

Scoil Mhuire—Howth Primary School

December 2018 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 Ms. Breen's Classroom. The schedule for the morning is as follows:

Time	Class/es	Name of Show
9.00	1st Classes—Ms. O'Hanlon & Ms. Maher	Medley of Christmas Songs
9.20	Senior Infants—Ms. Heerey & Ms. Slattery	Angel Express
9.45	Junior Infants—Ms. Ridge	The Friendly Beasts
10.00	Junior Infants— Ms. Anderson	Whoops a Daisy Angel
10.20	2nd Class—Ms. Duane	Rhyming Nativity
11.00	2nd Class—Ms. McKeon	How the Grinchies REALLY stole Christ-
11.15	3rd Class—Ms. Reilly	A Christmas Eve you won't believe
11.40	3rd Class—Ms. Nugent	Big Bad Ben
12.45	4th Class—Mr. Cassidy	A Christmas Celebration
1.00	4th Class—Ms. O'Donnell	Away with the Manger
1.25	5th Class—Mr. Devlin	Elf Take-Over
1.40	5th Class—Mr. Burke	A Christmas Truce
1.50	6th Class—Ms. Breen	Skinny Santa
2.10	6th Class—Mr. Flynn	A Christmas Carol?



Book Fair

This year's Book Fair proved to be a huge success, our most successful do far. We earned a sizeable commission which will enable us to purchase books for our class libraries to the value of €3,225. On behalf of the staff I would like to say a huge thank you to all who purchased books and a special word of thanks to Marina Bleahan, her team of parents and sixth class who helped throughout the day.



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. Christine Dwyer) our teachers and the children for their input. They looked marvelous!



Nativity Pageant

The Annual Nativity Pageant will take place on Christmas Eve in the church with many of our pupils rehearsing on Tuesday mornings over the past month. Thanks to Pat Guinan and her team—, Eila Fitzgerald, Norma Gray, Lisa O'Neill, Marina Fagan & Ian Sheridan

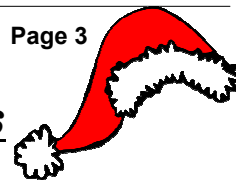
School Events—Recent/Current/ Ongoing

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| 3 rd | Assemblies (Junior & Senior). Thanks to Mr. Burke for coordinating |
| 4 th | Board of Management meeting |
| 4 th | Stay Safe evening for parents with Julie Dowd (CAPP) |
| 5 th & 6 th | Music Makes Magic Open Days (Junior & Senior Classes) |
| 6 th | In School Management Team Meeting |
| 7 th | Stage Set-up. |
| | 4 th class travel to the Zoo |
| | Junior Entrepreneur/Dragons Den – 6 th Class. Thanks to Oisín Geoghan, Head of Enterprise, Fingal County Council and to Maria McGregor (parent) |
| 11 th | GAA coaching with scheduled classes |
| | Ms. Maher's class travel to Howth Library for story telling session. Thanks to Fergus O'Reilly (Howth Librarian) for setting this up |
| 12 th | Music Makes Magic Orchestra after school performance for parents in the hall. |
| | Practice from 1.15p.m. |
| 13 th | HSE Vaccinations for Junior Infants |
| 13 th | Meeting of the Teaching Staff, |
| 14 th | Fiona Hayden Recreate Art with 4 th & 5 th Classes |
| 19 th /20 th | A Taste of Christmas Variety Show (first day for the children, day two for families) |
| 21 st | A special visitor comes to the school. School closes at 12.00 for Christmas. |



Ongoing classes / Activities: Maths Club, Chess Club, Tag Rugby, Club Gaeilge, After school Club, GAA coaching, Walk on Wednesdays, Music Makes Magic, Orchestra, Hip Hop Dance Classes, Irish Dancing Classes, Fencing, Singing Classes

You know you want to be part of this



.Dear Parents,

Here's a solution to your New Year Resolution!! A chance to turn a dream in to reality!!

As you know this is an exciting time in the history of Scoil Mhuire/Howth Primary School. For the first time since 1979, a new extension will be built, with construction set to begin in Spring 2019. In order to raise funds to address the hidden costs which are part and parcel of all school building projects, a major fundraising drive -

A Pathway through Primary – is being put in to place.

How can you help?

We need people who can help out in any way to promote and to make our fundraising campaign a success. The step you take can be as large or as small as you like.

Please consider giving a little time to help with:

Marketing/Advertising/publicity (2) I.T. (3) Finance (4) Setting up a fundraising event – large or small (5) Harnessing any other skill/aptitude to support the project

We will kick start **A Pathway through Primary** early in the New Year with a social event to introduce our project – more details later.

Please join us! Invest in your child's future! We need you! Contact any of the following:

School	01 8323572	Jenny Hutton	087 6879587
Aisling Wright	086 8225514	Marina Bleahan	087 6670007
Ashley Sheridan	087 6523622	Sandra O'Rourke	086 3519381

Or leave your name/contact details at the school office.

John Chambers,
Principal



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 2019. DES grants only cover 40% of our budget so we are very much dependent 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 allowed. 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!

Letters of thanks will be sent to those who have already contributed



Outline Calendar for 2017/2018

December/January

Christmas Holidays	Friday	21/12/18	School finishes at 12 noon
	Monday	24th Dec – Fri 4th Jan	School Closed
School Reopens	Monday	07/01/19	

Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	31/01/19	2.30 – 4.00p.m.
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February

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

Shrove Tuesday	Tuesday	5/03/19	School finishes at 12.15
St. Patrick's Day (in lieu) Public Holiday	Monday	18/03/19	School Closed
Sacrament of Reconciliation 2nd Class	Thursday	21/03/19	
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	28/03/19	School closes at 1.30
New Primary Language	Friday	29/03/19	School Closed
Curriculum In-Service Day			

Easter Holidays	Friday	12/04/18	School finishes at 12 noon
	Monday	15th April - Fri 26th	School Closed -
School Reopens	Monday	29/04/19	

May

Public Holiday	Monday	06/05/19	School Closed
First Holy Communion 2nd Class	Saturday	11/05/19	
Standardised Testing Week	Monday	13th – 17th	
Confirmation 6th Class	Friday	24/05/19	
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	30/05/19	2.30 – 4.00p.m.

June

Public Holiday/School Holiday	Friday	31st May + Mon 3rd 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	28/06/18	School finishes at 12 noon
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