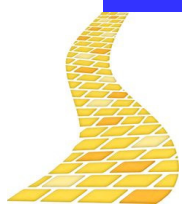


Scoil Mhuire Howth Primary School

February 2019 Newsletter

Pathway through Primary



We are about to start on an exciting chapter in the history of Scoil Mhuire / Howth Primary School with construction of the new school extension (4 classrooms plus storage areas/corridors/WC's etc) early May this year. It has been a long road to get the necessary sanction and funding from Department of Education & Skills. The money from DES will cover the cost of the building alone. This leaves us, as it leaves all such school building projects, with a considerable shortfall before we can fully 'fit out' these new classrooms.

Last year at our most enjoyable Autumn Golf Classic a major fundraising initiative **Pathway through Primary** was set up. This is a Build a Brick campaign where families/past pupils and

friends of Scoil mhuire, Howth Primary School can buy a sponsored paver which will be placed in a pathway at the front of the school building invoking the journey undertaken by our pupils from Junior Infants to 6th Class.

In December we invited **anyone** who was interested to join the **Pathway through Primary Team**. No special skill sets were required (although all welcome!). Volunteers can invest as much or as little time/energy in one of the many initiatives that we hope will make the overall fundraising project a huge success.

On Tuesday 5th February Marina Bleahen (parent) facilitated an information/brainstorming night on the fundraising project. On behalf of all our school community I would like to thank her for a most

productive night. Ar aghaidh le chéile!

So if you have a little time, if you have certain skills/networking contacts in areas such as publicity/advertising/insurance or construction firms/IT companies etc. please help us. You will be helping to create a legacy for your own child(ren) **and for** future generations. Please contact anyone of the following:

Jenny Hutton 0876879587

Marina Bleahen 0876670007

Aisling Wright 0868225514

Eamon Cassidy 8323572

John Chambers 8323572

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Thank you!

Earlier this month we acknowledged and celebrated the contribution made to Scoil Mhuire by long-serving Board of Management members

Ann Marie Matthews and Joe Kirwin (currently BOM Chairperson) at an event held in the Abbey. Both are, of course, continuing their respective



roles on our current Board of Management. They have done this school some service!!!



National Award for Music Makes Magic School Traffic Warden

On Saturday February 9th our school orchestra was the recipient of a prestigious national award at the 24th Festival of Youth Orchestra gala concert in the National Concert Hall—one of three youth orchestras nationwide to be so honoured. It was a pleasure to see music teacher Shane Cavanagh, accompanied by pupils Conor Brosnan, Sorcha Green and Alan-

nah McGregor accept the award from presenter Sean Rocks. Congratulations to all our young musicians, our music teachers and team of Music Makes Magic, to our teachers and school staff who have supported this lovely project over the past six years and to MMM directors Paul and Maria McGregor.

Take a bow (!) all!

Friday 8th February marked the final day of duty for Imelda Breen as our school Traffic Warden. During her time with us, her cheerful personality and her courtesy made her popular with our pupils, parents, school staff and will all visitors to Scoil Mhuire. On behalf of all our school community I wish her every success in her new posting. Presentations from the school staff and from our Parents Association were made to Imelda on her last day. Mr. Ray Cranley took over as traffic warden on Monday 11th February. We hope his return as traffic warden to the school will be a happy one.

Voluntary Contribution

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 gener-

ous 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!



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

Child Protection

This has been a busy month in the area of Child Protection. On Monday 4th February our school's Board of Management undertook its annual review and ratified Scoil Mhuire's Child Protection Safeguarding Statement. A copy of this has been forwarded to our Parents' Association and to the school's Patron. It is also available to all parents on request. A copy is on display at the school reception area just outside the school secretary's

door. The CP Safeguarding Statement is also accessible on our school website:

www.howthprimaryschool.ie

As you know the role of Child Protection Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) are currently carried out by John Chambers (Principal) and Aisling Heerey (Deputy Principal) respectively. Any concerns/queries regarding Child Protection issues are brought

to the attention of DLP/DDLP.

Registered teachers are also mandated to report such concerns. Social, Personal & Health Education/ Stay Safe/Relationship and Sexuality Education modules are taught in all classes throughout the school year in accordance with requirements outlined in **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017**

GDPR/ Data Protection Policy / School Admission (Enrolment) Policy

Following recent legislative changes regarding the use/ circulation/ storage and destruction of data we revised our school Data Protection and CCTV policies. These were then ratified at the Board of Management meeting earlier this month. Thanks to Ms. Laura Anderson for her work on these important policy areas and to Ms. Muireann

Ridge who worked on the previous Data Protection policy.

