



Howth Primary School Scoil Mhuire

April 2021 Newsletter

Newsletter Date 30/04/2021

Reminder
School will be
closed next
Monday 3rd and
Tuesday 4th May

Fantastic news about the School Playgrounds!!!

Dear parents/ guardians,
It's hard to believe it's the end of April already. It's great to see the children settling back into school life after a challenging few months.

Life in the office has been busy. I'm delighted to report that the Department of Education is funding the resurfacing of the playground to the tune of €50,000. The area will be

divided into three sections, a tarmac surface, a soft play surface, and a planting area. Thank you to Ms. Lynch and the garden committee who have worked on the plans for this area. It should be finished by mid-late May.

I would also like to thank Ms. Clarke and members of the parents association and local

committee for their tireless work for the remainder of the school grounds. They will be of huge benefit to the children.

I hope you all have a lovely May bank holiday.

Mary



Covid-19



Howth Primary School is continuing to adhere to all the advice given by the Department of Health regarding Covid-19 and are ever vigilant in our efforts to ensure that we do everything in our power to keep all our pupils, staff and community safe during this difficult time.

We appreciate all the hard work done by you, the parents, to help us in this and look forward to some easing in the restrictions over the coming months.

Thank you for your cooperation

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Digital Technology

Over the Easter break our school invested in a Wifi upgrade which was indeed welcomed and much-needed to cope with the size of our school. The new extension is host to four new Promethean Activpanel screens which is a great addition to any classroom for teaching and learning. It is our vision that each classroom will eventually have one of these. We currently have

six and hopefully in the future, with the help of fundraising, we will purchase ten more on a phased basis.



World Book Day -

Bookmark Winners



Well done to all who entered our World Book Day bookmark design competition. All entries received a scratch art bookmark. The standard was very high and we have very creative artistic pupils. The winners were Ryan Maguire, Flynn O' Connor, Max O' Reilly, Narin Gillen and Isobel Hughes.



Child Protection

As you know our school Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and information notices with regard to the Child Protection Designated Liaison Person (Mary Downes) and the Child Protection Deputy Liaison Person (Aisling Heerey) 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 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 Rela-

tionship 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



New Baby Congratulations!

Congratulations to teacher Mr. James Burke on the recent birth of his baby son Rían.



Voluntary Contributions

Our e-payment is now up and running on Aladdin Connect for the collection of our Voluntary Contributions. We appreciate it is a busy time for families and on behalf of the Board of Management we would like to say thank

you for your generosity. This collection will stay open until the end of May.



6th Class Hoodies

Our sixth classers will hopefully receive their Class of 2021 hoodies by the middle of next month. We hope they enjoy and make the most of their final term here in Scoil Mhuire Howth Primary School.

Cyber Bullying

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.



Busy 2nd Class

Ms. O'Halloran's 2nd class have been busy with their Arts and Crafts designing a Modern Day Mona Lisa and bright and happy pictures showing -What we are looking forward to this summer.

They also did a science investigation into floating and sinking and made boats that would float. **Pictures will be on our website shortly!**

Sport is Back

We were delighted to welcome back our local GAA GPO Paddy Gorey from Beann Éadair Clg every Tuesday and Thursday teaching gaelic skills to infants, first and second skills.



Junior Infant News

Ms Anderson's Junior Infants went on a big walk to the Fairy Garden, through Deerpark and then up to the GAA club on 20th April. We had a fantastic walk and a picnic in Deerpark.

We have also been very busy planting seeds to supply our 'Restaurant and Supermarket in our Aistear area. So far we have planted cress, rocket, peas, mint and tomatoes.

We also started GAA training with



Paddy Gorey on Thursdays and the children are really enjoying it.



Ms. McHugh's Junior Infants also went for a walk on 20th April, through Deer Park to see the Fairy Doors and then on to the Claremont Beach where they enjoyed ice cream cones after their long walk.



Senior Infants News



Ms. O' Donnell's Senior Infant class are learning all about the lifecycle of a butterfly with Ms. O' Brien. We explored and created our own eggs, caterpillars, chrysalis' and butterflies. We also went on a butterfly hunt and found lots of colourful butterflies near the fairy garden on the old tramlines.



Picker Pals—looking after our Community

Picker Pals is a fun environmental activity programme for primary school children, their families, schools and communities. Through fun stories and songs and a special pack containing everything needed for litter-picking, Picker Pals motivates children to lead litter-picking adventures with their families. Over the last few months there have been lots of busy Picker Pals in

Ms O'Halloran and Ms McHugh's 2nd class. Each week a child from each class has the opportunity to bring home the 'Picker Pals' pack and go litter picking around their community. The children were shocked and disappointed to see the amount of rubbish they are finding and want to remind and encourage everybody in the community to put their litter in the bin or

bring it home with them. Well done to all of the children involved, you are doing a fantastic job making our local community a cleaner, safer and better place!



