



May 2019 Newsletter Scoil Mhuire-Howth Primary School

Safeguarding



Children

Child Protection

As you know our school Child Protection Safe-guarding Statement and information notices with regard to the Child Protection Designated Liaison Person (John Chambers) and the Child Protection Deputy Liaison Person (Aisling Heerey) are displayed on the the school reception area (adjacent to the office of the School Secretary) and have been posted on the school's website—www.howthprimaryschool.ie Copies of the school's CP Safe-guarding Statement are also available on request. We are grateful for the input from parents during our recent review of the Safeguarding Statement and continue to welcome suggestions on how our Child Protection procedures in Scoil Mhuire might be improved.

DLP and DDLP have undertaken Child Protection training as have school personnel/Parents' Association. New staff and/or others who may not yet have completed CP training are encouraged to do so at regular intervals. Teachers include Stay Safe/Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) modules in their planning and are made aware on a regular basis of the responsibilities as Mandated Persons. Teachers also communicate with the children in class to discuss Child Protection areas such as safety/attendance/bullying etc. A survey/questionnaire on pupils views with regard to child protection/safety issues was given to girls & boys from 3rd—6th classes prior to Easter. I am delighted the overwhelming majority of children feel that their school is a safe environment and that they are familiar with the core elements of the Stay Safe Programme

Sympathy

On behalf of all our school community I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to teacher Jackie McKeon on the recent death of her father, Frank.

We also wish to offer condolences to Ms. Ann Marie Matthews on the passing of her brother Tommy Harford.

May they rest in peace.



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Special points of interest:

- ♦ Data Protection guidelines
- ♦ Retirement of Ms. Pat Guinan from the Nativity Pageant and Stations of the Cross
- ♦ Sports Report

Data Protection

GDPR came into force on 25th May 2018. GDPR emphasizes transparency, security and accountability with regard to the processing of personal data. In all schools Boards of Management undertake the role of Data Controllers. Our school has a Data Protection Policy in place, and is working to carry out the requirements of GDPR.

Data Protection Regulation is high profile and quite complex. There is very user-friendly information about it on the website of the (Irish) Data Protection Commission. This information is kept securely on our

server and is also provided to two outside bodies; the Department of Education and Science and the third party to which we outsource our attendance and related administration.

As per the GDPR guidelines, we are reviewing our policy on school photography and a school website privacy statement.

The data we acquire and keep is centered around your children, who are the business of the school. We keep personal, academic and peripheral data

relating to children and their parents / guardians and carers. This data relates both to current and past pupils. We also keep data relating to staff, current and those who have left.

We retain personal data for only as long as is necessary for contractual, legal or business purposes.

When personal data is no longer required we securely destroy it.



Sport



An exciting few months of sport culminated in two school teams (Girls Senior and Boys Senior GAA teams) reaching the finals of the Fingal Senior League on a sunny day in Abbotstown National Sports Centre. Congratulations to both teams who played so well in their respective games – the girls (yet again) were convincing winners in their match against St. Marnock's while the boys, despite a dramatic and valiant second half comeback against a strong St. Malaga's side had to be content with runners up medals. Congratulations to both panels, to their managers Ms. Mary O'Donnell & Mr. James Burke and thank you to the group of parents



who provided transport for all the away matches of the campaign. Thanks also to Geraldine Delaney, Mary Moore and Barry Nicholson who coordinated the after match reception for both teams. It has been a busy time for our school hurlers who finished top of their league – a fantastic achievement. The team racked up some very high scores and convincing wins over the past few weeks – a credit to manager Mr. Eamon Cassidy.

Our athletes too have proudly represented their school at recent track & field events in Newbridge and in Santry Stadium. Congratulations and thanks to Ms. Laura Anderson, Ms. Roisin Slattery and Ms.



Collette Quinn who trained the team over the past five weeks

More than 40 of our pupils have played a competitive soccer match for Scoil Mhuire this year. Our boys team were pipped at the post in their group despite losing one of their four group matches while the girls reached the final in their group and won the match in extra time. Thanks to Mr. David Flynn.

Congratulations to Mark Hogan who won a Bronze Medal in the Hurdles, to Kate Campbell who also won Bronze in the Long Jump and to Clara Le Blanc who won Bronze in the Race of Champions.



Well Done- Congratulations are also in order for Rocco Wright who has made the Irish Sailing Team and will represent his country in Antigua this Summer. And to Oliver Rowney who won a Special Merit Award in the Texaco Children's Art Competition 2019.

