

Scoil Mhuire—Hawth Primary School

September 2018 Newsletter

Newsletter Date: 28/09/18



Welcome back!

Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais taréis na laethanta saoire. Fáilte freisin roimh na daltaí nua i Naionáin Shóisireacha agus i na ranganna eile tríd na scoile. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh said go léir taitneamh agus tairbhe as a gcuid ama i Scoil Mhuire Beann Eadair.

It is that time of year again! Back to school! I would like to welcome our pupils, parents, teachers and staff to a new academic year. We are delighted to welcome Ms. Denise Donnelly, a new member of our teaching staff and Ms. Jane Walsh, Ms. Caroline Tierney and Ms. Seana O'Moore, SNA's. Special greetings to our Junior Infants who have eased into Scoil Mhuire under the diligent care of their teachers Ms. Laura Anderson & Ms. Muireann Ridge. Welcome also to new pupils: Holly, Martha, Christina, Ryan, Elly Mo, Danny, Éabha, Ronya, Konstancja, Cillian, Ana Maria, Stella, Ryan, Juan, Jack, Olivia, Ronán, Antonina and Sarah. *Ar aghaidh le chéile!*

Our annual 'Tea & Tissues' Reception for New Parents held in the Hall on the first morning of term was hosted by the Parents Support Group—and much enjoyed by all !



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Makeover

Following on from last year's external makeover of the school building coordinated by James Burke and his team of helpers, this summer saw the repainting of the inner spine of the building—corridors and WC's. I would like to thank Darrel Clarke for the countless hours given to ensure that this major painting project was completed in time for the start of the new school year. Thanks also to Neal Cronan (parent) for his work throughout the summer installing new lighting throughout the school .

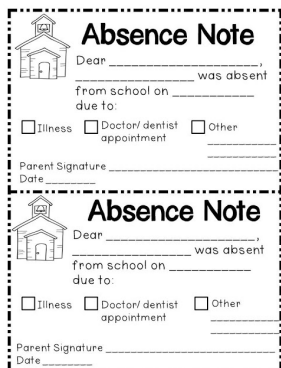


Staffing

As the number of children enrolled in the school has steadily increased year on year over the past decade (from 182 to the present 436) so too has our school team. We now have 16 class teachers (two classes at each age lever from Junior Infants through to Sixth), 7 Special Education Needs teachers, 7 Special Needs Assistants, 1 school secretary and 1 school caretaker.

Here's to that badly needed extension—*Ar aghaidh le cheile!*

Home / School Liaison



Absence Note

Dear _____ was absent
from school on _____
due to: _____

☐ Illness ☐ Doctor/ dentist appointment ☐ Other _____

Parent Signature _____
Date _____

Absence Note

Dear _____ was absent
from school on _____
due to: _____

☐ Illness ☐ Doctor/ dentist appointment ☐ Other _____

Parent Signature _____
Date _____

Is féidir le tuismitheoirí cabhrú linn in a lán slite chun oideachas maith a chur ar fáil anseo i Scoil Mhuire. Seo roinnt de na rudaí ar féidir le tuismitheoirí a dhéanamh. Bíodh do pháiste ar scoil in am, idir 8.40 r.n. agus 8.50 r.n. Cuireann páistí déanacha isteach ar an rang agus caileann siad féin obair ranga. Ná tog laethanta saoire i rith na scoilbhliana gan gá. Tá orainn liosta a chur ar fáil don Oifigeach Leasa Oideachais de na daltaí a chaill 20 lá nó níos mó. Cloigh le rialacha an

bhóthair agus tú ag tiomáint nó ag páirceáil i dtimpeallacht na scoile. Léirigh meas ar muintir na háite agus ar a ngeataí. Bíodh an éide cheart scoile ar do pháiste gach lá.

Parental support in the following areas is much appreciated: Ensure your child arrives in school between 8.40 and 8.50 a.m. Late arrivals cause disruption. Try not to take holidays during school time. We are now obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer of any child

who misses 20 days or more during the school year. The Education Welfare Board has applied new rules with regard to pupil absences from school. It is now necessary to keep a written account of absences and of reasons for them. If a pupil is absent we must receive a note from the parent/guardian giving a reason for the absence. A phone call to the office or a word with the teacher is no longer sufficient. The notes we receive will be kept as a record of absences.

