



Howth Primary School October 2020 Newsletter

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Farewell to Mr. Chambers

On Friday October 2nd we had an emotional farewell for Mr. Chambers on his retirement. With current restrictions we were able to involve all classes via Zoom in his presentation of gifts and speeches. Thank you to all the parents and to the PA for also giving him a lovely send-off. It was an overwhelming end to his long career in Howth and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Online Platforms

By now most of you should have received details on how to set up Seesaw, Google Classroom or Class Dojo. The Department of Education and Skills released guidelines this month to schools requiring all teachers to set up an online platform for their classes in the event that a student, class or the whole school has to remain at home. If you have any difficulties setting up the plat-

form please contact the class teacher. It would be useful for our pupils to practice using this. In the event that we do have a 'lockdown' (hopefully this won't happen) or that a class is sent home because of a positive case we will send all pupil textbooks home on that day.



Classroom News: RTE News2day

Bike Racks Skeleton Winner Halloween Dress Up

On October 6th Ms. Breen's fourth class had the RTE TV camera crew in to film the class talking about Asthma. They represented the school brilliantly and we are very proud of them.

Recently Fingal Co. Council announced that they were giving free bike racks to schools. Ms. Clarke, our Green School Coordinator has ordered 3 racks so fingers crossed they will arrive soon.

Our Science Coordinator, Ms. Anderson, ordered a full-sized skeleton model to add to our Science resources. It has been keeping Ms. Heerey company in the office but it will now get its first introduction to the winners of our 'Name the Skeleton' competition—Ms. O'Halloran's class—Sir Skulleton was the winning name—Well done to all the classes



2020 has been the year of cancellations for so many events and even though 'trick or treat' will probably be cancelled too, we felt that we had to keep some sort of normality in school. So, we are continuing our tradition of dressing up on the day we finish for mid-term. The PA will also have a fundraiser on this day and will be at the school gates looking for donations as we hope to convert our Serenity Garden into an outdoor learning space.

Child Protection



As you know our school Child Protection Safe-guarding Statement and information notices with regard to the Child Protection Designated Liaison Person (Aisling Heerey) and the Child Protection Deputy Liaison Person (Claire Mannix) 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 Safe-guarding Statement are also available on request. We are grateful for the input from parents during our recent review of the Safe-guarding 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. .



Nut Allergy

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 ensure

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** – Anaphylax-

is—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.



Road Safety

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 opening/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 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. Make sure your child has some

Healthy Lunches

fruit for the Mid Morning Fruit Break. For the Lunch Break healthy options include fruit and vegetables meat/cheese/salad sandwich. Fresh ideas - a small tub of coleslaw, fruit yoghurt, dried fruit and water, or a carton of fruit juice. Please avoid unhealthy snack foods, eg crisps, bars etc.



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 pháiste ar scoil in am. Cuireann páistí déanacha 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 at the agreed times. 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 an Aladdin Connect update or email 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.

Hair Care/Maths Week / Art / Rainforests

Tá fadhb Leanúnach le snéacha uaige sa scoil. Iarraimid bhuir 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 muinteoir 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.



Maths: We celebrated Maths Week this month. Ms. Ridge prepared activities for all classes and we were busy completing practical maths tasks and problem solving.

Art: Our classes have been very busy. We love teaching Art here in Howth Primary School. Check out our virtual art gallery on our school website to see some of our recent work.

Nature: Ms. O'Halloran's second class have been busy learning about Rainforests—the layers of

rainforests, animal of the rain forests and their different adaptations. They have also painted some spooky silhouettes on their class windows.



October Birthdays

Happy Birthday to: Snr. Infs:

Amelia Farrell Fitzpatrick, Kellie Patton, Jack Verdon Shelley, 1st Class: Lilian Henry, Sophia Conway, Jude Swan, 2nd class: Miles Murphy, Esme Rorke Ring, Zara De Neve, Ugne Sruogyte, Martha Noonan, 3rd class: MacDara Murphy, Alec Gissing, Fiachra Brosnan, Katie McCarthy, Alex

Caulfield, 4th class: Mia Coleman, Martha Malone, Ely Mo Lindsay, Cole Dillon 5th class: Joseph Kirwin, Aaron Rowney, Katie Taylor, Liam Cronan, Oisín O'Shea, Rian O'Reilly, 6th class: Sophia Fitzpatrick, Louis Sanfey, Charlotte Maguire, Louis Schelbaum, Oscar & Seamus Buckowski, Hazel Dunleavy

School Extension

We have been informed by the builders that it will be the middle of November before we can move in to the new building. There was a delay with flooring. The In School Management Team were permitted entry this week to visualise the classroom set up. We are very excited about the move.