The school has revised its Enrolment policy in light of the recent enactment of the School Admission Act 2018. the main change is the removal of religion as a criteria for admission. Our revised Enrolment Policy can be accessed on our school website:

www.howthprimaryschool.ie and is available on request.

We will have two reception classes next year. Round One offers were processed earlier this month and we will inform those on the waiting list of any available places in due course.

Safer Internet Day 2019

Safer Internet Day which took place in the school on February 5th is an EU initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially by children. It is promoted in Ireland by PDST Technology in Education. This year's theme was 'Together for a Better Internet'. A range of

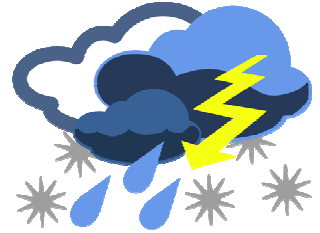
whole school activities/discussions/ art competitions/stories/ workshops took place on the day and throughout the week in Scoil Mhuire. One of our main aims this year in the senior classes is to promote responsible and respectful online communication. There is a very valuable

resource—
A Parent's

Guide to a Better Internet' on the National Parents' Council website: www.npc.ie Thanks to Ms. Aisling Heerey, IT Coordinator in the school for coordinating these events.



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:

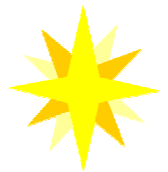
Every effort will be made to clear safe pathways from the main school gate to the entrance doors (Junior & Senior entrances). Pupils, parents and staff are advised to make use of these routes. The school heating system will be regularly checked over weekends/holiday periods during periods of freezing 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.

Réalt na Mara



A group of singers from our 6th classes joined the Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Anthony LAvin and Fingal County Council's CEO Paul Reid at the launch of artist Robert McColgan's Réalt na Mara sculpture on Howth's East Pier on Friday February 15th.

The children, under the baton of Ms. Muireann Ridge, teacher plus Music Coordinator Scoil Mhuire Howth Primary School and with the help of teacher Mr. Darragh Sewell performed Trasna na dTonnta—a traditional maritime song and Phil Coulter's homage to our lifeboats—Home from the Sea. Taking part in this memorable occasion were:

Karolina, Eva, Lou-Lou, Killian W., Katie, Davidas, Isabella, Dylan, Rostik, Juliet, Sorch, Aoife,
Katie, Shu-Wei, Lucy



School Events—Recent/Current/Ongoing

Jan 27th—3rd Feb	Catholic Schools Week 2019. this year's theme was 'Celebrating the work of our local Catholic School'. Thanks to Ms. Audrey Clarke for all her work in coordinating the week's activities throughout the school
Jan 31st	Meeting of the Teaching Staff (outside of school hours)
Feb 4th	Board of Management Meeting
Feb 4th	Junior and Senior school assemblies. Thanks to Mr. James Burke for leading these
Feb 5th	Safer Internet Day. Thanks to our IT Coordinator Ms. Aisling Heerey (see above)
Feb 5th	Pathway through Primary Information/Brainstorming meeting with Marina Bleahen (see above)
Feb 6th	Parents Confirmation Night. Thanks to all who attended and to Ms. Siobhan Breen, Mr. David Flynn, Fr. Gerry Tanham P.P.
Feb 8th	Presentation to School Traffic Warden (see above)
Feb 9th	Music Makes Magic national award in the National Concert Hall (see above)
Feb 14th	In-school Management Team meeting
Feb 15th	Réalt na Mara. Pupils from the school—sang Trasna na dTonnta and Home from the Sea. Thanks to Ms. Muireann Ridge for all her work
Feb 15th	PA Coin Collection. Thank you for your support
Feb 18th—22nd	Mid-Term Break
March 1st	PA Curry Quiz Night



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 Gaelige, Maths Club, Hip-Hop Dance classes, Singing, Science Club

Calendar March—June 2019

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>Wednesday</u>	<u>20/03/19 (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>	
<u>Summer Holidays</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>28/06/18</u>	<u>School finishes at 12 noon</u>