

Scoil Mhuire –Howth Primary School Newsletter October 2018

Newsletter Date; 25/10/18

School Extension

Following on from last month's final approval by the Department of Education and Skills for the construction of 4x80m² classrooms/WC's plus ancillary works and the completion of the legal process confirming the transfer of land from Fingal Co. Council to the St. Lawrence Diocesan Trust (Owners of the site on which the school is built) the process is now in the hands of our school architect who will now set up a schedule of work. We hope that construction will start early in the new year.

Pathway through Primary Fundraiser

To address hidden costs which underlie all school building projects, a major fundraising initiative – A Pathway through Primary – was launched at our recent Gold Classic and Social Night at Howth Golf Club (Friday 21st September). We invite parents, past pupils, grandparents and friends of Scoil Mhuire to invest in the school's future. We plan to build a pathway from the new junior yard through the playground to the senior

main entrance doors. This pathway will consist of bricks that individuals / families can purchase and have engraved with their own name/child's name/ family name. All money raised will go towards the fit-out of new classes / I.T. / Special Education Needs resources and sport. I would like to pay special tribute Jenny Hutton (parent) for the Trojan work she has done on setting up this project from the start and to fellow committee members Marina Fagan, Aishling Wright, Sandra O'Rourke, Ashley Sheridan.

Special points of interest:

- *Playground Rules*
- *Changes to Enrolment Policy*
- *Halloween Safety*
- *School Calendar*



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Winners, Winners all the way

Scoil Muire Senior Girls took on Gaelscoil Bhrian Boroimhe of Swords in the Cornn Irish Rubies Cumann na mBunscol competition in Croke Park yesterday afternoon. It was sure to be a thrilling game with both sides eager to come out victors in front of their enthusiastic supporters.

The game started with a succession of points from Gs. Bhrian Boroimhe as they settled into the game early on. Our girls followed suit minutes later and any pre match jitters were squashed, subsequently the girls came to life displaying football skills worthy of any Croke Park final. Gs. Bhrian Boroimhe never gave up and battled hard to regain control of the game but not before the full time whistle blew, declaring Scoil Mhuire victorious on a score line of 4-1 to 1-4. All scores came from Tori Cuddy 2-1, Savannah O'Reardon 1-0 and Eva Dillon 1-0. The seanfhocal *Ar Scáth a chéile, a mhaireann na daoine..* resonates with yesterdays's win as without the dedication and desire of all players to support one another on the pitch, a win would not have been possible. All twenty girls played an integral role in securing a fantastic win. The entire community is extremely proud of your success

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.



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 chil-

Post Primary

Earlier this month, application forms from the pupils in Sixth class who hope to transfer to Post Primary Schools in the Deanery area were processed and forwarded to the Deanery Secretariat. We wish all the

Parking outside the School

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 Gardaí are not called

Thank you for your co-operation in this.

Nut Allergy

dren —please ensure 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** – 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

girls and boys in Ms. Breen's and Mr.Flynn's classes all the best in their final year with us and in their Post Primary education next year.





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 bicy-

cles 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

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 dis-

courage 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.



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.



Child Protection / Playground Guidelines

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 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

School Admissions: Enrolment Policy

In line with recent legal revisions with regard to admission criteria for primary schools, our Board of Management will be amending the school's enrolment policy so that we are in line with current requirements as outlined by the Min-

ister of Education & Skills in the Dáil. Our revised enrolment policy will be circulated to all constituent groups in our school community. I would like to welcome Ms. Niamh Keogh as teacher nominee on the school's Board

of Management. Ms. Keogh is taking the place of Ms. Claire Mannix who has commenced Maternity Leave earlier this month. On behalf of everyone in Scoil Mhuire I would like to wish Ms. Keogh all the best in her new duties.

Parents Association 2018/2019

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. 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.

2018/19 committee members: Ms. Aisling O'Sullivan, Lisa O'Neill, Tara Mullan, Clara Connolly, Jenny Ryan, Sarah McDonnell, Deirdre Meade Grant, Maria McGregor Lorna Penn Chester.

And welcome to the 16 PA Class Representatives: Sarah McDonnell Ms. Ridge, Noelle Shannon Ms. Anderson, Lisa O'Neill Ms.

Slaterry, Grainne Coleman Ms.

Maher, Deirdre O'Reilly Ms. O'Hanlon, Christina Dwyer Ms. Duane, Emer Sanfey Ms. McKeon, Roisin Sheridan Ms. Nugent, Aisling O'Sullivan Ms. Reilly, Liz Edwards Ms. O'Donnell, Yvonne Whelan Mr. Cassidy, Lorna Penn Chester Mr. Devlin, Nessa Quinn Mr. Burke, Louise Fearon Mr. Flynn, Maria Conway Ms. Breen.



School Events: Recent/Current/Ongoing:

- Sep 21st Golf Classic 2018 + Launch of A Pathway through Primary
- Oct 8th Board of Management Meeting
- Oct 12th Annual Junior Infant Photographs with School Photographer Mr. Simon Archer
- Oct 15th–19th Maths Week 2018 (Thanks to Ms. Ridge for coordinating the week's activities)
- Oct 24th Parents of children in First Communion Classes meet in the church 8.00 p.m.
- Oct 25th Annual Halloween Fashion Show plus PA fundraising raffle—thanks to s. Reilly
- Oct 26th Presidential Election—school requisitioned as a Polling Centre

Chess/GAA training/Orchestra/Singing/Guitar/After School clubs as per schedule



Enjoy the Mid Term Break—School reopens November 5th



Outline Calendar 2018/2019

October/November

Presidential Election	Friday	26/10/18	School Closed
Mid Term Break	Monday	29 th Oct – Fri 2 nd Nov	School Closed
Parent/Teacher Evening	Thursday	22/11/18	School closes at 2.15
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	29/11/18	2.30 – 4.00p.m.

December/January

HSE Vaccinations (Jun. Infs)	Thursday	13/12/18	
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	13/12/18	School closes at 1.30
Christmas Holidays	Monday	24 th Dec – Fri 4 th Jan	School Closed
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	31/01/19	2.30 – 4.00p.m.

February

Mid Term Break	Monday	18 th – Fri. 22 nd Feb	School Closed
Whole School Staff Meeting	Thursday	28/02/19	2.30 – 4.00p.m.

March / April

Shrove Tuesday	Tuesday	5/03/19	School finishes at 12.15
St. Patrick's Day (in lieu)	Monday	18 th Public Holiday	School Closed
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	28/03/19	School closes at 1.30
Easter Holidays	Monday	15 th April - Fri 26 th	School Closed

May

Public Holiday	Monday	6 th	School Closed
Standardised Testing Week	Monday	13 th – 17 th	
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	30/05/19	2.30 – 4.00p.m.

June

Public Holiday/School Holiday	Friday	31 st May + Mon 3 rd June	School Closed
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	13/06/19	School closes at 1.30
School Sports Day	Friday	14/06/19	
Summer Holidays	Friday	28/06/19	

