

SCOIL MUIRE-HOWTH PRIMARY SCHOOL NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER DATE 29/11/17

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FAITH FORMATION



It has been a busy few weeks with regard to faith formation in Scoil Mhuire between teacher training in the new Grow in Love textbooks. Thanks to Mr. Eamon Cassidy who represented the school at the most recent seminar in the Holy Cross College earlier this month. Preparation meetings for parents of our First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes; preparations for the upcoming Army Band Christmas Concert which will fea-

ture our school choir under the baton of Ms Karen Fox & Ms. Siobhan Breen; ongoing rehearsals for this year's Nativity Pageant (coordinated by Ms. Pat Guinan) and of course our school Christmas Cards.

ACCOMMODATION

Following weeks of preliminary site work our third temporary classroom was installed ahead of schedule earlier this month allowing Ms. Siobhan Breen and her Fifth Class move from their Multi Purpose

Room base which they had occupied since the start of term. The team, from Instaspace, who were responsible for foundation works/ installation/serviced delivery etc. has been a pleasure to deal with

over the past three months.

The revised application and site report for our four classroom extension was forwarded to the Department of Education (Capital Appraisal Unit)

Don't forget our fabulous concert on Thursday 14th December in the Church. All proceeds in aid of our school



STAGE SET -UP

URGENT APPEAL FOR MEN



Men needed to erect stage for school Christmas shows. Parents Association are looking for fathers to help put it up on **Saturday 2nd Dec**. Please contact:

Ger at 087 6538576, Jenny at 087 6879587, Dee at 086 3774472 for details times etc.

Your help is essential!

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

This is a crucial time for school finance. Although the school year started in late August, primary schools receive no money from Depart. of Educ. & Skills (DES) to pay for the day to day expenditure until the end of January 2016. DES grants only cover 40% of our budget so we are very much dependent on your support. Please be as generous

as you can be—Contribution of €250 for one child, €350 for two or more children. This option allows the school to avail of tax relief.

Regular School Contribution—€150 per child or €250 for two or more children. In the latter case tax relief is also allowed.

Pay what you can (once-off basis, or by direct debit). If you are not

in a position to pay the regular contribution, any contribution would be appreciated. By choosing one of the above three options you are making an important investment in your child's future.

Your child is worth it!

Letters of thanks will be sent to those who have already contributed.

CHILD PROTECTION/SAFETY

In the interest of safety/child protection and in order to reduce congestion in the corridor at morning reception time (8.50—9.00) parents/guardians are asked **not to accompany** their children) 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/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 of collection times. In the interest of safety please check that children do not climb along the ramp way/wall/school gates/railings.

Yours co operation is much appreciated.



PEADAR MAC CANNA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT



The Inaugural Peadar MacCanna U11 Tournament, in memory of the late Peadar MacCanna, took place on Sunday 18th November in the grounds of Ben Éadair C.L.G. with teams from Dublin (Ben Éadair/St. Vincent's/St.Pats, Donabate/ Scoil Ui Chonall/St. Maurs/Ballymun Kickhams), Meath (Donaghmore/Ashbourne/St. Colmcilles) and Mayo (Crossmolina) participating. Congratulations to James Burke and all at Ben Éadair for hosting such a wonderful tribute to this great GAA figure.



2017 BOOK FAIR

Our Annual Book Fair took place this year on Tuesday 28th November in our school hall organised by Ms. Heerey and volunteers from our Parents Association. The fair is an opportunity to purchase some lovely children’s books. Each class had a time slot to buy books or stationery if they so wished.

Reasonably priced stationery is always available on the day. We only get a few copies of each book so if the book you like is not on the shelf it can be ordered on the day [must be paid for also on the day]. Orders are delivered within a week. The school library receives a percentage of the

money received to stock the library with new books so it is a great fundraiser.



NATIVITY PAGEANT

Nativity Pageant will take place on Christmas Eve in the church at 5.30 p.m. with many of our pupils rehearsing on Thursday mornings over the past month. Thanks to Pat Guinan and her team including Norma Gray, Ann Delaney, Eila Fitzgerald, Lisa O’Neill & Marina Fagan.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

School Christmas Cards, individually designed by our pupils have been ordered. The design—one picture per card has been well received and sales of the cards are very high. Many thanks to Roisín Sheridan and her team—Jenny Ryan, Jacinta Mclvor, Niamh Grimes and Lisa O’Neill for all their hard work and to our

teachers for organizing our pupils beautiful artwork.



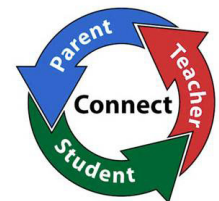
YOUR DOG?