Top Tips

Mornings—Pre-school hours are usually hectic. To smooth the morning's rough edges invest time to teach your children valuable life skills such as dressing themselves, brushing hair and tying shoelaces. Re-set your clock 15 minutes early and allow yourself plenty of time

Pack a healthy lunch—

Sneak in some healthy options using plenty of fruit and vegetables if you can. Fresh ideas include: a small tub of coleslaw, fruit yoghurt or yoghurt drink, dried fruit or nuts and a carton of pure orange juice. **At the end of the day**—have a healthy snack ready to give your child to replenish energy levels. Allow some behavioural leeway

for the first couple of weeks as they settle into a new routine which is often exhausting

Bedtimes—get into a routine of preparing for school the night before. Let your child become involved with packing lunch or laying out clothes. Also, start finding a bedtime routine and get them to bed early.

Homework

Establish a routine

*Set up a quiet comfortable venue away from distracting noises

*Be available to help—especially if your child is in a Junior Class

*In Senior Classes while your child will probably be

more independent, make time to discuss what he/she is doing and **how** it is being done

*Don't give the answers

*Try to make homework a positive experience

*Don't forget oral work that may be given as part

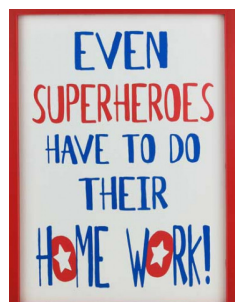
of the homework assignment

*If children are distracting each other try putting them in separate areas or separate rooms

*Check the work and sign journal



- ☐ MAKE BED 
- ☐ EAT BREAKFAST 
- ☐ GET DRESSED 
- ☐ PUT ON SOCKS AND SHOES 
- ☐ BRUSH TEETH 
- ☐ LUNCH IN BACKPACK 
- ☐ HOMEWORK IN BACKPACK 



School Extension

Earlier this month, the Devolved Project Section of the Department of Education and Skills issued final approval for the construction of a 4 x 80m² classroom/WC's plus ancillary works extension to our school subject to a letter from the school's legal advisors confirming that land recently acquired from Fingal County Council had been transferred. On Friday 14th September I forwarded the letter to DES and to our architects. Staged schedule of work is

now being drawn up with construction set to commence early in the new year. This is an exciting new development in the history of Scoil Mhuire/Howth Primary School - the first extension since 1979. I would like to thank members of the Working Party 2015-2019—Mr. Joe Kirwin, Mr. James Markey, Ms. Michele Sweeney, Ms. Clare Reilly, Mr. Eamon Cassidy, Mr. James Burke and Mr. Berchmans Gannon.

To address hidden costs which underlie all school building projects, a major two year fundraising initiative, **A Pathway through Primary**—was launched at our recent Golf Classic 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 wing through the playground to the senior main entrance doors.

A Pathway through Primary

The pathway will consist of engraved pavers that individuals/groups/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 and Sport. I would like to give special thanks to 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, Aisling Wright, Sandra O'Rourke and Ashley Sheridan. Please support **A Pathway through Primary** and spread the word through family members and friends at home and abroad.

Road Safety / Access

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Voluntary One Way Traffic System at school opening / closing time—one-way traffic flow up Tuckett's Lane/St. Lawrence's Tce., up St. Peter's Tce., and then left turn back down to Main St. from 8.40 to 9.00 a.m. and from 2.20 to 2.40 p.m. while our Traffic

Warden is in attendance. Please obey the traffic warden at all times.

The road leading along the school wall to Fairhill Playschool is closed to traffic in the morning at school opening time and in the afternoon at school finishing times.

We have had some com-

plaints from residents re' drive-ways being blocked by parked cars, and the possibility of difficulties for emergency vehicles accessing homes due to congestion at these times – please consider the needs of people living in the area



Hair Care

Tá fadhb Leanúnach le snéacha uaigne sa scoil. Iarraimid bhur gcabhair chun an fhadhb a choimeád faoi smacht. Seiceáil gruag do pháiste gach deireadh seachtaine. Úsáid cíor fineálta chuige seo. Má tá gruag fhada ag do pháiste ceangal suas é. Cuir fios ar an múinteoir má fheiceann tú snéacha.

