

Howth Primary School Scoil Mhuire

September 2019 Newsletter

WELCOME BACK!



Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais taréis na laethanta saoire. Fáilte freisin roimh na daltaí nua i Naionáin Shóisireacha agus i na ranganna eile tríd na scoile. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh said go léir taitneamh agus tairbhe as a gcuid ama i Scoil Mhuire Beann Eadair.

It is that time of year again! Back to school! I would like to welcome our pupils, parents, teachers and staff to a new academic year. We are delighted to welcome Ms. Catriona Cosgrave (Job Sharing with Ms. McKeon), Ms. Niamh Horan, Ms. Mary McHugh and Ms. Ciara Barker. Special greetings to our Junior Infants who have eased into Scoil Mhuire under the diligent care of their teachers Ms. Aisling Heerey & Ms. Mary O'Donnell. Welcome also to new pupils: (Senior Infants) Neil, Jerry, Sadhbh, Ivan, (1st Class) Feena, Wenhao, Aoife, Camilla, (2nd Class) Cole, (3rd Class) Brianna, Edoardo, Evan (4th Class) Leo, Noah, Liam, Francesca, Wen Xi (5th Class) Freya, Oisin (6th Class) Emma & Aazeb

Ar aghaidh le chéile!

Our annual 'Tea & Tissues' Reception for New Parents held in the Hall on the first morning of term was hosted by the Parents Support Group—and much enjoyed by all !

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CHILD PROTECTION

As you know our school Child Protection Safeguarding 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 Safeguarding 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



Staffing 2019/2020

As the number of children enrolled in the school has steadily increased year on year over the past decade (from 182 to the present 440) so too has our school team. We now have 16 class teachers (two classes at each age level from Junior Infants

through to Sixth), 7 Special Education Needs teachers, 7 Special Needs Assistants, 1 school secretary and 1 school caretaker. Here's to that badly needed extension—

Start Date—14th October!



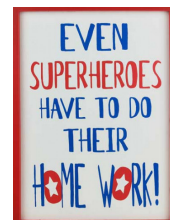
Home/School Liaison

Is féidir le tuismitheoirí cabhrú linn in a lán slite chun oideachas maith a chur ar fáil anseo i Scoil Mhuire. Seo roinnt de na rudaí ar féidir le tuismitheoirí a dhéanamh. Bíodh do phaiste ar scoil in am, idir 8.40 r.n. agus 8.50 r.n. Cuireann páistí dé-anacha isteach ar an rang agus caileann siad féin obair ranga. Ná tog laethanta saoire i rith na scoilbhliana gan gá. Tá orainn liosta a chur ar fáil don Oifigeach Leasa Oideachais de na daltaí a chaill 20 lá nó níos mó. Cloigh le rialacha an

bhóthair agus tú ag tiomáint nó ag páirceáil i dtimpeallacht na scoile. Léirigh meas ar muintir na háite agus ar a ngeataí. Bíodh an éide cheart scoile ar do pháiste gach lá.

Parental support in the following areas is much appreciated: Ensure your child arrives in school between 8.40 and 8.50 a.m. Late arrivals cause disruption. Try not to take holidays during school time. We are now obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer of any child who misses 20 days or more

during the **school year**. The Education Welfare Board has applied new rules with regard to pupil absences from school. It is now necessary to keep a written account of absences **and of reasons for them**. If a pupil is absent we must receive a note from the parent/guardian giving a reason for the absence. A phone call to the office or a word with the teacher is no longer sufficient. The notes we receive will be kept as a record of absences.



Homework

Establish a routine

*Set up a quiet comfortable venue away from distracting noises

*Be available to help—especially if your child is in a Junior Class

*In Senior Classes while your

child will probably be more independent, make time to discuss what he/she is doing and **how** it is being done

*Don't give the answers

*Try to make homework a positive experience

*Don't forget oral work that








may be given as part of the homework assignment

*If children are distracting each other try putting them in separate areas or separate rooms

*Check the work and sign journal

Top Tips

MORNING CHECKLIST

- ☐ MAKE BED 
- ☐ EAT BREAKFAST 
- ☐ GET DRESSED 
- ☐ PUT ON SOCKS AND SHOES 
- ☐ BRUSH TEETH 
- ☐ LUNCH IN BACKPACK 
- ☐ HOMEWORK IN BACKPACK 

Mornings—Pre-school hours are usually hectic. To smooth the morning's rough edges invest time to teach your children valuable life skills such as

dressing themselves, brushing hair and tying shoelaces. Re-set your clock 15 minutes early and allow yourself plenty of time

Pack a healthy lunch—Sneak in some healthy options using plenty of fruit and vegetables if you can. Fresh ideas include: a small tub of coleslaw, fruit yoghurt or yoghurt drink, dried fruit or nuts and a carton of pure orange juice. **At the end of the day**—have a healthy snack

ready to give your child to replenish energy levels. Allow some behavioural leeway for the first couple of weeks as they settle into a new routine which is often exhausting

Bedtimes—get into a routine of preparing for school the night before. Let your child become involved with packing lunch or laying out **clothes**. Also, start finding a bedtime routine and get them to bed early.