Covid-19

We do not have any confirmed positive cases of Covid-19 in the school. However, it is only prudent that we consider what procedures are in place to deal with such a situation were it to arise, so that all of us are aware in advance of what happens in such an event.

Safety and Control Measures The BoM, school leadership and staff are very conscious of the paramount need to keep all pupils, staff and visitors safe while in the school. The school is a controlled environment. There are control measures in place to combat the introduction or spread of Covid-19. These are based on:

- Physical Distancing
- Hand Hygiene
- Respiratory and Hygiene Etiquette
- Mask Wearing, where necessary

When a person displays symptoms of Covid-19

The following steps are taken when a person (child or adult) in the school presents with suspected Covid-19 symptoms:

- That person is moved to an isolated area prior to going home. In the case of children, their parents will be asked to come to the school, take them home and contact their GP for a free telephone consultation
- If the GP recommends that the person (child or adult) go for a Covid-19 test, that person is now considered a query case for Covid-19 and all of his/her household members are removed from the school and must restrict their movements until the results of the test come back
- In the case of a negative result (98% of cases), the GP will advise when the person should return to school—usually after 48 hours
- In the case of a positive result (2% of cases), Public Health will, by law, be informed. This may take a matter of hours due to legal and volume of work issues. The risk has been removed from the school as the person who tested positive and his/her household are at home

Public Health Intervention

The Public Health Department of the HSE is the agency responsible by law for dealing with positive cases of Covid-19:

- Once notified by the HSE testing regime, Public Health Doctors assume total control of the situation and will carry out a risk assessment. Based on questioning, the person with the positive result, they will ascertain if they were within the school setting when they contracted the virus. If not, there is no need to contact the school
- If the person was within the school setting when they contracted the virus, Public Health will contact the principal to carry out a Public Health Risk Assessment. This is a set of questions to see who might have been exposed to the virus and who needs to be excluded or tested. This risk assessment will be unique to each school
- The principal and BoM have no function in the risk assessment other than to provide whatever information is required by the Public Health Medical Officer conducting the risk assessment
- The principal and BoM may be asked to assist the Medical Officer by sending a message from them to the relevant families identified in the risk assessment. Public Health will not contact other members of the school community
- The principal and BoM are not permitted to inform members of the school community of the identity of the person or persons who have tested positive for Covid-19 for the following reasons:
- Doctor—Patient Confidentiality * GDPR legislation prevents the publication of personal data without consent

Please Note—In light of current restrictions we ask that pupils and parents do not hang around on the Astroturf in large groups

Thank you for your cooperation during these difficult times

Voluntary Contributions Jun. Infant Photos

Please follow this advice

In November we will issue our notification for Voluntary Contributions. We are currently setting up an e-payment System and the plan is to have it up and running to allow for ease of payments. Family voluntary contributions are essential to the running of our school. DES grants only cover 40% of our budget so we are very much dependent on your support. The Board of Management will send out communication shortly. Thank you for your continued support

Our junior Infants will have their school photos taken by Simon Archer Photography on Monday November 9th. After the photo shoot day Simon will send the order forms to the school and parents will order directly with him.



If your child is unwell please keep your child at home and follow the HSE advice in the following link:

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

And if you are unsure please contact your GP for advice. If a suspected or positive case arises in the school we will follow strictly all Public Health and HSE advice



Congratulations:

Congratulations to teacher Ms. Jackie McKeon on the recent birth of her baby daughter Bonnie.



Outline Calendar 2020/2021

Mon-Fri	26 th – 30 th Oct	Mid-term Break	School Closed
Wed	23 rd Dec-Tues. 5 th Jan	Christmas Holidays	School Closed
Mon-Fri	15 th – 19 th Feb	Mid-term Break	School Closed
Mon	29 th Mar-Fri 9 th Apr	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Mon/Tues	3 rd /4 th May	Public/School Holiday	School Closed
Fri / Mon	4 th /7 th June	School/Public Holiday	School Closed
Wed	30 th June	Summer Holidays	

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

