

Scoil Mhuire Howth Primary School

Inside this issue:

Health/Safety	2
Music Award	2
Flu Warning	2
Extreme Weather	3
Child Protection	4
School Events	4
calendar	5

Special points of interest:

- * Music Award for Music Makes Magic
- * Chess Tournament
- * Extreme Weather

Please note—Our Enrolment Policy has been amended in line with new Department of Education and Skills guidelines

It is available to view on our website
www.howthprimaryschool.ie

Scoil Mhuire Howth Primary School Newsletter January 2019

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date

A great finish To 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 what a blizzard of fantastic seasonal occasions. I would like to thank all who helped to make these events so successful and so enjoyable!



Mon. B. Houlihan R.I.P.



Our school and parish communities were saddened by the death of Monsignor Brendan Houlihan earlier this month—a double blow, following on from the loss of Canon Ray Molony last year. Brendan served as Parish Priest in Howth from 1987-2014 and was Chairperson of our school's Board of Management. On behalf of all at Scoil Mhuire I would like to extend sympathy to all the Houlihan family. He will be missed.

2019 Enrolment



Please ensure that you have completed an application form if you have a child due to start school in September 2019. Completed forms are essential. Closing date was 31/01/19.



Goodbye from Imelda, our Traffic Warden

To all the wonderful parents, grandparents, minders and children – it is with very mixed emotions that I take my leave from Scoil Mhuire, Howth. I have been offered a post 5 minutes from my home in Malahide.

I would like to take this

opportunity to thank you most sincerely for all your kindness and generosity to me especially at Christmas and during the year.

You have always made me feel so welcome and part of the community.

I wish you all every success in your future

lives and especially to your wonderful children – I will miss you very much.

Kindest regards,
Imelda



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 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 outside 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 / preschool. 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.

School Extension Pathway through Primary Music Award

Mechanical/Engineering documentation and Quantity Surveyor report are being processed with all pre-construction paperwork to be completed by the end of next month. If all stages go to schedule, we should receive final clearance from Department of Education and Skills by mid March with site work to begin late April or early May. The long awaited four classroom extension should be ready for use at the start of January 2020.

We received many offers of help with this major initiative which will raise funds to cover the hidden costs incurred by all school building projects. We are holding an information night on February 5th 2019 at 7.30 p.m.. If you would like to volunteer your time/expertise/ enthusiasm please come along

Your child is worth it!!

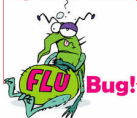
Great News—Howth Primary School, Scoil Mhuire has been short listed for an award for our Music Makes Magic Project.

Winners will be announced in the National Concert Hall on Saturday 9th February.

Here's Hoping!!!



Squash that



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.

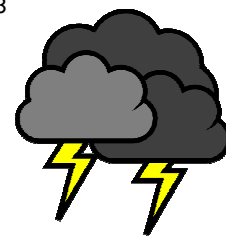
Leinster Schools Chess League

For the first time this year we are entering 3 teams of 8 children in the Leinster Schools Chess League. Pupils from 4th, 5th and 6th class were chosen to represent the school. There will be two rounds to this competition. On Friday 1st February two schools - St. Canice's and St. Catherine's came to the school to play and a finals day will take place

on Monday 11th February. Best of luck to all those taking part. Our thanks to the P.A. who sponsored the bus and goodie bags for the visiting teams.



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 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.

Voluntary Levy 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

Child Protection Update

As part of it's duty of care to the children enrolled in Scoil Mhuire the school has adopted the Child Protection Safe-guarding measures as outlined in Child Protection for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017. please note the following points of information:

- The Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection (DLP) is John Chambers (Principal), Aisling Heerey (Deputy Principal) is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person
- Child Protection Safeguarding Statement (adjacent to the office of the School Secretary) and have been posted on the school's website: www.howthprimaryschool.ie. Copies of the C.P. Safeguarding Statement are also available on request
- Teachers include Stay Safe, Social/Personal & Health Education (SPHE) and Relationship & Sexuality (RSE) modules in their classroom planning
- A training night for parents on the revised Stay Safe programme, presented by the Child Abuse Prevention Programme (CAPP) took place in December 2018
- Concerns with regard to Child Protection should be made to DLP/DDLP

School Events: Recent/Current/Ongoing

January:

21st/22nd	Planetarium Dome—an out of this world experience for all classes. Thanks to Ms. Anderson for coordinating this event
23rd	Planning Day for Graduation Day 2019 (June 26th)
24th	Fire Drill. Thanks to Ms. Clarke
24th/25th	Principal Attends Irish Primary Principals' Network Annual Conference
24th	In School Management Team Meeting
26th	Post Primary Assessment morning for sixth class pupils
28th –1st Feb	Catholic Schools Week
31st	Meeting of the Teaching Staff (outside school hours)

February:

4th	Board of Management Annual Review of the school's Child Protection Safeguarding Statement
5th	Safer Internet Day
5th	Information Night (7.30 p.m.) on our Pathway through Primary project—All Welcome
6th	Parents' Confirmation meeting (7.30 p.m.)

Ongoing activities include:

Music Makes Magic (violin classes with all children in the school), After School Club, GAA Coaching, Chess, Walk of Wednesdays, Orchestra, Fencing, Club Gaeilge, Maths Club, Hip-Hop Dance classes, Singing, Science Club



Calendar for February – June 2019

FEBRUARY

<u>Mid Term Break</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>18th – Fri. 22nd</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

<u>Shrove Tuesday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>5/03/19</u>	<u>School finishes at 12.15</u>
<u>Public Holiday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>18/03/19</u>	<u>School Closed</u>
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>21/03/19 (2nd Class)</u>	<u>7.30 p.m.</u>
<u>Meeting of the Teaching Staff</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>28/03/19</u>	<u>School closes at 1.30</u>
<u>Service Of Light</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>28/03/19 (6th Class)</u>	<u>7.30 p.m.</u>
<u>New Primary Language</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>29/03/19</u>	<u>School Closed</u>
<u>Curriculum In-Service Day</u>			

APRIL

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

MAY

<u>Public Holiday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>06/05/19</u>	<u>School Closed</u>
<u>First Holy Communion 2nd Class</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>11/05/19</u>	<u>11.00 a.m.</u>
<u>Standardised Testing Week</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>13th – 17th</u>	
<u>Confirmation 6th Class</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>24/05/19</u>	<u>11.00 a.m.</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 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>07/06/19</u>	
Summer Holidays	Friday	28/06/18	School finishes at 12 noon