Admissions/Accommodation

54 places for Junior Infant classes have so far been accepted and 22 pupils in classes from Senior Infants to Sixth have also registered. With 62 pupils leaving (from 6th and other classes) at the end of June our projected enrolment figure for the start of the new school year is 449. Our annual meeting for New Parents takes place on Thursday 6th June with an Induction afternoon for our new Junior Infants scheduled for Wednesday 12th.

The Tendering process for the

school extension closed at mid-day May 17th. When the successful contractor has been selected and registered construction should begin in July with a estimated build time of six months.

Our fundraising project (raising funds to cover hidden costs accruing from the new build) has gathered momentum. Parents/past pupils/alumni and friends of Scoil Mhuire are invited to invest in the future of our school by purchasing engraved bricks

which will be prominently displayed on the south-facing exterior wall of the school hall. To promote this drive a number of fundraising events will take place over the next two years – Ladies Lunch June 14th in Findlaters, Road Race (separate Adult & Child events) in Sept/Oct 2019 – date to be confirmed and a Gala Ball on Valentines Night in the Marine Hotel Sutton. For details of these events and of the fundraising group contact the school – *Ar aghaidh le chéile!*

Sacramental Preparation

It has been a hectic few weeks for our 2nd and 6th classes with the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Service of Light, First Holy Communion and Sacrament of Confirmation all taking place over the past two months. Well done to all our girls & boys we are proud of you. Thanks to the teachers involved – Jackie McKeon,

Donna Duane, Siobhan Breen, David Flynn, to our choral directors Karen Fox, Clare Reilly, Siobhan Breen, our Music Coordinator Muireann Ridge, school secretary Joan Lyons, our Special Needs Assistants – Fiona Byrne, Ann McCarthy, Marianne Flood, Caroline Tierney, Emer Sanfey, Shauna O'Moore, photographer Simon

Archer and Hannah Levy, Parish team Lisa O'Neill & Mary Clavin, celebrants Fr. Gerry Tanham PP and Fr. Liam O'Cuiv Episcopal vicar, parish secretary Barbara Farrell, Joe Stewart (for printing the Confirmation Booklet) and to our school Parents' Association for the lovely receptions in St.Columbanus Hall



Nativity Pageant and Stations of the Cross –Retirement

For many years I have been working alongside and assisting the children of Howth Primary School in the production and direction of the Nativity Pageant at Christmas and the Children's Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

It has been a privilege to work with the children throughout the years and I have enjoyed

every minute of our association.

However, I am now retiring and we need someone to take over the production and direction of the Nativity and Stations. I have all the costumes and props required for both productions together with stage directions and paperwork, ready to be handed over.

If you would like to take on the responsibility for these two productions and work with the children then please contact John Chambers in Howth Primary School or Father Gerry Tanham or myself, Pat Guinan.



SchoolEvents—Recent/Current/Ongoing:-

April 29 th	Active School Week and Wellbeing Week. Thanks to Mr. James Burke and Ms. Muireann Ridge for coordinating all the whole school activities
May 10 th	First Holy Communion
May 13 th -17 th	Standardised Testing Week for designated classes
May 14 th	Fingal School Finals in Abbotstown
May 20 th -24 th	Celebrate Uniqueness Week. Thanks to Ms. Audrey Clarke for organising this very special week
May 20 th -24 th	Green School Biodiversity Week
May 20 th	School Assemblies (Junior / Senior Classes. Thanks to Mr. James Burke
May 23 rd	In School Management Team meeting
May 24 th	Sacrament of Confirmation. School closed (Referendum and Election Day)
May 28 th	Music Makes Magic workshop with St. Peter's School Fairview
May 29 th	Music Makes Magic Summer Concert
May 31 st /June 1 st	School Closed
June 6 th	New Parents Meeting
June 7 th	School Sports
June 9 th	Song Writing Workshop – (Music Makes Magic)
June 12 th /13 th	Music Makes Magic annual Open Days
June 12 th	Induction afternoon for Junior Infants 2019/2020
June 14 th	Ladies Lunch (Findlaters) Fundraising event
June 16 th	Annual Strawberry Fair

Ongoing classes/activities:

After School Clubs / GAA coaching / Chess Club / Maths Club / Music Makes Magic orchestra / Coder Dojo/ Club Gaeilge / STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) / Irish Dancing / Hip Hop dance / Fencing

Calendar for June 2019

Public Holiday/School Holiday	Friday	31st May +Mon 3rd June	School Closed
Meeting for New Parents	Thursday	06/06/19 at 1.00 p.m.	
School Sports Day	Friday	07/06/19	
Induction Day for new Jun. Inf. Wed.		12/06/19 at 1.15 p.m.	
Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Thursday	13/06/19	School closes at 1.30
Ladies Lunch	Friday	14/06/19	Fundraising Event
Summer Holidays	Friday	28/06/18	School finishes at 12 noon