We have, as most schools do, a problem from time to time, with hair infestation. It would help if every child's hair was checked and finely combed at weekends. Long hair should be tied up. If infestation is discovered please treat immediately and inform the class teacher.

School Noticeboards

ask that any representative from a local cultural/sporting group check with the school secretary before notices are placed in the school. Notices should be dated and fixed neatly to the proper noticeboard (the board beside the secretary's office) after being approved and

stamped in the school office. Posters/notices/children's work already attached should not be obscured by new material. Notices etc. should be removed by the individuals who placed them when they are no longer relevant. We would appreciate your co-operation in

this matter so that our refurbished corridor/reception area is kept as neat as possible.





Music Makes Magic Post Primary Choices Pupil Safety

Our ongoing Music Makes Magic project continues this year. Classes started last week in the School Hall for senior classes with music teachers Shane Cavanagh and Jenna Raggett. Orchestra lessons (after school) are scheduled each Wednesday (School Hall) under the baton of Shane Cavanagh. Junior classes started on Thursday 13th September.

Sixth Class Pupils have made their informed choices regarding Post Primary Schools for next year. Best wishes to them and to their teachers Ms. Breen & Mr. Flynn in the challenging year ahead. Information meetings / Open Nights for the neighbouring Post Primary Schools have been taking place over the past few weeks with representatives from these schools also visiting our 5th & 6th classes.

Please **do not** bring your dog inside the school grounds, some children are afraid of dogs and become very upset if confronted by them in the play-ground.



Parents' Association

The AGM of our school's PA took place on Wed. 19th Sept. congratulations to the newly elected 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. Slattery, Grainne Coleman Ms. Maher, Deirdre O'Reilly Ms. O'Hanlon, Christina Dwyer Ms. Duane, Emer Sanfey Ms. McKeon, Roisín 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.



Working Together



Special Education Needs

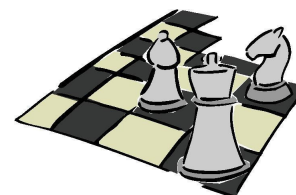
This year sees the further development of Special Education support service in our school with seven teachers now working out of the SNUG. Our Special Education team are: Ms. Claire Mannix, Ms. Niamh Keogh, Ms. Vivienne Buckley Ms. Ciara Fitzpatrick, Ms. Karen Fox, Ms. Audrey Clarke and Ms. Denise Donnelly.

Ms. Claire Mannix commences Maternity Leave at the end of the month. On behalf of all our school community I wish Claire all the best. Ms. Audrey Clarke will take on Claire's role over the next few months



School Events: Recent/Current/Ongoing

- Aug 30th Annual Tea/Tissues reception for new parents. Congratulations to Ms. Anderson & Ms. Ridge who have made a great start with our Junior Infants
- Aug 31st Special Education Team planning meeting
- Sep 3rd Planning meeting with Music Makes Magic to schedule 2018/19 lessons
- Sep 4th/10th/17th Pathway through Primary Meeting
- Sep 5th In School Management Team meeting
- Sep 7th Planning meeting with Special Needs Assistants
- Sep 12th/13th Start of Music Makes Magic violin lessons/Orchestra/Singing/Guitar
- Sep 17th Principal meets P.A. committee in advance of P.A. AGM
- Sep 19th P.A. AGM
- Sep 20th Meeting of the Teaching Staff
- Sep 21st prizes, Golf Classic/Social Night School Fundraiser @ Howth Golf Club. Great golf, great food, great great music, great dancing, great fun. Keep our next two events in your diary—Peninsula Road Race November 21st 2018 and a not-to-be-missed Ladies Lunch in Howth Yacht Club on March 29th 2019
- Sep 26th HSE Bug Busting talk to parents @ 7.30 p.m.
Howth Deanery Forms will be processed by the end of the month (Sixth Class)
Chess/GAA training/Orchestra/Singing/Guitar/After School clubs as per schedule



Sports

Our school sports teams have got off to a flying start—both our Boys and Girls have played their first matches to kick off the season and our athletics team had their first meeting this week

Well done to all of them and wishing them a healthy and enjoyable year of sport!



Outline School Calendar 2018/2019

October/November

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

December/January

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

February

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

March / April

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

May

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

June

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