

*Scoil Mhuire—Howth Primary School
December 2017 Newsletter*



Christmas Wishes

*Nollaig shona chugaibh agus rath na h-athbhliana ar ár éitheoirí go léir.
I would like to extend Christmas greetings to our pupils, parents, teachers, staff, management board and to everyone involved in our school community. Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year.*

John Chambers

A Taste of Christmas Programme

Our eagerly awaited Christmas Variety Show will be staged on **Thursday 21st Dec.** for parents & other family members. It is being held to coincide with our Parents' Assoc. Cake Sale (held in Multi Purpose Room. The schedule for the morning is as follows:

Time	Class	Name of Show
8.50—9.00	5th Class—Mr. Flynn	A Howth Christmas Special
9.00—9.30	1st Class—Ms. O'Hanlon / Ms.	The Rocking Reindeers!
9.30—9.50	Junior Infants—Ms. Heerey	Christmas Eve in Howth
9.50—10.10	Senior Infants—Ms. Anderson	Angel Express
10.10—10.35	Senior Infants—Ms. Fox	What a Star!
10.35—10.55	Junior Infants—Ms. Slattery	Whoops a Daisy Angel
11.00—11.25	2nd Class—Ms. Maher	Christmas Factor
11.25—11.40	4th Class—Mr. Cassidy	A Christmas Classic
11.40—12.05	2nd Class—Ms. Barrett	The North Pole's Got Talent
12.05—12.40	3rd Class—Ms. Nugent	Big Bad Ben of Bethlehem
13.00—13.20	4th Class—Ms. O'Donnell	An Orphan's Christmas
13.20—13.40	3rd Class—Ms. Reilly	Stories for Children who won't go to Bed
13.55—14.15	5th Class—Ms. Breen	T'was the Night before Christmas
Friday 9-9.15	6th Class—Mr. Burke	Christmas Truce

Staffing

Following interviews which were held last month, Ms. Claire Mannix has been appointed as Assistant Principal 1 on the school's In-School Management team. Two other ISM appointments will be processed in January 2018. Ms. O'Donnell will continue in her capacity as Fourth Class teacher until the end of the 2017/2018 school year. Ms. Jackie Donegan will take over Ms. O'Hanlon's class in January 2018.

Christmas Cards

Did you see this year's beautiful school Christmas cards featuring artwork from all the girls and boys in the school? I'm sure these cards will soon be seen in many homes not only in Howth but throughout Ireland and abroad. Thanks to our Parents' Association (esp. Roisín Sheridan) our teachers and the children for their input. They looked marvellous!



Nativity Pageant

The Annual Nativity Pageant will take place on Christmas Eve in the church with many of our pupils rehearsing on Thursday mornings over the past month. Thanks to Pat Guinan and her team—Ann

Delaney, Eila Fitzgerald, Norma Gray, Lisa O'Neill, Marina Fagan & Ian Sheridan

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; ongoing rehearsals for this year's



Nativity Pageant (coordinated by Ms. Pat Guinan) and of course our school Christmas Cards. Thanks to Fr. Gerry Tanham PP and Canon Ray Molony who heard Confessions for our pupils in 3rd to 6th classes during the past week. Fr. Gerry again visited the school on Friday 15th December to bless the new temporary classroom (Ms. Siobhan Breen's classroom)

6th Class Charity Raffle

It's the season of giving and the girls & boys of Mr. Burke's Sixth Class have been busy over the past two weeks organizing the raffle of a giant chocolate Santa (many thanks to Aisling Wright) to raise funds for the homeless this Christmas (High Hopes Charity and Brother Kevin's Capuchin Day Centre. So far the sum raised is over €1,500.!!!



Who will be the owner of a 3foot Chocolate Santa????

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 2018. DES grants only cover 40% of our budget so we are very much de-

pendent 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 al-

lowed. 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!



The Army No. 1 Band (conductor Captain Fergal Carroll), Baldonnell Singers (Musical

Director David Lanigan) soloists Sharon Lyons (Soprano), daughter of our school secretary Joan Lyons, and Paul Linehan (Tenor) and our own Scoil Mhuire choir under the baton of Ms. Karen Fox & Ms. Siobhan Breen, sound system Ms. Claire Mannix joined forces to deliver a magical

Gala Night

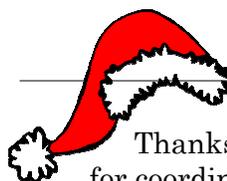
night of music at the Church of the Assumption, Howth on Thursday December 14th. This amazing concert raised €2,930 funding to cover cost of a sound system for the school, plus extra choir gowns, sensory room items and donation to Music Makes Magic. Congratulations to all concerned with special praise to Dee Durkan (our own ambassador from Oz) who organized the wondrous festive occasion and her compatriot Sam Brancato, MC for the night.

What a night !!!

Book Fair



Our recent Book Fair raised over €5,000 with €3,000 of this going towards the purchase of books for the school library. Well done to Ms. A. Heerey and Ms. Marina Fagan with her wonderful team of helpers.



Thanks to Sian Gray for coordinating Christmas tokens for all our pupils on the morning that Santa drops into Scoil Mhuire. Thanks also to Lidl and to David Caulfield

School Events—Recent/Current/Ongoing

December:

- 2nd Stage set up in hall
- 4th Board of Management meeting
- 5th Athletics St. Anne's Park
- 5th Principal attends meeting in Portmarnock
- 6th Music Makes Magic Open Day (Senior Classes)
- 6th Green School Meeting 1.45 p.m.
- 7th Axis Theatre present Granauile (4th classes, Hall)
- 8th Music Makes Magic Open Day (Junior Classes)
- 14th Writing Workshop – Fighting Words- with 1st class (Ms. Duane's class). Thanks to parent Jenny Anderson Stebbings for setting this up
- 14th Fundraising Concert – Army No.1 Band, school choir, Baldonnell Choir, Paul Linehan & Sharon Lyons
- 18th Board of Management Meeting
- 20th Taste of Christmas Variety Show (school show)
- 21st Taste of Christmas Variety Show (for parents/relatives)
- 22nd Visitor from the North Pole arrives c9.15 a.m.
Close at 12 noon for Christmas Break



Ongoing: FAI Soccer Skills/GAA coaching/ Walk on Wednesdays/ Tin Whistle /Violin /Orchestra/ Chess/After School Clubs/Nativity rehearsals/Coder Dojo etc.



Outline Calendar for 2017/2018

December:

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
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
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	

