

Howth Primary School Scoil Mhuire

November 2019 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1



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 Safeguard-

ing 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.

Child Protection

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.

Christine Rossiter Bourke R.I.P.

Our school community was saddened earlier this month by the news that Christine Rossiter Bourke, one of our parents, had passed away. Our deepest sympathy go to husband Peter, to Dex (in Ms. Maher's class) and to all Christine's family and relatives. We are with you in thought and in prayer.



Inside this issue:

Big Red Ball Valentine's Night February 14th

This promises to be a Gala Event, **not to be missed!!** Prosecco reception, dinner, dancing and fun. Music by The Guilty Party (of

Hootenany fame!!)

Dress code ***Wear Something Red!***

Tickets €75 (table of 10 €650) available at school on Thursdays

& Fridays or email pathwaythrough-primary@gmail.com



School Extension	2
School Events	2
Christmas Concert	3
Christmas Cards	3
Rainbows	3
Book Fair	3
Calendar	6

Accommodation/Extension

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 and foundation work 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 invest-



ing 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 O'Sullivan.

Ar aghaidh le chéile!

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

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



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 variety show. This year as a result we are not in a po-

sition to hold a Christmas Show in the school. However, a gala Christmas Concert will be 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). Details of class times/schedule will be forwarded to class representative and via school web-

site/newsletter/school office. We are sure that parents, pupils, school staff and friends of Scoil Mhuire will enjoy 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.

Christmas Cards

Did you see this year's beautiful school Christmas cards, featuring artwork from all the girls and boys in the school? I'm sure these cards will soon be seen in many homes not only in Howth but throughout Ireland and abroad. Thanks to our Parents Association Aisling O'Sullivan and Lisa O'Neill and to Dee Grant & Clara Connolly for all their work in getting the cards printed and distributed.



Book Fair



This year's Book Fair proved to be a huge success. Thanks to Ms. Aisling Heerey for all her work for this event. We earned a sizeable commission which will enable us to purchase books for our class libraries to the value of €2,977. On behalf of the staff I would like to say a huge thank you to all who purchased books and a special word of thanks to her team of parents and sixth class who helped throughout the day.

Staffing



Following interviews which were held on Friday September 27th Ms.

Niamh Melody has been appointed to fill the Special Education Team post which was advertised following the departure of Ms. Vivienne Buckley. I wish Ms. Melody every success and happiness in her new role and extend best wishes to Ms Buckley in her new school.

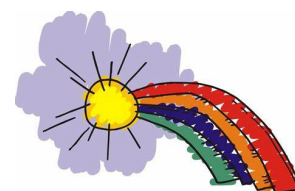


Rainbows

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.



School Calendar 2019/2020

Thursday	14 th November	Meeting of the	Normal closing times
Thursday	28 th November	Parent/Teacher	School closes at 2.15
Thursday	5 th December	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School closes at 1.30 p.m.
Monday –Friday	23rd Dec – 3rd Jan	Christmas Hol-	School Closed
Monday	6th January	In-Service Curriculum Training Day	School Closed
Thursday	16 th January	Meeting of the	Normal closing times
Thursday	13 th February	Whole Staff Meet-	Normal closing times
Monday –Friday	17th Feb –21st Feb	Mid-term Break	School Closed
Monday	16 th March	School Holiday	School Closed
Tuesday	17 th March	St. Patrick's Day	
Thursday	26 th March	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School closes at 1.30 p.m.
Monday –Friday	6th –17th April	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Monday	4 th May	Public Holiday	School Closed
Saturday	9 th May	First Holy Com-	11.00 a.m.
Thursday	14 th May	Meeting of the	Normal closing times
Monday –Friday	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

★ Christmas/Easter/Summer Holidays/Midterms

★ Public Holiday/School Holiday

★ Early Closures