



Howth Primary School

February 2020 Newsletter



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Special points of interest:

- *Corona Virus info*
- *Athletics*
- *Internet Safety*
- *Calendar*

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. A copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement has been provided to all school personnel, our Parents Association and to the school's Patron. Copies (hard or soft) are also available on request. The Child Safeguarding Statement is reviewed every year. We hope to conduct this year's review of the Child Protection Safeguarding Statement before Easter. Pupils, School Staff, parents and members of the school's Board of Management are invited to contribute suggestions as part of the review. Copies of the current Child Protection Safeguarding Statement are on the schools website—www.howthprimaryschool.ie or on request at the school office.

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 regularly encouraged to do so.

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 21017**

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.

Primary Language Curriculum

Our teaching staff attended a P.L.C. Training in Drumcondra earlier this month. 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 was 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 are scheduled for Friday March 13th and Friday May 1st. The school will close at 12 noon on both days. (Further details regarding the Primary Language Curriculum are available from Department of Education and Skills and from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.



Corona Virus—information from Department of Education & Skills

The following DES link gives advice from the HSE regarding the Corona Virus. If you have any queries or concerns please follow the advice given by them.

<https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/information-for-schools-preschools-and-third-level-institutions-on-the-coronavirus.html>

Voluntary Contribution



This is a crucial time for school finance. Although the school year started in late August, primary schools receive no money from Depart. of Educ. & Skills (DES) to pay for the day to day expenditure until the end of January 2019. DES grants only cover 40% of our budget so we are very much dependent on your support. Please be

as generous as you can be—Contribution of €250 for one child, €350 for two or more children. This option allows the school to avail of tax relief. Regular School Contribution—€150 per child or €250 for two or more children. In the latter case tax relief is also allowed. Pay what you can (once-off basis, or by direct debit). If you are not

in a position to pay the regular contribution, any contribution would be appreciated. By choosing one of the above three options you are making an important investment in your child's future. Your child is worth it!

Letters of thanks will be sent to those who have already contributed.

Accommodation

As you can see, the school extension build is picking up pace with the basic external frame scheduled for completion within a month. After that the builders will focus on internal work.

At present we have a total of 51 enrolment applications for 2020/2021— 43 for Junior Infants and 8 for other classes. An information meeting for all new parents will take place early in the final term.

Our Valentine's Night Big

Red Ball was a gala success and raised €10,500. this will be used to fund any hidden costs of the building project and to address other school development projects. I would like to thank the enthusiastic and energetic fundraising committee—Darragh Richardson, Catherine Flanagan, Deirdre Hynes, David Walls, Helen Galgey, Christine Flannery, Jimmy Smyth and Gillian Saunders who have worked so hard over the past year to make this spe-

cial event such an enjoyable and successful one.

Our Buy a Brick campaign continues with a second tranche of engraved bricks plus commemorative mosaic due to installation.

Thanks to all involved



Health / Safety

Please ensure that your child is properly dressed during the winter months and that they bring a healthy lunch in to 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. Parents are requested, in so far as possible, to ensure that children who have been un-

well, are fully recovered before returning to school. Aside from the obvious health factors, this request is in line with insurance/supervision regulations which stand against us accommodating requests from pupils to remain in class during yard breaks. Please follow our One Way Traffic system at school opening & closing times and obey our school

Traffic Warden at all times. The Gardaí have been in touch with the school asking us to remind all parents that cars are **not to be parked** inside the yellow box outside the school gates when dropping off or collecting children.

We also ask your cooperation in ensuring that driveways of houses on St.



Safer Internet DAY 2020



Safer Internet Day, which took place in the school on Tuesday Feb

11th is an EU. Initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially for children. It is promoted in Ireland by PDST Technology in Education. A range

of whole school activities/discussions/art competitions/workshops took place on the day and throughout the week in Scoil Mhuire. One of our main aims this year is to promote responsible and respectful online communication among children in our senior classes.

There is a valuable re-

source —A Parents' Guide to a better Internet— on the National Council website—www.npc.ie. Thanks to Ms. Aisling Heerey, I.T. Coordinator for organizing these events.





Athletics—Ms. Cosgrave & Ms. Horan

Over the past number of months, children from 3rd-6th class have been giving up their lunchtime on Thursdays to run for fun under the close, stop-watch driven eyes of Ms. Cosgrave and Ms. Horan! Initially this was set up to help those chosen for cross country events to build stamina and cardiovascular fitness. The children have shown great enthusiasm, energy and dedication to this training and during the winter they have braved the mucky pitch in order to get the true cross-country experience! We have also been practicing short sprint work on the astro and teaching the children how to warm-up, stretch and pace themselves appropriately for different distanc-

es. They have been committed and willing in their efforts and so we thought it would be nice to have a target for them, aside from sporadic cross country and other events. We agreed to pinpoint a children's parkrun once a month, where the children can run 2Km for free and have their time recorded. Unfortunately, Storm Ciara got in the way of our first one, so we have rescheduled for Sunday 7th March in Malahide Castle. There is no compulsion to take part and we would welcome all those who are interested and free. To this end, we have been doing 2Km Friday morning run before school at 8.30am. It is truly heartening and positive to see the children come

along and join in to run, jog or walk this distance and we hope they will continue to do so over the coming months. All children are welcome to attend, regardless of whether or not they are on the school team. To quote the children themselves after their early morning jaunt on a Friday 'We feel like we have lots of energy during the day and it wakes us up'. We have also noted the wonderful positive energy and manners the children have demonstrated thus far. Well done to all!

