



Scoil Mhuire Howth Primary School December 2019 Newsletter



Christmas Wishes

*Nollaig shona
chugaibh agus rath
na h-athbhliana ar
ár éitheoirí go léir.
I would like to
extend Christmas
greetings to our
pupils, parents,*

*teachers, staff,
management board
and to everyone
involved in our school
community. Looking
forward to seeing
you in the
New Year.*

John Chambers

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 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.

Board of Management:

Our school's Board of Management (BOM) is aware of its responsibility to provide information to all school personnel relevant to Child Protection and to ensure that available training is undertaken by members of school staff. The Board is also aware of its responsibility in relation to vetting of school personnel. Child Protection is on the agenda of every Board of Management meeting and every staff meeting. The principal/DLP provides a Child Protection Oversight Report to each meeting of the Board – this report is minuted as per requirements in **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017**.

(Cont'd on Page 2)

☺ **REMINDER**

- ☺ **20th Dec School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays**
- ☺ **Monday 23rd—Friday 3rd Jan. Christmas Holidays**
- ☺ **Monday 6th January school closed - Inservice Curriculum Training Day**

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Accommodation



Work on the school extension started on 14th October. Over the past few weeks removal of existing structures, site clearance work and re-alignment/upgrading of water supply and foul water system has taken place with levelling, foundation work and screeding to commence soon. Overall this first phase has been a smooth one. I would like to thank the CJ Callon team for their professionalism so far, and for their sensitivity regarding the health/safety of our school community.

In tandem with the building work, our Buy A Brick fundraising campaign has also entered its first

phase with the installation of over 100 engraved bricks on the south facing external wall of the school hall. A second tranche of bricks will be ordered before Christmas. The fundraising committee behind this initiative are already planning a number of fundraising events next year including a Valentine's Night Ball in the Marine Hotel Sutton and a road race to be held later in the New Year. I would like to thank Darragh Richardson for coordinating the selection/purchasing of the engraved bricks, mosaic master Shane Dunne for his painstaking artistry in creating the school crest mosaic (soon to be

installed) and to Tadhg/Cathal McGinley for installing bricks/mosaic. Thanks also to the Buy A Brick committee who are investing so much time, energy and expertise in this exciting project – Catherine Flanagan, Christine Flannery, David Walls, Jimmy Smyth, Deirdre Hynes, Helen Galgey, Gillian Saunders and Aisling OSullivan.

Ar aghaidh le chéile!



Child Protection /continued from Page 1

Teachers and Pupils:

Teachers include Stay Safe/Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE) plus Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) modules in their planning and are made aware of their responsibilities as Mandated Persons. Teachers also communicate with the children in class to discuss Child Protection areas such as safety/bullying/attendance

etc. The school has conducted a pupil survey. Responses from this survey indicate a very high awareness of these areas and an affirmation by the great majority of children that their school is considered to be a safe Environment.

Thanks to all our teachers

and
to our Parents Association
Aisling O'Sullivan and Lisa O'Neill and to Dee Grant & Clara Connolly for all their work in getting this year's Christmas cards printed and distributed.



Christmas Concert

Construction work on the school extension

has involved the demolition of several storage rooms in the school. A casualty of this has been our school stage (property of Howth Drama Group) which over many years has been a mainstay of our annual Taste of Christmas va-

riety show. This year as a result we were not in a position to hold a Christmas Show in the school. However, a gala Christmas Concert was held in the Church of the Assumption on Wednesday 11th December at 7.00p.m. (Junior Infants to 2nd Classes) and the following Tuesday 17th December at 7.00p.m. (3rd to 6th classes). We are sure that parents, pupils, school staff and friends of Scoil Mhuire

enjoyed these special seasonal occasions. I would like to thank Ms. Claire Mannix for coordinating these events and to Fr. Gerry Tanham (Parish Priest) and Barbara Farrell (Parish Secretary) for their support.

Primary Language Curriculum 2019-2022

The Department of Education and Skills is introducing a new Primary Language Curriculum (PLC) for implementation in primary schools. Over the past three years, teachers have been engaging with PLC in Junior Infants to Second Classes. An updated language curriculum for all classes in primary schools (Junior Infants to Sixth) has now been introduced, setting out a programme of language learning for English and for Irish. PLC is aligned with the Junior Cycle English/Irish/ Modern Foreign Language programmes in Post Primary Schools. This provides for

continuity of experience and progression in language learning as children make the transition from primary to post primary education. PLC also provides progression for children with special educational needs. All schools will be given a range of supports commencing in September 2019. The following supports will take place during the 2019-2020 school year.