School Extension—Starting date for Construction: Monday 14th October 2019

As you know, last April £770,000 was sanctioned by the Department of Education and Skills[DES] for the construction of our 4 classroom / WC's school extension. Although this figure represented c20% increase in the amount previously sanctioned last year, it did not meet the costings of any tendering submissions.

Earlier this month, following negotiations with DEs, a sum of £1,173,825 was allocated. This figure takes into account increases in construction costs and other associated costs since the project was first proposed. construction will commence on Monday 14th October.

While the above increase is most welcome, additional funds are still required to address other school development projects. Our Pathway Through Primary fundraising initiative has raised c £26,000 out of a targeted £80,000. To date, 110 engraved bricks have been sold under a scheme where parents, alumni and friends of Scoil Mhuire /Howth Primary School are invited to purchase engraved bricks. The first tranche of bricks are being ordered and will be positioned on the south-facing external wall of the school hall. Additional information is available on the school website www.howthprimaryschool.ie and at the school office.

I would like to thank our hardworking committee, Darragh Richardson, Catherine Flanagan, Christine Flannery, David Walls, Jimmy Smyth, Deirdre Hynes, Helen Galgey and Gillian Saunders for all their work on this exciting project.

Further updates on upcoming fundraising events (Road Race / Gala Valentine's Ball) will be provided at our Fundraising Committee AGM on Monday September 30th @ 7:30pm in the school hall.



Road Safety

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Voluntary One Way Traffic System at school opening / closing time—one-way traffic flow up Tuckett's Lane/St. Lawrence's Tce., up St. Peter's Tce., and then left turn back down to Main St. from 8.40 to 9.00 a.m. and from 2.20 to 2.40 p.m. while our Traffic Warden is in attendance. Please obey the traffic warden at all times.

The road leading along the school wall to Fairyhill Playschool is closed to traffic in the morning at school opening time and in the afternoon at school finishing times.

We have had some complaints from residents re' driveways being blocked by parked cars, and the possibility of difficulties for emergency vehicles accessing homes due to congestion at these times –

please consider the needs of people living in the area.

When construction of our school extension starts (14th Oct) the ramp will be closed to school traffic, entrance/exit to and from the school for parents and children will be via the steps and the lower gate.



Hair Care

Tá fadhb Leanúnach le snéacha uaige sa scoil. Iarraimid bhur gcabhair chun an fhadhb a choimeád faoi smacht. Seiceáil gruaig do pháiste gach deireadh seachtaine. Úsáid cíor fineálta chuige seo. Má tá gruaig fhada ag do pháiste ceangal suas é. Cuir fios ar an múinteoir má fheiceann tú snéacha.

We have, as most schools do, a problem from time to time,

with hair infestation. It would help if every child's hair was checked and finely combed at weekends. Long hair should be tied up. If infestation is discovered please treat immediately and inform the class teacher.

All information is dealt with discreetly.

Child Safety

Do not bring your dog inside the school grounds, some children are afraid of dogs and become very upset if confronted by them in the playground.

Over the past few weeks we have also had a major problem with dogs fouling the playground. This can lead to an extremely dangerous infection. Please ensure your dog is not responsible for this.



School Noticeboards

ask that any representative from a local cultural/sporting group check with the school secretary before notices are placed in the school. Notices should be dated and fixed neatly to the proper notice-board (the board beside the

secretary's office) after being approved and stamped in the school office. Posters/notices/children's work already attached should not be obscured by new material. Notices etc. should be removed by the individuals who placed them when

they are no longer relevant. We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter so that our refurbished corridor/reception area is kept as neat as possible.



Post Primary Choices

Sixth Class Pupils have made their informed choices regarding Post Primary Schools for next year. Best wishes to them and to their teachers Ms. Nugent & Mr. Sunderland in the challenging year ahead. Information meetings /Open Nights for the neighbouring Post Primary Schools have been taking place over the past few weeks with representatives from these schools also visiting our 5th & 6th classes.