April Birthdays

Jun. Infs: Daniel Johnson, Nicholas O'Donnell

Sen. Infs: Thaniya Daly, Hannah Ryan, Ian Paiva De Andrada, Phyllis Connors, Zack Murphy, Vera Duffy

1st Class: Lauren Keegan

2nd Class: Ryan Walsh, Donnacha Higgins, Carla Whately, Corina O'Looney

3rd Class: Alex Hutton

4th Class: Saidbh & Ronan Dennis, Laura de Burca, Alexandra & Megan Tighe, Airt Doonan, John Murphy

5th Class: Tanya Ward, Ella Whately, Gabrielle Rowe

6th Class: Lilian Killeen, Annie Caulfield, Susannah Wolfe



School Calendar for May & June 2021

Mon/Tuesday	3rd/4th May	Public & School Holidays	SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri /Monday	4th/7th June	School & Public Holidays	SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday	30th June	Summer Holidays	School closes at early staggered times – details later

Healthy Lunches

Make sure your child has some 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.

Hair Care

Tá fadhb Leanúnach le snéacha uaige sa scoil. Iarraimid bhur gcabhair chun an fhadhb a choimeád faoi smacht. Seiceáil gruaig do pháiste gach deireadh seachtaine. Usáid cíor fineálta chuige seo. Má tá gruaig fhada ag do pháiste ceangal suas é. Cuir fios ar an múinteoir 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.



Music Makes Magic

Congratulations to all the pupils and music teachers who took part in Music Makes Magic Spring Programme Concert which was hosted via Zoom. It was a feast of music, art and poetry. Well done to all involved.



Nut Allergies

A number of our pupils have nut allergies of varying degrees of severity. 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 each 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 – Anaphylaxis—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.



Safety First

Please follow our Voluntary One Way System at morning drop off and afternoon pick up times.

Our traffic warden is there to ensure the children arrive in to the school safely—please follow her instructions at all times



Green Fingers Project@Howth Primary School

Here at Howth Primary School, we love to look after our environment. Children engage in programmes such as Picker Pals, Howth Tidy Town's Community garden and Green Schools. All children take part in Environmental Awareness and Care lessons as part of the SESE curriculum which aim to teach children how to care for their environment. Over the past few months there has been a huge interest from pupils, parents and staff to make our immediate school environment a more appealing place for both the school community and local wildlife. A new initiative called the "Green Fingers Project" has been developed to enhance our surroundings now that the building work has been completed.



A number of areas have been identified around the school which are in desperate need of a revamp. During the month of May and into June it is hoped that every child in the school will have an opportunity to do some planting in these areas. The children will learn about the plants they are using and what they will need to thrive. They will also be asked to help maintain the areas until the end of the term. Step 1: Get the soil ready for planting. I am delighted that a number of parents have offered to help out. The soil will have to be rotavated and compost mixed through. This will help the new plants root down better making sure

they will thrive. Due to Covid 19 and the need to minimise contact between people this work will be mainly done outside of school hours. If you are interested in getting involved in this preparation work you can let me know by emailing greenfingers@howthprimaryschool.ie.

Step 2. Then it will be over to the teachers and children to get their Green Fingers planting. This will be an exciting time and we hope that the children will share their experiences with you at home.



Step 3: Maintenance: The children will be encouraged to water the plants to ensure they have a good start to their new lives in our school. They may also be required to do a bit of weeding, everyone's favourite gardening activity !!!

A huge thank you to Louise Cody (parent) who has been invaluable in the planning process. She has engaged with experts to guide us in the planting of shrubs, trees and plants to ensure they will thrive in the soil. Also, a massive thank you to the Parents Association and Lisa O'Neill who have very kindly offered to help fund the project. I'd also like to thank Anne Thornton from Howth Tidy Towns who has kindly offered her services.

This will be an exciting project, the benefits of which we will reap for many years to come. Watch this space... More to come.



Ms. Breen's 4th Class—Howth and the Fishing Industry

Ms. Breen's 4th class went for a walk down to the West Pier. They were exploring the fishing industry in Howth having learned all about what the life of a fisherman was like in the past in History and before exploring the issue of over-fishing in Science. In their History lesson the children had examined and explored newspaper articles, pictures and listened to interviews with a local man about what fishing was like when their grandparents were young and learned about the changes that have occurred resulting in the problem of over-fishing today. Their learning was brought to life for them on the walk because the children were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to speak to Amy Howard's granddad (Eamon Howard) who is the only net maker and mender on the pier. He talked to them about over-fishing and showed them real examples of the nets fishermen are required to use today. The children then became fishermen themselves in their Science lesson and carried out an experiment to really understand why the problem of over-fishing occurs.


