

SCOIL MUIRE—HOWTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



A great finish to 2017!

Volume 1,
26th January 2018

Inside this issue:

Health/Safety	2
Accommodation	2
Appointments	2
Sep 2018 Jun. Infants	2
Extreme Weather Arrangements	3
FLU Warning	3
School Events Calendar Jan-June	6

Special points of interest:

- 31st January Anti Bullying Workshops
- 31st January Closing Date for applications for 2018 Junior Infants
- Flu warning
- Calendar for January–June 2018

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 Festive Music & Song Concert with the Army No 1 Band, soloists Sharon Lyons and Paul Linehan, the Baldonnell Singers, and our own school choir under the baton of Ms. Karen Fox/Ms. Siobhan Breen, sound system

Ms. Claire Mannix - what a blizzard of fantastic seasonal occasions. I would like to thank all who helped to make these events so successful and so enjoyable!

Congratulations to Laura McLoughlin (Mr. Cassidy’s Fourth Class) winner of the Giant Chocolate Santa raffle which raised over €2,200 for two charities for the homeless— High Hopes and the Fr. Matthew Capuchin Centre. Cheques were presented to the two

charities on the final day of term (Dec. 22nd).

Well done also to Mabel Jennings (Sixth Class) who was a winner in the **Trinity Book of Kells** Competition. With over 1,500 entries (age range from 3—83) Mabel’s 3rd place was a tremendous achievement. An awards ceremony for all winners took place in Trinity College on January 17th 2018. well done Mabel!!!



Anti Bullying Programme

The Anti Bullying programme is a school based project which teaches children how to make correct behavioral choices, enhancing emotional intelligence, well being and empathy within their social group. Invitations have been sent out to all parents to attend a

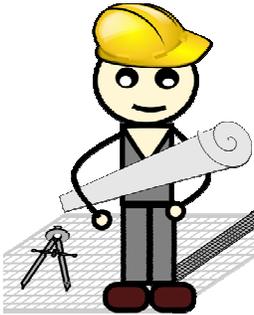
parents workshop on Wednesday 31st **in the school** 7-8p.m. This workshop focuses on understanding bullying behavior from a parents’ perspective and gives parents strategies to deal with the problem.. The parents’ module follows on from a workshop car-

ried out in school on the same day (31st) with pupils in 1st –6th and a workshop after school time for teachers. It is extremely important that **one or** both parents attend this workshop. We look forward to seeing you there. Your child is worth it.



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



Accommodation

Negotiations to complete land transfer from Fingal Co. Council to St. Lawrence Trust (legl owners of the site on which our school is built) are, at last, nearing conclusion. When this is done we will

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 out-

side 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 / pre-school. We have also been asked by Fairy Hill pre-school to remind parents not to drive onto the grassy areas beside Fairy Hill. Thank you for your co operation.

be in a position to start on our 4 classroom extension. I have written to the Department of Education Capital Appraisal Unit asking for formal confirmation that the money sanctioned six months

ago by then for the project (€708,800) will be issued once planning/tendering process is activated.

Appointments

Following recent interviews, Ms. Claire Mannix was appointed to the post of Assistant Principal 1, Mr. James Burke and Ms. Audrey Clarke were appointed to the post of Assistant Principal 11 with Ms. Laura Anderson taking on Ms. Clarke's post until her return later this year. The above teachers will join Ms. Aisling Heerey (Deputy Principal) and myself on our In-School Management team. I wish them all well in their new roles.

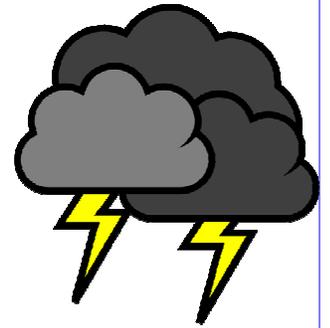
2018 Jun. Infants

Parents,

Please ensure that you have completed an application form if you have a child due to start school in September 2018. Completed forms are essential, letters of intent are not sufficient.



Extreme Weather Arrangements



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.

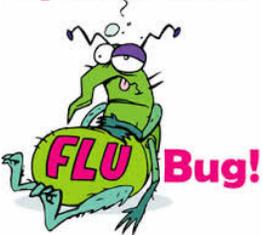
During spells of extreme weather we will be happy to accept pupils arriving into school after normal opening time (8.50 a.m.). This allows a parent set out from home at a time when (s)he is satisfied that road conditions have sufficiently improved to allow a safe journey. Roll call will be delayed on these occasions to facilitate late-comers. 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. Class representatives will contact parents with up to date information where arrangements need to be made.



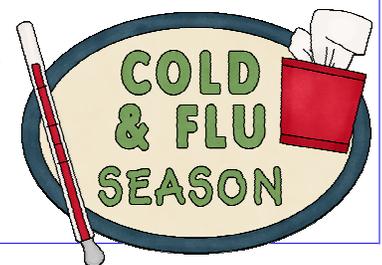
Squash that



Health - Flu warning

Due to the flu epidemic currently in Ireland the Department of Health urges that children who present with flu like symptoms should remain at home. This is to ensure the health & safety of all children in the school

Your cooperation is much appreciated.



School Events: Recent/Current/Ongoing

Jan 11th	HSE Vaccinations for Junior Infants
Jan 15th/17th	Thanks to Ms. Riley and Ms. Nugent for presenting this month's Junior & Senior Assemblies and to Mr. Burke for coordinating the two gatherings
Jan 25th/26th	Principal attends Annual IPPN Principals' Conference
Jan 27th	The girls & boys in Ms. Burke's 6th class attended Assessment Morning. We wish them every success in their final months with us and in their transition to post primary school
Jan 29th –Feb 2nd	Catholic Schools Week—this year's theme is: 'Called to be a Family of Families'.
Jan 29th	Board of Management Meeting
Jan 31st	Anti Bullying Institute Day - workshops for children / teachers / parents (see page 1)

School Calendar January–June 2018

January:

Friday	29 th	Anti Bullying Workshops / Closing Date for Jun. Infant Applications
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February:

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

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

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

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

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