Music Makes Magic

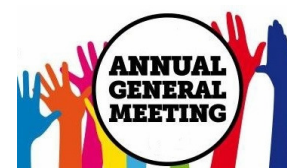
Our ongoing Music Makes Magic project continues this year. Classes started last week in the School Hall with music teachers Shane Cavanagh and Jenna Raggett. Orchestra lessons (after school) are scheduled each Tuesday & Wednesday (School Hall) under the baton of Shane Cavanagh.



P.A.—AGM

The A.G.M. of the Parents' Association will take place on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

All are welcome!!



Board of Management

Our current Board Of Management will soon complete its four year term in December 2019. I would like to thank our present board members—Joe Kirwin, Ann Marie Matthews, Sam Andrews, James Markey, Fr. Gerry Tanham, Claire Mannix, Jenny Hutton & Niamh Keogh for their diligent work on behalf of our school community over the past four years.

Procedures for the appointment of two parents to the next board will commence in early October. The Board normally meets five /six times a year.

Please consider putting your name forward for this important and fulfilling role.

Your child is worth it!

Sports in Scoil Mhuire

Our sporting year has started with a bang—both our Junior and Senior Boys Gaelic Football teams and our Girls team have started the season's matches with great results



At the Fingal Athletics Meeting on Thursday 26th our school team did us proud. More updates on our website.



Inside Story Headline



Aug 30th Annual Tea & Tissues Reception for all new parents (Thanks to our Parents Association for organising this event). Congratulations to Ms. Heerey and Ms. O'Donnell who have made a great start with our Junior Infants

Sept. 6th Staff Planning Meeting

Sept. 9th Special Needs Assistants planning meeting

Sept. 9th Pathway through Primary fundraising meeting

Sept. 11th Special Education Teachers meet National Educational Psychological Services (NEPS)

Sept. 14th/15th Dublin Senior Men / Ladies win All Ireland finals over an historic sky-blue weekend



Sept. 16th Annual Junior Infant photograph sessions with school photographer Simon Archer

Sept. 18th/19th Start of new Music Makes Magic season plus orchestra classes

Sept 20th One hour work stoppage by Forsa on behalf of school secretaries. Please support your school secretary



Sept. 24th Principal attends Principals Meeting in the Burrow NS

Sept. 26th Fingal School Athletics

Sept. 30th Board of Management Meeting

Sept. 30th Pathway through Primary AGM (7.30 p.m.)

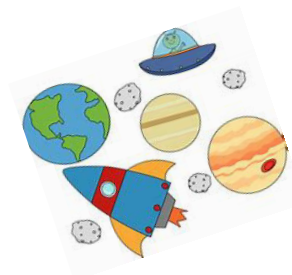
Oct. 1st School Assemblies (Junior and Senior Classes)

Oct. 3rd In-School Management Team Meeting

Oct. 7th-11th Space Week 2019

Oct. 8th Meeting new NEPS Psychologist Niall Gannon with SET

Oct. 14th Work starts on new extension!!!!!!



Inside Story Headline

Thursday	10 th October	Whole Staff Meeting	Normal closing times
Monday	14 th October	Work starts on Extension	
Monday - Friday	28th Oct --1st Nov	Mid-term Break	School Closed
Thursday	14 th November	Meeting of the Whole Staff	Normal closing times
Thursday	28 th November	Parent/Teacher Meetings	School closes at 2.15 p.m.
Thursday	5 th December	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School closes at 1.30 p.m.
Monday – Friday	23rd December – 3rd January	Christmas Holidays	School Closed
Monday	6th January	In-service Curriculum Training Day	School Closed
Tuesday	14 th January	Jun. Infants Vaccinations	
Thursday	16 th January	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Normal closing times
Thursday	13 th February	Whole Staff Meeting	Normal closing times
Monday – Friday	17th - Feb 21st Feb	Mid-term Break	School Closed
Monday Tuesday	16 th March 17 th March	School Holiday St. Patrick's Day	School Closed
Thursday	26 th March	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School closes at 1.30 p.m.
Monday – Friday	6th April – 17th April	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Monday	4 th May	Public Holiday	School Closed
Saturday	9 th May	First Holy Communion	11.00 a.m.
Thursday	14 th May	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Normal closing times
Mon –Fri	11 th –15 th May	Standardised Testing Week	
Friday	22 nd May	Confirmation	11.00 a.m.
Friday – Monday	29 th May – 1 st June	School Holiday Public Holiday	School Closed
Thursday	11 th June	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School Closes at 1.30p.m.
Friday	19 th June	School Sports Day	
Tuesday	30th June	Summer Holidays	School closes at 12 noon