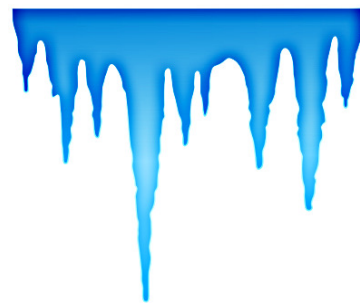
Parents / visitors to the school are reminded that dogs should not be brought in to the school grounds whether on a lead or not. We have had a few recent incidents of children being scared by dogs in

the yard and have also had to deal with a number of dog dirt situations in the school playground. In the interest of our pupils Health & Safety please keep your dog away from school grounds

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

The Parent/Teacher Meetings took place on Thursday 23rd November from 2.30 p.m. Parents who could not be present that evening were scheduled for alternative times during that week. Thank you for your ongoing support for this very important occasion in our school year, .





WINTER 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 or in to their classroom (on Wed. & Fridays when the hall is set up for Violin classes) 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 / 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:

6th Mr Burke Jenny Andersson	086 6040789	5th Ms Breen Maria Conway	087 6597919
5th Mr Flynn Louise Fearon	087 6125720	4th Ms O'Donnell Nessa Edwards	087 6499702
4th Mr Cassidy Dee Durkan	086 3774472	3rd Ms Reilly Liz Edwards	086 8171512
3rd Ms Nugent Yvonne Whelan	086 3365325	2nd Ms Maher Roisin Sheridan	087 6081522
2nd Ms Barrett Aisling O'Sullivan	087 6746347	1st Ms O'Hanlon Emer Sanfey	087 7984411
1st Ms Duane Christina Dillon	086 8785419	Snr Ms Anderson Sarah Callaghan	087 6733579
Snr Ms Fox Grainne Colman	086 8584111	Jnr Ms Heerey Clara Connolly	087 2571428
Jnr Ms Slattery Lisa O'Neill	086 8560371		



SCHOOL EVENTS—RECENT/CURRENT/ONGOING

November:

- 6th/7th School Assemblies—thanks to Ms. Ciara Fagan-Barratt and Ms. Ciara Fitzpatrick for coordinating our assemblies this month
- 6th,10th ,14th Check Days (Hair Lice) - thanks to Ms. Claire Mannix
- 7th/9th GAA training workshops for coaches (School Hall)
- 8th Board of Management Finance Meeting
- 8th Grow in Love Teacher Training
- 9th Congratulations to all our young athletes who participated in the School Athletics Day in Donabate. Thanks to Ms. Lauras Anderson, Ms. Niamh Keogh and Ms. Roisin Slattery
- 13th First Aid Training for school staff (thanks to Ms. Mannix for coordinating this)
- 21st 4th Class (Mr. Eamon Cassidy/Ms. Mary O’Donnell) workshop at the Natural History Museum
- 23rd Parent / Teacher Meetings 2017
- 24th Sam arrives in Scoil Mhuire—our thanks and a big welcome to Evan Comerford, Dublin Panel goal keeper and to Paddy Gorey who brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Howth Primary School and a great reception from all our pupils
- 24th Principal attends Deanery Education AGM (representing primary/post primary schools)
- 28th Book Fair 2017. Thanks to Ms. Aisling Heerey and to Ms. Marina Fagan for coordinating this annual event

December:

- 1st & 6th Music Makes Magic Open Days (Junior + Senior)
- 14th Concert in Howth Church in aid of Scoil Mhuire featuring The Army Number 1 Band, Baldonnel Singers, school choir and soloists Paul Linehan and Sharon Lyons

Ongoing events:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| FAI / GAA coaching | Walk on Wednesdays | Violin & Orchestra lessons |
| Chess | After School Club | Maths Classes |
| Nativity Pageant | Choir Rehearsals | |



CALENDAR 2017 / 2018

December:

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

January:

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

February:

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

March :

Thursday	15th	Sacrament of Reconciliation (2nd Class)	7.30 p.m.
Monday	19th	(for St. Patrick's Day) Public Holiday	School Closed
Thursday	22nd	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School finishes at 1.30 p.m.
Thursday	22nd	Service of Light (6th Class)	7.30 p.m.
Friday	23rd	School closes for Easter Holidays	

April:

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

May

Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th		Public Holiday/School Holiday	School Closed
Saturday	12th	First Holy Communion (2nd Class)	11.00 a.m.
Thursday	24th	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School finishes at 1.30 p.m.
Friday	25th	Sacrament of Confirmation (6th Class)	

June

Friday 1st & Monday 4th		Public Holiday/School Holiday	School Closed
Wednesday	27th	Graduation (6th Class)	
Friday	29th	School Closes for Summer Holidays	