



Howth Primary School Scoil Mhuire October 2019 Newsletter



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. 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

Busy start to the Year



Tá imeachtaí na scoile faoi lán sheol anois, cuid acu le fail sa nuachtlitir seo. It has been a busy start to the school year. Included in this issue are items of current news and events of the last few weeks. Please ensure that your child is properly dressed during the winter months and that they bring a healthy lunch into the 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. Our school's official opening time is 8.50. COW/WOW Schedule for Walk on Wednesdays and Cycle on Wednesdays continues as before. If your child is using a skateboard or bicycle to travel to school please ensure that he/she wears a helmet. I have spoken to the children regarding road safety rules—you might like to discuss this with your child from time to time. Children are expected to dismount from skateboards/bicycles before they enter the school grounds and walk towards the allotted 'parking' zone behind the hall where bicycles etc should be parked. Parents are asked not to bring their dogs onto the school grounds or to leave them tied to the school railings /gates. This is especially important on Wednesday when an increased number of children are walking to school. The school does not approve of pupils gathering in the Fingal Co. Co. Astro Turf facility (beside Fairyhill Preschool) due to the fact that this is an unsupervised area outside of our jurisdiction Children should gather, as usual, in the school yard at c 8.45

Staffing

On behalf of all our school community I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Niamh Melody who joined our teaching team this week. We wish her every success and happiness in her role as Special Education Needs teacher. Niamh replaces Ms. Vivienne Buckley. Best wishes to Vivienne in her new school.

NO NUTS!



There has been an increase in the number of our pupils with nut allergies of varying degrees of severity (at time of writing 10 children). Parents of children in the classes involved are requested to refrain from including nuts/nut by-products/eggs as part of their child's school lunch. Parents of affected children —please en-

Keeping up With the News

Parents have their own designated noticeboard as you enter the Junior entrance. Keep an eye out for notices/posters of upcoming events/ meetings/ social occasions. There is also a designated Community notice board outside the Secretary's office. Leaflets/Notices & Messages for all noticeboards should be cleared with the school secretary before they are placed on these noticeboards. Please ensure you do not obscure any existing material and that notices are positioned in a neat manner. Out of date items should be removed.

Nut Allergy

sure that a recent coloured photo and recommended procedures to be followed are given to teachers at the start of the school year. **Nut allergies are serious -Mild to moderate Allergic reaction** -swelling of lips, face and eyes, hives or welts, tingling mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting. **Severe Allergic reaction** –

Parking

As you know, local residents, many of whom have no direct involvement with our school, i.e. have no children attending at present, have supported our Voluntary One Way Traffic systems at open-

ing/closing times in the interest of road safety. A few of these residents are concerned that a tiny number of our parents have parked cars across driveways at these times meaning that the occupiers of

Post Primary Choices

Earlier this month, application forms from the pupils in Sixth class who hope to transfer to Post Primary Schools in the Deanery area were processed and forwarded to the Deanery Secretariat. We wish all the girls and boys in Ms. Nugent's and Mr. Sunderland's classes all the best in their final year with us and in their Post Primary education



Anaphylaxis—Difficulty/ noisy breathing, Swelling of tongue, Swelling/ tightness in throat, Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice, Wheeze or persistent cough, Loss of consciousness and/or collapse, Pale and floppy. In severe cases use of an Anapen will be necessary—so please abide by the instructions outlined.

the house cannot get in or out of their driveways. Please observe due consideration in this regard at dropping off / collecting times so that Gardaí are not called

Thank you for your co-operation.



School Extension—latest news!



As you can see, site preparation work is already underway prior to the commencement of construction of our long awaited school extension. I met with the building team on several occasions over the past few weeks to make out a schedule of work and to agree on health & safety procedures over the construction period. It is hoped that the project will be finalized in c7 months which should ensure that we are

ready to open with the new classrooms in time for the start of the next school year (September 2020). We have been told to expect traffic / parking disruption but I have asked the contractor to make every effort to ensure that delivery trucks etc. operate outside the busy drop off/ collection times.