- Full day training seminar. Our school has been allocated Monday 6th January 2020 as its training day
- An Annual leadership workshop for school principals. For

our school this took place on Friday 3rd December 2019

- Two half days webinar workshops for teaching staff (Dates to be announced)

Further details regarding the Primary Language Curriculum are available from Department of Education and Skills and from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

Board of Management 2019–2023

The inaugural meeting of the school's Board of Management 2019-2023 took place on December 11th. Board members are Ms. Caroline McEldowney and Mr. Darragh Richardson (Elected Parents), Mr. Joe Kirwin and Rev. Fr. Gerry Tanham (Patron's Nominees), Mr. Ian Sunderland and Mr. John Chambers (School Representatives) Ms. Síle Moloney and Ms. Nuala McDermott (Community Nominees). At the meeting the following officers

were elected: Chairperson: Mr. Joe Kirwin

Treasurer: Mr. Darragh Richardson

Secretary to the Board:
Mr. John Chambers

Recording secretary:
Ms. Caroline McEldowney

I wish the Board every success in its important governance role over the next four years.



Rainbows

The Rainbows group for children affected by separation or divorce began on Monday the 11th of November 2019. There are 4 Scoil Mhuire students attending the programme.

The facilitators for this group are Ms. Muireann Ridge and Ms. Mary O'Donnell. Ms. Niamh McHugh is the coordinator.

There are 9 sessions in the programme. It takes place in Ms. Ridge's classroom on a Monday from 14:30 - 15:30. The final session will take place on the 27th of January 2020.



Due to space restrictions caused by the current construction works we have revised our fire drill procedures in the school with our new

Nativity Pageant

The Annual Nativity Pageant by the Children of Howth Primary School will take place on Christmas Eve at 5.30p.m. Mass in the Church of the Assumption, Howth. Thank you to Lisa O'Neill and her team.



Fire Safety

system getting its first workout earlier this month. Thanks to Ms. Claire Mannix and to our school caretaker Darrell Clarke for their input.



Music Makes Magic

Music Makes Magic, now in its seventh season in Scoil Mhuire held two very successful Open Days (Junior & Senior Day) earlier this month. Well done to all the MMM team Maria/Paul McGregor, teachers Shane Cavanagh and Cillian O'Breacháin and helpers Shannon Vecere, Siobhan Hughes, Louise Malone, Teresa Carruthers,

Dearbhala Houlihan, Maria Conway and Fionn McGregor.

Over 300 parents attended to watch our young musicians perform. Thanks to the generous donors who supplied the raffle prizes. Congrats to Cara Darcy—winner of the giant husky dog.

A wonderful Christmas concert by the school orchestras took place on

Wednesday 11th December.

Well done all!!!



School Events—Recent/Current/Ongoing:

November

- 8th School Book Fair. Thank you for your support
- 11th Rainbows programme 2019/2020 commences. Thanks to Ms. Niamh McHugh, Ms. Muireann Ridge & Ms. Mary O'Donnell
- 12th Standardised Testing (3rd + 5th classes)
- 28th Parent/Teacher Meetings 2019
- 29th Final Meeting of the School Board of Management 2015-2019 (see above BOM 2019-2023)

December

- 3rd School Assemblies
- 4th/5th Droichead Training Day (see above)
- 6th Fire Drill @ 11.35. thanks to Claire
- 11th/17th Christmas Concert in Church of the Assumption
- 11th Inaugural Meeting of the new Board of Management 2019-2023
- 20th School Closes for Christmas Holidays

Ongoing:

School Assemblies	Music Makes Magic	Violin Classes & Orchestras
Athletics	Bug Busting Checks	After School Club
Irish Club	Maths Club	Chess Guitar
Crafts & Cookery	STEAM	Hip Hop Dance
Irish Dancing	Singing	GAA Fitness Training



School Calendar 2019/2020

Friday	20 th December	Start of Christmas Holidays	School Closes at 12 noon
Monday - Friday	23 rd December - 3 rd January	Christmas Holidays	School Closed
Monday	6 th 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	17 th - Feb 21 st 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	6 th April - 17 th 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	30 th June	Summer Holidays	School closes at 12 noon