School Events—Recent/Current/ongoing

4 th Feb	Assemblies (Junior & Senior Classes)
7 th Feb	Music Makes Magic Orchestra outing
9 th Feb	School requisitioned as a polling centre for General Election
10 th -14 th Feb	Wellbeing Week 20resources /activities/surveys20. Thanks to Ms. A. Clarke for coordinating this whole school project
11 th Feb	Safer Internet Day. A range of resources /activities/surveys were delivered throughout the day—Thanks to Ms. A. Heerey, the school's IT Coordinator, for all her work
13 th Feb	Visit of South Korean Embassy visitors to 6 th class
14 th Feb	Valentine's Night Big Red Ball (see above)
17 th -21 st Feb	Mid term break
24 th Feb	Start of Fingal GAA School Leagues
27 th Feb	School Staff Meeting (outside of school hours)
28 th Feb	4 th /6 th classes outing to Dublin Zoo
2 nd -6 th March	Engineer's Week 2020.
3 rd March	Assemblies (Junior & Senior classes)
Ongoing	Walk on Wednesdays/GAA coaching/After School Clubs/Chess/Yoga/Orchestra/Athletics
Ongoing:	

Arrangements in the event of Extreme Weather

Our duty of care towards our pupils, parents, teachers and staff is of paramount importance. With this in mind the following procedures will come into effect in the event of extreme weather at any future time throughout winter/early Spring:

Every effort will be made to clear safe pathways from the main school gate to the entrance doors (Junior & Senior entrances). Pupils, parents and staff are advised to make use of these routes. The school heating system will be regularly checked over weekends/holiday periods during periods of freezing weather in order to minimise the risk of breakdown. On icy mornings/afternoons parents are advised to park cars in the village /harbour / Summit car parks and walk the short distance to the school rather than attempting to drive up the steep side roads at Scoil Mhuire.

During spells of extreme weather we will be happy to accept pupils arriving into school after normal opening time (8.50 a.m.). This allows a parent set out from home at a time when (s)he is satisfied that road conditions have sufficiently improved to allow a safe journey. Roll call will be delayed on these occasions to facilitate latecomers. Parents collecting junior/senior infant pupils at 1.30 p.m. may also, if they wish, collect brothers/sisters in other classes at the same time and so avoid an unnecessary extra journey.

On mornings of extreme weather pupils will be allowed into the school hall or in to their classroom (on Wed. & Fridays when the hall is set up for Violin classes) where they will be supervised until brought to their classroom by their own teacher at normal reception time – please note that this procedure will apply only where exceptional weather conditions dictate and will be at the discretion of the school's Board of Management.

In the interest of health & safety, worsening weather /breakdown of heating system/ disruption to water storage system may make it necessary to close the school. Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by one of the following means. Text messaging service / Note in journals/notices on school doors/letters home. Church announcements – where time allows. Parents will also be informed of predicted re-opening dates. Class representatives will contact parents with up to date information where arrangements need to be made.



Wellbeing Day

Wellbeing Week was celebrated in the school from Monday 10th to Friday 14th February. Activities included daily affirmations, random acts of kindness, yoga, mindfulness, meditation and a collaborative art project called 'You are my Sunshine'.

The week was highly successful with children reporting that they felt

calmer and happier after participating in the various activities.

Many thanks to all the teachers and students for their input to this very important week—

See the website for photos!



Calendar February—June 2020

Friday	13th March	Primary Language Webinar for Teachers	School closes at 12.00
Monday	16th March	School Holiday	
Tuesday	17th March	St. Patrick's Day	School Closed
Thursday	26th March	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School closes at 1.30 p.m.
Thursday	26th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation 2nd Class	7.30 p.m. Church of the Assumption , Howth
Thursday	2nd April	Service of Light 6th Class	7.30 p.m. Church of the Assumption , Howth
Monday –	6th April	Easter	
Friday	17th April	Holidays	School Closed
Friday	1st May	Primary Language Webinar for Teachers	School closes at 12.00
Monday	4th May	Public Holiday	School Closed
Saturday	9th May	First Holy Communion	11.00 a.m.
Thursday	14th May	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	Normal closing times
Mon –Fri	11th –15th May	Standardised Testing Week	
Friday	22nd May	Confirmation	11.00 a.m.
Friday –	29th May	School Holiday	School Closed
Monday	1st June	Public Holiday	
Thursday	11th June	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	School Closes at 1.30p.m.
Friday	19th June	School Sports Day	
Tuesday	30th June	Summer Holidays	School closes at 12 noon

Please note:



Normal Closing Time



Early Closing Time



School Closed



School Holidays

Normal