

SCOIL MHUIRE—HOWTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER



CHILD PROTECTION

In my role as Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection in the school, I conducted a Child Protection Survey with all pupils from 3rd—6th classes—a total of 235 children (see attached sheet). I have been speaking to the children in class and at our monthly School Assembly about their responses and their awareness of the core areas of the Stay Safe Programme which is taught in all classes. It is heartening to hear that the children feel safe in school and feel empowered

to deal with situations that might make them feel worried/unhappy/unsafe. Parents can reinforce the Stay Safe work taught by the class teachers by discussing key areas of the programme with their child at appropriate times. I would like to thank parents who have given feedback during the recent Child Protection Safeguarding Statement review. A copy of the Safeguarding Statement and information notices regarding the Child Protection DLP (John Chambers) and

Deputy DLP (Aisling Heerey) are displayed in the school reception area (adjacent to the office of the school secretary) and have been posted on the school's website—www.howthprimarieschool.ie A copy of the revised C.P. Safeguarding Statement has been sent to the school's patron. Comments/ Suggestions from parents on any aspect of Child Protection in the school are welcome.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *MMM Report*
- *Stations of the Cross*
- *Accommodation Update*
- *Calendar April-June 2019*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MUSIC MAKES MAGIC	2
SPORTS	2
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION	2
SCHOOL EVENTS	3
ACCOMMODATION	3
CALENDAR APR-JUNE	4
TEACHING PRACTICE	4



Well done to James Burke who has been training the Mayo Senior Football team over the past few months. Mayo have just been crowned as League Champi-

ons. Could this be a sign of great things to come??

Congratulations to two of our pupils, both in Mr. Devlin's Fifth Class—Rosie May PennChester, winner in the recent Paraic Pearse

National Poetry Competition—the second year in a row that Rosie has been a winner. And to her class-mate Oscar Rey who represented Scoil Mhuire in this year's Eason's Spelling Bee.

Also congrats. to Oliver Rowney who won a Special Merit Award in Category F of the 65th Texaco Children's Art Competition.

Well done All !!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS

ENROLMENT 2019/2020

We have received sufficient enrolment applications for two Junior Infant classes 2019/2020. Information Meeting for new parents will take place on Thursday 6th June at 1.00 p.m.. Thanks to our school secretary, Ms. Joan Lyons, for her work in processing the enrolment applications. If you are aware of anyone who has a child ready to start school or is in the process of moving in to the area this September but has not yet completed an application please ask them to get in touch with us as soon as possible.





MUSIC MAKES MAGIC

We have had an amazing Spring Term (Jan – April).

All children in weekly classes are progressing well. You will have an opportunity to view their progress on Open Days in June. (Times will be advised after Easter)

SENIOR OPEN DAY (3rd – 6th Classes) will be on Wednesday June 12.

JUNIOR OPEN DAY (J.I. – 2nd Classes) will be on Thursday June 13. We will also be selling photos for our annual photographic fundraiser on the Open Days. Noelle Shannon and John Carroll volunteered again to photograph our 437 children. They (along with Louise Malone and Paul

McGregor) spent many hours organising this event. Sincere thanks to all the volunteers on this wonderful fundraiser.

We will also be having a Song-Writing Workshop on Sunday June 9. Two of these events were run by Colm Querney (Fighting Words Project and BIIM College) last year and they are a wonderful experience. It will be a free event open to all children over 8. Details to follow in early May.

We have had an incredible few months. After 6 years of growth, our project has begun to win major awards. In February, a contingent of over 50 adults and children attended the National Concert Hall to see us win an Irish Association of Youth Orchestras (IAYO) Achievement Award. We were so proud. Then in March, we entered

the Wesley Feis for the first time. Lorna Penn-chesters singing group won a “Highly Recommended” Award in their choir competition. The following day our orchestra won First Prize in their competition and we brought home the Miller Cup (for Primary Schools Orchestras)

In May our orchestra will play at Communion and Confirmation and there will be a big end of year celebration when we have our **MID SUMMER CELEBRATION** concert on June 21.

Please put the date in your diaries.



