impaired people. When Guide Dogs become distressed and fearful they are no longer able to work effectively and may

have to be taken away from their blind owner. Please discourage the use of fireworks on streets or near houses. Any bonfires should be adult supervised in open areas such as parks or fields. 5th & 6th classes were visited by the gardai earlier this month to discuss Halloween Safety.



Your child's health—Nut Allergy

There has been an increase in the number of our pupils with nut allergies of varying degrees of severity (at time of writing 10 children). Parents of children in the classes involved are requested to refrain from including nuts/nut by-products/eggs as part of their child's school lunch. Parents of affected children —please en-

sure that a recent coloured photo and recommended procedures to be followed are given to teachers at the start of the school year. **Nut allergies are serious** -Mild to moderate Allergic reaction -swelling of lips, face and eyes, hives or welts, tingling mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting. **Severe Allergic reaction** –

Extreme Weather

On mornings of extreme weather conditions (torrential rain/heavy snow etc.) entry to the school will be via the white side door of the school hall from 8.40 a.m. (ten minutes before the usual starting time). In the interest of safety and to reduce congestion, parents/guardians are asked not to enter the hall with their child as supervision will be provided there until collected by the class teacher .



Anaphylaxis—Difficulty/noisy breathing, Swelling of tongue, Swelling/tightness in throat, Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice, Wheeze or persistent cough, Loss of consciousness and/or collapse, Pale and floppy. In severe cases use of an Anapen will be necessary—so please abide by the instructions outlined

Parking Issues

As you know, local residents, many of whom have no direct involvement with our school, i.e. have no children attending at present, have supported our Voluntary One Way Traffic systems at opening/closing times in the interest of road safety. A few of these residents are concerned that a tiny number of our parents have parked

cars across driveways at these times meaning that the occupiers of the house cannot get in or out of their driveways. Please observe due consideration in this regard at dropping off / collecting times so that Gardai are not called

Thank you for your co-operation in this.



Child Protection / Playground Guidelines

In the interest of safety/child protection in order to reduce congestion 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 who need to see the school secretary or who 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.

As you know, our school timetable includes two outdoor breaks (weather permitting) during school time. Our pupils have an opportunity to play with other children and to take part in structured playground activities such as skipping and football as well as other games. Your children are always supervised by a teacher. In the case of the Junior Yard this year teacher supervision is supported by at least two Special Needs Assistants.

It has come to our attention that a small number of parents are waiting outside the playground and watching over the children at break times. We would ask these parents to consider the following points:

- Playtime is an important part of your child's social development and helps to develop independence, decision making, creativity and collaborative skills as well as providing an opportunity for exercise and physical development
- Parental observance in this context is counterproductive, diminishing the child's sense of independence and his/her ability to engage with the fun and challenges of normal play.
- Children are under the direct supervision of a teacher during break times. Supervision in the Junior Yard is further strengthened by the presence of two other adults.
- Parents observing playtime could unwittingly give cover to other less innocent individuals parking outside our school (as happened in a nearby school). The teacher on supervision duty can not be expected to know at all times if a person watching the children at play is a parent or is someone else who may have an ulterior motive for being there.

We also request parents not to enter the playground during the play period. The teacher, who is in loco parentis, will take appropriate action should an incident arise. Parents are, of course, welcome to make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss any concern regarding a child. Your child's safety and happiness is very important to us.

We have put in place structures and procedures to support us in this responsibility. Your co-operation in the above areas is much appreciated.

Concerns regarding Child Protection should be reported to the Designated Liaison Person (Mr. John Chambers) or the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Ms. Aisling Heerey). Our school's Child Protection policy has been forwarded to our Parents' Association and copies of the policy are available from the secretary on request





Parents Association

We are blessed to have such a vibrant Parents Association over the past years. They have added so much to the quality of school life for our pupils in that time, coordinating each year a rich tapestry of sporting /cultural events and fundraising projects. At this time of year the PA elect their new executive and will hold a meeting after the Mid Term Break to do this. I strongly urge every parent to get involved in some way (no matter how small) so that this great work done on behalf of you and your children can continue. Your first step might be to attend this important meeting—details after the break.



Evening of Music and Song

There will be an Evening of Festive Music and Song with the Army No.1 Band, the Baldonnell Singers with Paul Linehan and the amazing voice of Sharon Lyons.

Date: Thursday 14th December

Venue: Church of the Assumption, Howth

Time: 8.00 p.m.

Tickets will be available after the Mid Term Break—more info to follow

All funds raised will be for Scoil Mhuire-Howth Primary School



School Events—Recent / Current / Ongoing

September 24th All Ireland Inter School Sailing Event. Well done to all our young sailors who took part

October:

- 2nd Tag Rugby weekly sessions with 5th classes
- 3rd/4th Junior/Senior Assemblies. 6th Class Post Primary application forms forwarded to Deanery Education Office
- 5th National Tree Day 2017. School Conker Competition (thanks to Mr. Sunderland)
- 9th Board of Management meeting
- 11th School Cross Country Race 2017 in Santry Stadium. Congratulations to all our athletes who participated and to our relay team who finished 3rd. Thanks to Ms. Anderson for all her work
- 12th Parents Bug Busters presentation. Thanks to School Safety Representative Ms. Claire Mannix
Bulb Planting. Thanks to Ms. Ann Campbell and everyone involved in this marvelous project
- 16th—20th Maths Week 2017. Maths Hatter Competition
- 19th Grandparents morning with Ms. Fagan Barrett's Second Class. Well done to all on a truly special and enjoyable occasion
Both second classes (Ms. Maher/Ms. Fagan Barrett) enjoyed Story Telling event in Howth Library
- 20th Community Gardaí spoke to 5th & 6th classes
- 23rd Parent Suzanne Hanway Wills (Occupational Therapist) gave a presentation to our Special Education Needs Team
- 26th Weekly Nativity Rehearsals commence. Thanks to Pat Guinan and her team
- 27th Halloween School Fashion Show 2017. all the latest horrific designer items!!!
Thanks to Ms. Reilly



30th Oct—3rd Nov (inc)

Mid Term Halloween Break

Calendar 2017/2018 (Subject to change)

October:

Thursday	26 th	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	
Friday	27 th	Halloween Fashion Show	
Mon 30 th Oct – Fri 3 rd Nov (inc)		Mid Term Break	School Closed

November:

Thursday	16 th	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	
Thursday	23 rd	Parent/Teacher Meetings	

December:

Thursday	14 th	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School finishes at 1.30 p.m.
Thursday	21 st	Taste of Christmas Show & Bake Sale	
Friday	22 nd	School Closes for Christmas Holidays	at 12 noon

January:

Monday	8 th	School re-opens after Christmas Holidays	
Thursday	25 th	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	

February:

Monday 12 th - Friday 16 th (inc)		Mid Term Break	School Closed
Thursday	22 nd	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	

March :

Monday	19 th	(for St. Patrick's Day) Public Holiday	School Closed
Thursday	22 nd	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School finishes at 1.30 p.m.
Friday	23 rd	School closes for Easter Holidays	at 12 noon

April:

Monday	9 th	School re-opens after Easter Holidays	
Thursday	26 th	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	

May :

Monday 7 th & Tuesday 8 th		Public Holiday/School Holiday	School Closed
Thursday	24 th	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School finishes at 1.30 p.m.

June:

Friday 1 st & Monday 4 th		Public Holiday/School Holiday	School Closed
Friday	29 th	School Closes for Summer Holidays	at 12 noon

