

# Howth Primary School Scoil Mhuire

## November 2020 Newsletter

### Condolences

*Our whole school community was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Ann Marie Matthews earlier this month. Ann Marie has always been a dedicated supporter of Scoil Mhuire and has served on our Board of Management many times over the years. We extend deepest sympathy to her daughter Jane, and sons Brian, Peter, Adrian & Gavin.*



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### New and innovative reading scheme - PM Readers



Great News for Scoil Mhuire,

Howth Primary School

Your child's reading skills emerge and develop significantly during First and Second Classes. Our Literacy Policy puts a strong emphasis on support to the younger classes, including First and Second. To this aim, we approached the Board of Management to make a large investment in an up to date and highly recommended graded, levelled reading scheme – **PM Readers**. We are delighted that the Board

has been able to make this substantial investment of €4,150.

The scheme is recommended by the Department of Education and Skills to improve literacy levels in primary schools throughout the country. The books have been graded so that each child is enabled to extend their own reading standards. The books have the added advantage of being highly engaging and enjoyable.

We intend to use our PM readers initially in First Class continuing to Second Class, utilising strategies

such as Literacy Power Hour, Literacy Lift Off and for guided reading. All children in the class will have the use of these lovely books. The PMs hook children into reading with child-centred stories and the classic story structure of character introduction, problem introduction, rising tension and a satisfactory resolution. We are really looking forward to rolling out the PM Readers with the two First Classes in the New Year.

### Cyberbullying

Please help us to promote responsible and respectful online communication among children in our senior classes. Monitor their device activity in the home and encourage

them to report any concerns they have.



### Junior Infants



Our Junior Infants had their school photos taken

this month by Simon Archer Photography.



As you know our school Child

Protection Safeguarding 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](http://www.howthprimaryschool.ie) Copies of the school's CP Safeguarding Statement are also availa-

## Child Protection

ble 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, Person-

al 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



Covid-19 presented itself in our school community earlier this month. It was a very stressful and frustrating time for all involved and I would like to thank all the staff and

## Covid-19

families for their support during the whole process. We will continue to adhere to public health and government guidelines in our school. Stay Safe everyone! Ar aghaidh le chéile!

## New Principal

Our Board of Management have announced Ms. Mary Downes as the new Principal of Scoil Mhuire-Howth Primary School. This is an exciting time for our school and we look forward to welcoming her to Howth soon. Aisling Heerey will continue as Acting Principal until then.

## Book Fair 2020

Normally at this time of year we look forward to our Annual Book Fair. This has always been our opportunity to fund-raise for our class libraries. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we have decided to do it virtually this year. The class teachers sent you a link to the class Book Club and we would really appreciate your support as the

school receives 20% of purchases in the form of books for our libraries. Our Online Book Fair Club closes at midnight on November 30th. Thank you to Ms. Ridge for coordinating this year's event.



## Parent/Teacher Meetings

Because of Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to hold our usual face-to-face meetings. Instead each class teacher will prepare a brief progress report on each pupil. These will be published via Aladdin Connect on November 30th. If you need a further explanation on your child's report or have a concern please email the class teacher to set up a phone consultation.

# Archaeology Zoom Call



Dr Marion Dowd, archaeology lecturer in Sligo IT did a zoom call with Mr. Devlin's 3rd class on Monday 9th November. She showed us that being an archaeologist took a lot of patience as it could take up to a year before a full body of bones could be assembled from one dig site. She showed us lots of interesting artefacts from the stone age such as an axe and a wolf's tooth, now located in the National Museum. Her speciality is caves around Ireland, most recently Knocknaree in Sligo.

The students had various interesting questions including:

Q: How are caves formed?

A: They are formed in the soft rock of limestone over time.

Q: What is the coolest, most rare thing you've found.

A: A wolf's tooth.

Q: What is your biggest fear?

A: Spiders, in caves they are massive.

Q: Are tribe leaders mostly male? A: No tribe leaders can be both male and female.

Marion did a quiz with the children where she asked them which of these animals once roamed this island:

Q: Mammoths, wolves and Irish elks. A: All 3. Although some of these are obviously extinct. We enjoyed looking at the artefacts, the quiz and I enjoyed catching up with an old friend.

Mr. Devlin

## Aideen's Grave



Mr. Devlin's third class visited the historical Neolithic tomb of Aideen's Grave. This linked in with their study of the Stone Age Era. The children learned the story behind it and drew some sketches of the dolmen. It's great to have sites like this on our doorstep.

## School Extension

It is hoped that we will be moving in to the new extension at the beginning of December. Delays in the supply chain during this pandemic have been the reason for all the date changes.

## Halloween Fundraiser



Our Halloween dress-up day fundraiser yielded a whopping €3,228. This will be of huge benefit to creating our 'outdoor classroom'. A huge thank you to our Parents' Association for organising it and to all the families who supported it. Congratulations to Ailish Breen who won the €50 Smyth's voucher in the associated raffle.

## Science Week 2020

This was a great week for celebrating Science. Thank you to our Science coordinator Ms. Anderson for providing each class with a resource pack of ideas. Teachers and pupils embraced the week and carried out exciting experiments while

learning fun Science facts. See our website for a gallery of photos taken during the week.



# THANK YOU

We would like to say **THANK YOU** to the Patton family for donating their old iPad minis to our SEN department.



# Outline Calendar 2020/2021

<u>December / January</u>			
Tuesday	22nd December	School will close early on a staggered basis (details to follow)	
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec-Tues. 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan (inc)	Christmas Holidays	School Closed
Wednesday	6th January	School reopens	
<u>February</u>			
Mon-Fri	15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb (inc)	Mid-term Break	School Closed
<u>March / April</u>			
Friday	26th March	School will close early on a staggered basis (details to follow)	
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar—Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr (inc)	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Monday	12th April	School reopens	
<u>May</u>			
Mon/Tues	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> May	Public/School Holiday	School Closed
<u>June</u>			
Fri / Mon	4 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> June	School/Public Holiday	School Closed
Wednesday	30 <sup>th</sup> June	School Closes for Summer Holidays	

## Advent



Howth Parish will stream a live Advent Service via Webcam on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9.30 a.m. Each class will receive a purple candle prior to this. Four children from 6<sup>th</sup> class will read prayers in the church and each class will watch it live. Thank you to the Howth Parish team for organising this important link.



## November Birthdays

**Birthday wishes to** -Jun. Infs: Max Corrigan, Alexa Taylor, Iarlaith Robertson  
 Snr. Infs: Rose Sheehy, Ben McGinley, Oran Carmody, Myarose Loftus, Emily Rose Hendy, Charlotte Boyle, Kian Mooney

1st Class: Eli D'Arcy, Saoirse McMorro, Daragh Quinn, Gabriella Richardson, Sasha O'Laoghaire, Isaac O'Shea, James Dunne

2nd Class: Tadhg Finnerty, Isabella Hickey Montoro, MacDara Clancy, Jack Anderson

3rd Class: Lily Tokins, Tristan Pa Latimer, Cole O'Connell

4th Class: Oscar Stebbings, Amelia Carroll, Ruaraidh McArdle Moore, Michael O'Looney

5th Class: Sophia Tierney Brennan, Katie Hearne, Eunise Olusanya, Michael Patton, Cara Darcy, Erikas Sruogis, Ciarán Latham, Elisabeth Egan, Conal Feely

6th Class: Christian Gray, Lianna Murphy, Yi Lin, Harry Whelan