SPORTING NEWS

It has been a hectic few weeks with school teams participating across an array of competitions / tournaments in hurling/athletics/soccer/Gaelic Football and hurling. I would like to pay tribute to the teachers who train/manage all our school teams (many sacrificing lunch breaks so that training sessions can be scheduled) and our fantastic pool of parents who provide transport to/from our away matches. Ar aghaidh le chéile!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS STATIONS OF THE CROSS



This is a hectic time for pupils in 2nd and 6th classes with regards to preparation for the sacraments of

Holy Communion (11th May) and Confirmation (24th May). Our school choir, under the baton of Ms. Fox/ Ms. Breen/ Ms Reilly has also been very busy getting ready for these important occasions.

Our boys and girls practiced hard under the guiding hand of Pat Guinan and her team—Eila Fitzgerald, Norma Gray, Lisa O’Neill and Ian Sheridan for the Stations of the Cross which took place on Good Friday 19th April 2019.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

We would like to thank those parents who have sent in their voluntary contribution. 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 generous 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. Your financial support is essential in order that this learning environment can be maintained.

Thank you!





SCHOOL EVENTS—RECENT/CURRENT/ONGOING

April

- 1st Scoil Mhuire welcomed a group of students who were here on teaching practice placements. We were also delighted to welcome back a number of past pupils on Transition Year work experience
- 2nd & 5th Girls/Boys 5 a-side soccer tournament
- 8th School Assemblies (Junior/Senior). Thanks to Mr. Burke
- 8th Concert Performance by our two school orchestras (Junior/Senior) and the Royal Irish Academy of Music Transition Strings in the Church of the Assumption Howth
- 10th Fingal Athletics. Thanks to Ms. Anderson & Ms. Slattery
- 11th Ms. Heerey & Ms. Anderson visit Google with our Digital Leaders
- 29th Fundraising meeting in the school
- 29th –May 3rd Active Schools Week / Wellness Week
- May 1st May Day—Sponsored School Walk. Thanks to Jenny hutton for her input on the sponsor cards

Ongoing Events:

STEM Club-(Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics, in a fun, inquiry-based setting)

After School club, Club Gaelige, Orchestras, GAA Coaching, Athletics training, Chess Club, Maths Club, Fencing, Irish Dancing, Hip Hop Dance, violin lessons, singing

UPDATE ON ACCOMMODATION

I contacted the school architect with regards to construction schedule for our eagerly awaited school extension. She has informed me that due to a delay in receiving the Bill of Quantities from the Quantity Surveyor, the project is running c.6 weeks behind schedule. Construction is now likely to start during the summer holidays.

On a more positive note we have been informed that the general funding

may cover more of the costings than was originally designated. Our fundraising company's revised overall target is €80,000. Already we have raised over €12,000. An information/planning night will take place on Monday 29th April at 7.30 p.m.



MR. BURKE'S ANNUAL **EASTER CAMP** WAS HELD FROM 15TH—19TH OF APRIL. THE WEATHER STAYED FINE AND EVERYONE REALLY ENJOYED ALL THE ACTIVITIES ON OFFER. ROLL ON THE 2019 SUMMER CAMP!

CALENDAR FROM APRIL—JUNE 2019

APRIL

Easter Holidays **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** 11.00 a.m.

Standardised Testing Week **Monday 13th – 17th**

Confirmation 6th Class **Friday 24/05/19** 11.00 a.m.

Local Elections/Voting Centre **Friday 24/05/19** **School Closed**

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 07/06/19**

Summer Holidays **Friday 28/06/18** **School finishes at 12 noon**

TEACHING PRACTICE/TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS

Teaching Practice:

Howth Primary School welcomed a number of student teachers this term. We hope Ms. Emer Torpey (past pupil), Ms. Aisling Cronin, Ms. Ciara Drumgoole, Mr. Andrew Brennan, Ms. Niamh Hannigan, Ms. Sally Bogue, Mr. Brian Lawlor

and Ms. Jennifer Faye all found their stay here a productive and happy one. We wish them every success in their future teaching career. Thanks to all our teachers for facilitating these placements.

Transition Year Placements:

We also welcomed past pupils Julia Molloy, Irwin Adolfo, Pavel Iliin, Alan Sajan and Harry Weston to their alma mater over the past few weeks as part of their Transition Year work experience thanks again to the teachers who offered these placements.

