

SCOIL MHUIRE—HOWTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

(1) The transfer of a small area of land from Fingal Co. Council to St. Lawrence’s Trust (owners of the site on which the school is built) is necessary in order for the school extension project to get the go ahead. Because of land registration issues on the part of Fingal, the transfer has been on hold over the past few months. However it now seems that essential paperwork is now in order. I would like to thank Fr. Gerry Tanham P.P. for his input into the negotiations between the solicitors on both sides.

(2) I have been in constant communication with Department of Education Capital Approvals Section to get formal assurance that money pledged last April (€708,800) was still available and to press

for extra funding towards additional costs (rising construction costs/site abnormal charges etc). The official in charge has indicated that our project is to be approved and will revert by the end of this month.

(3) (3) Our design architect has advised us that devolved projects such as our proposed extension will carry hidden costs which have to be met via local fundraising. Earlier this month we set up a Build-a-Brick fundraising group to set up a Pathway through Primary campaign through which parents/guardians/grandparents /past pupils of the school can sponsor engraved bricks on a pathway to

be constructed across the school playground, invoking the journey undertaken by our pupils from Junior Infants to 6th class. Well done to Jenny Hutton (parent) who came up with the name. he working group, Ms. Marina Fagan, Ms. Aisling Wright, Ms. Sandra O’Rourke, Ms. Jenny Hutton, Mr. Ashley Sheridan, Mr. James Burke, Ms. Aisling Heerey, Ms. Claire Mannix & Mr. John Chambers will meet on a weekly basis over the next few months. Watch out for exciting events to come with our official launch date scheduled for Friday 8th June.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WINTER WEATHER	2
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION	2
CHILD PROTECTION	3
RAINBOWS	3
WELLNESS WEEK	3
RECENT EVENTS	4
CALENDAR	4

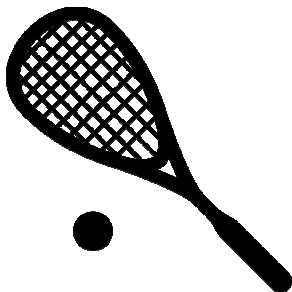
SPORT SNIPPET!

Well done to our School Squash team who traveled down the road to Sutton Squash Club last month:

Amelia Walls
Isabelle Walls

Kate Campbell
Katie Johnson
Anna Jane Meaney
Fionn Copeland
Oscar Rey

Sean Rowe
William Maguire
Oscar Ryan
Noah Higginbotham





WINTER WEATHER WARNING!

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.

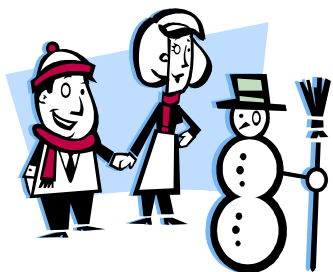
On mornings of extreme weather pupils will be allowed into the school hall or in to their classroom (on Wed. & Fridays when the hall is set up for Violin classes) where they will be supervised until brought to their classroom by their own teacher at normal reception time – please note that this procedure 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. Class representatives will contact parents with up to date information where arrangements need to be made.

{ School Policies such as Child Protection, Anti Bullying, Code of Behaviour, Relationship/ Sexuality are available from school secretary on request and / or on school website—
www.howthprimaryschool.ie }

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION



Say good bye to your snowman!!

We would like to thank those parents who have sent in their voluntary contribution - letters of acknowledgement and thanks will be sent out. 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 – (heated sports hall, Sensory Room/ Library, SEN wing, etc.). Your financial support is essential in order that this

learning environment can be maintained and developed. We would be very grateful for a generous response. Your child is worth it!



CHILD PROTECTION

Following the enactment of Child First 2017 Act (December 2017) all primary schools in the state must revise Child Protection procedures in line with this legislation. Among the requirements are the following:

- Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and CP Risk Assessment must be in place by March 11th 2018
- All schools were directed to

close for two ½ days to facilitate Child Protection training for school staff/Board of Management Parents Representatives. Schools were informed on February 14th that they were allowed to close for 1 full day for CP Training rather than spreading over two separate days in order to reduce disruption for parents/guardians.

Our school closed on Monday 5th March. I invited our Board of Man-

agement and PA Representatives to join our school staff on that day. Copies of the CP Safeguarding Statement /Risk Assessment will be accessible on our school website: www.howthprimaryschool.ie

And will also be available from the school secretary on request

RAINBOWS IRELAND

Over the past few weeks six of our teaching staff have attended specialized weekend training workshops as Rainbow facilitators. Rainbows Ireland is a nationwide support service for children who have

bereavement/separation issues. We have been informed that our school has been designated as a Rainbows Centre. I would like to thank teacher Ms.Niamh Keogh who attended the introductory session with

me last month and who is coordinating the project. Five other teachers have undergone training (in Armagh and in Tallaght) with the project to be rolled out later this year.

WELLNESS WEEK 9TH—23RD FEBRUARY



Thanks to Ms. Laura Anderson, Ms. Niamh Keogh and Ms. Jackie McKeon for all their work setting up an exciting and eclectic whole school programme of activities for Wellness Week. Some of the highlights:

- Meditation exercises
- Fruit tasting

- Random Acts of Kindness (pupils & staff)
- Mindfulness Art and Music
- Yoga (2nd—6th classes)
- Mindfulness walks
- Parent talks on stress/ anxiety in children
- Whole school Dance

- Classroom gratitude walls
- Poster competitions

And
No homework all week!!!
Well done to all concerned and thanks to our great PA team plus outside facilitators.



What a lovely day!!

BACK PAGE STORY HEADLINE

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	
Thursday	22nd	Service of Light (6th Class)	7.30 p.m.
Friday	23rd	School closes for Easter Holidays	12 noon

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	
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	12 noon

SCHOOL EVENTS

February 1st Focus Ireland workshop on homelessness with two 4th classes—thanks to Ms. O'Donnell for setting this up

6th Safer Internet Day—thanks to Aisling for all her work on this
Build a Brick Fundraising Meeting (see above) + Feb 27th Build a Brick fundraising Meeting

8th Meeting of the In-School Management Team

19th/23rd Well Being Week (see page 3)

19th/20th Junior & Senior Assemblies coordinated by Ms. Anderson, Ms. Fox and Mr. Cassidy

20th Fire Drill

22nd Green School Expo RDS. Thanks to Ms. Anderson, Ms. Slattery & Ms. Keogh

26th/March 2nd Engineers Week / Fair Trade.

Ongoing events: GAA/WOW / Music Makes Magic / Tin Whistle / Chess / Stations of the Cross/ After School Club / Sport trí Gaeilge

Thanks to all teachers who facilitated Transition Year work experience and Teaching Practice placements