

Howth Primary School

October 2021 Newsletter



Principal's Midterm Update

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this email finds you well and that you are looking forward to the midterm break. Thankfully we have made it through this far without any school closures and disruption has been minimal. Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe in these uncertain times.

Here are some important updates from the school:

Goodbye

With a heavy heart we say goodbye to the Chairperson of our Board of Management for many years, Mr. Joe Kirwin. His contribution to our school has been immense and we can't thank him enough for his service over the years. We wish him well in his retirement.

With every retirement there is a replacement and we are delighted to welcome Ms. Síle Moloney as our new chairperson. Síle is no stranger to the Board of Management and has served on the committee for the past few years as well as being a former teacher and vice principal of our school.

Music Makes Magic

We are delighted to announce that our Music Makes Magic programme will be returning to Scoil Mhuire after the midterm break. The format is still being worked out but we are delighted that it's returning in some form or fashion.

PE

We have also made the decision to use our school hall again for PE as well as the astro and the pitch. This is much needed especially as we come into the winter months. The hall will be well ventilated and sanitisers used upon entry and exit.

Garda Visit

On Thursday of this week our community Gardaí paid a visit to the third and fourth classes to talk about safety during the Halloween period. The two gardaí gave lovely feedback to the school in that the classes were very engaging and asked lots of questions.

Lining Up in the morning

On our first Monday back to school after the midterm we would like to trial lining up the first alphabetic group, ie the 8:50am group in the morning. This is to stop the congregating at the doors. The teachers will assign lines to each class and you will see them on the yard at 8:50am on November 1st. Your child goes to this line and from November 2nd the children in the first group will line up in their lines and instead of walking into the building themselves they will be brought in by their teacher.

Junior Infant parents, if needed, can bring their child to their line but must wear a mask. We would ask that all other children enter the school grounds on their own as before.

The 9am second group will just walk into school same as before. // continued on Page 2

Principal's Update cont'd //

Half Day November 19th

On Friday November 19th the school will close for pupils for a half day to allow for staff training in the new primary language curriculum. This is as per guidelines from the Department of Education. We will be in touch closer to the time with the exact closing times as we have to do it on a staggered basis.

Finally, we have had a very successful first half term in the school. All our pupils but especially our new junior infants and new pupils throughout the school have settled in so well and are now well used to the routine of the day.

We are delighted that 3rd and 4th classes made their First Holy Communion this month and the 2020 and 2021 sixth classes made their confirmation in September. We are very proud of them all.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Aaron and Oliver Rowney—highly commended in the Nationwide Texaco Art Competition, Well done to you both!

That's all for now.

Have a lovely midterm!

Kind regards

Mary Downes

Vol. Contribution

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.



Post Primary

Earlier this month, application forms from the pupils in Sixth class who hope to transfer to Post Primary Schools in the Deanery area were processed and forwarded to the Deanery Secretariat. We wish all the girls and boys in Mr. Burke's and Mr. Flynn's classes all the best in their final year with us and in their Post Primary education next year.



School Safety/Parking



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 num-

ber 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 in this.



Halloween Safety

Parents, Halloween is a time of great fun but we ask all our girls and boys to be aware of the danger of bonfires and also to take care on the streets after dark. You might remind your child that Hallow'een can be a very difficult time for elderly people living alone and also for dogs. This is especially the case regarding Guide Dogs for blind and visually impaired people. When Guide Dogs become distressed and fearful

they are no longer able to work effectively and may have to be taken away from their blind owner. Please discourage the use of fireworks on streets or near houses. Any bonfires should be adult supervised in open areas such as parks or fields. 5th & 6th classes were visited by the gardai earlier this month to discuss Hallow-
een Safety.



Nut Free School

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



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 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



School Calendar 2021/2022

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Thursday	14 th October	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	
Monday	25 th – Friday 29 th Oct (inc)	Mid term Break	School Closed
Thursday	18 th November	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Thursday	16 th December	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	
Wednesday	22 nd December	Start of Christmas Holidays	Half Day
Thursday	23 rd Dec – Wed 5 th Jan(inc)	Christmas Holidays	School Closed
Thursday	27 th January	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	

FEBRUARY:

Monday	21 st Feb – Fri 25 th Feb (inc)	Mid term Break	School Closed
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MARCH:

Thursday	3 rd March	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	
Thursday	17 th + Fri 18 th March	St. Patrick's Day	School Closed

APRIL:

Friday	8 th April	Start of Easter Holidays	Half Day
Monday	11 th – Fri 22 nd April (inc)	Easter Holidays	School Closed

MAY:

Monday	2 nd May	Public Holiday	School Closed
Thursday	5 th May	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	

JUNE:

Friday 3 rd /Mon 6 th /Tues 7 th June	School/Public Holiday	School Closed	
Thursday	9 th June	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	
Thursday	30 th June	Start of Summer Holidays	Half Day
Friday	1 st July	Summer Holidays	School Closed