Our Build a Brick project (addressing hidden costs in the building project) is gaining momentum with the first tranche of 110 engraved bricks soon to be set in place on the south-facing external wall of the school hall. Thanks

to Darragh Richardson for all his work in coordinating, ordering and the installation of bricks with mosaic expert Shane Dunne and builders Tadhg & Cathal McGinley and our hard-working fundraising committee—David Walls, Catherine Flanagan, Christine Flannery, Helen Galgey, Gillian Saunders, Jimmy Smyth and Deirde Hynes. Please check the school website www.howthprimaryschool.ie or call to the school office if you wish to purchase an engraved brick for a family member, rela-



Halloween Safety



Parents, Halloween is a time of great fun but we ask all our girls and boys to be aware of the danger of bonfires and also to take care on the streets after dark. You might remind your child that Hallow'een can be a

very difficult time for elderly people living alone and also for dogs. This is especially the case regarding Guide Dogs for blind and visually impaired people. When Guide Dogs become distressed and fearful they are no longer able to

work effectively and may have to be taken away from their blind owner. Please discourage the use of fireworks on streets or near houses. Any bonfires should be adult supervised in open areas such as parks or

Board of Management

Our current Board of Management will soon complete its four year term in December 2019. I wish to thank our present board members Joe Kirwin, Ann Marie Matthews, Fr. Gerry Tanham, Sam Andrews, Jenny Hutton, James Markey, Claire Mannix and Niamh Keogh. Procedures for the appointment of members to the next board (2019-2023) will take place over the next month.

Extreme Weather

On mornings of extreme weather conditions (torrential rain/heavy snow etc.) entry to the school will be via the white side door of the school hall from 8.40 a.m. (ten minutes before the usual starting time). In the interest of safety and to reduce congestion, parents/guardians are asked not to enter the hall with their child as supervision will be provided there until collected by the class teacher.

Parents Association

The A.G.M. of our Parents' Association took place in the school on Tuesday 15th October 2019. these are the Committee members and Class Representatives for our PA for this school year (2019/2020).

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <u>Committee:</u> | Lisa O'Neill | Aisling O'Sullivan | Tara Mullen | Clara Connolly |
| | Deirdre Grant | Sarah McDonnell | Sarah Callaghan | |

Class Representatives:

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Jun. Inf. | Ms. Heerey | Caroline McEldowney | Ms. O'Donnell | Geraldine Murphy |
| Sen. Inf. | Ms. Ridge | Sarah Callaghan | Ms. Anderson | Noelle Shannon |
| 1st Class | Ms. Maher | Clara Connolly | Ms. McKeon/Ms Cosgrave | Lisa O'Neill |
| 2nd Class | Ms. Barker | Grainne Coleman | Ms. O'Hanlon | Deirdre O'Reilly |
| 3rd Class | Ms. Breen | Christine Dillon | Ms. Reilly | Fiona Glennon |
| 4th Class | Ms. McHugh | Roisin Sheridan | Mr. Devlin | Aisling O'Sullivan |
| 5th Class | Mr. Burke | Francoise Richardson | Mr. Flynn | Yvonne Whelan |
| 6th Class | Mr. Sunderland | Nessa Edwards | Ms. Nugent | Margot McLoughlin |

School Events: Recent/Current/Ongoing

Oct. 3rd In School Management team meeting (Our I.S.M. team is Aisling Heerey, Claire Mannix, Audrey Clarke, Laura Anderson, James Burke, John Chambers)

Oct. 8th Special Education Team and principal met with our new National Education Psychology Service (NEPS) psychologist Niall Fallon.

Oct. 8th Whole School Staff Meeting

Oct. 14th Pre construction work begins on new school extension

Oct. 15th Parents Association A.G.M.

Oct. 24th Fingal Athletics League

Oct. 28th-Nov 1st School closed for Halloween Break



Calendar for 2019/2020

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Friday | 30 th August | School Reopens | 8.50 a.m. |
| Friday | 6 th September | Planning Meeting | School closes at 12 noon |
| Thursday | 26 th September | Fingal School Athletics | |
| Thursday | 10 th October | Whole Staff Meeting | Normal closing times |
| Monday | 14 th October | Work starts on School Extension | |
| Monday - Friday | 28th Oct --1st Nov | Mid-term Break | School Closed |
| Thursday | 14 th November | Meeting of the Teaching 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 |
| 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 |

