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# Howth Primary School Scoil Mhuire Newsletter February 2023

## Chess Tournament

24 children have been chosen to represent our school at the upcoming *Féile Fichille* chess tournament which will be held at **Rolestown National School** on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**.

*Ficheall* is a not-for-profit organisation led by teachers and principals around Ireland.

*Ficheall's* aim is to promote the playing of chess in Irish primary schools for the social and cognitive benefits it has for students. As such, no prizes are awarded at the *Féile Fichille* (chess festival) tournament. Instead the tournament is a fun-and-friendly, meet

-and-greet non-competitive chess tournament.

We are practising every Tuesday and Wednesday and learning lots of chess tactics!

We are really excited to represent our school on the 28th!

Jackie Mc Keon and  
Roisin Slattery



## Spelling Bee

We are entering the North Dublin Spelling Bee which will be held in Sutton Park school in the Spring. In-house heats will take place in early February in fifth and sixth classes to find a Super Speller who will represent our school at the competition.

Good luck to all who enter.



## Technology Thank You!!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful Parents Association who funded a set of iPads for the school. We now have two sets which are used weekly in our junior and senior classes to enhance our curriculum.

Thank you also to our digital leader team who are a brilliant help to the school.



## 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](http://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

### 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.

## World Book Day

Over the next two weeks the children will be taking part in lots of different activities to celebrate World Book Day.

World Book Dress up day is on March 2nd.

Like last year we would love to see the children dressing up as their favourite book



character on that day. We had some amazing costumes last year.

Our annual book fair takes place on March 9th, details to follow.

## 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



## 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.

Make sure your child has some fruit for the Mid Morning



## Healthy Lunches Hair Care

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.

Tá fadhb Leanúnach le snéacha uaire sa scoil. Iarraimid bhrú 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 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.



# Calendar for January—June 2023

## DECEMBER/JANUARY

|           |  |                             |               |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Thursday  | 15 <sup>th</sup> December                            | Staff Meeting               |               |
| Wednesday | 21 <sup>st</sup> December                            | Start of Christmas Holidays | Half Day      |
| Thursday  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec – Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan (inc) | Christmas Holidays          | School Closed |
| Thursday  | 19 <sup>th</sup> January                             | Staff Meeting               |               |

## FEBRUARY:

|        |   |                |               |
|--------|---|----------------|---------------|
| Friday | 3 <sup>rd</sup> February                              | Inservice Day  | School Closed |
| Monday | 6 <sup>th</sup> February                              | Public Holiday | School Closed |
| Monday | 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb (inc) | Mid term Break | School Closed |

## MARCH/APRIL

|            |  |  |               |
|------------|--|--|---------------|
| Thursday   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March                              | Staff Meeting                          |               |
| Friday     | 17 <sup>th</sup> March                             | St. Patrick's Day                      | School Closed |
| Mon & Tues | 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> March          | Service Of Light 6 <sup>th</sup> Class |               |
| Friday     | 31 <sup>st</sup> March                             | Start of Easter Holidays               | Half Day      |
| Monday     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> April (inc) | Easter Holidays                        | School Closed |

## MAY:

|                |                                       |                               |               |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Monday & Tues. | 1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup> May | Public Holiday/School Holiday | School Closed |
| Saturday       | 6 <sup>th</sup> May                   | First Holy Communion          |               |
| Thursday       | 18 <sup>th</sup> May                  | Staff Meeting                 |               |
| Friday         | 26 <sup>th</sup> May                  | Confirmation                  |               |

## JUNE:

|                |  |                               |               |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Monday & Tues. | 5 <sup>th</sup> / 6 <sup>th</sup> June | Public Holiday/School Holiday | School Closed |
| Thursday       | 15 <sup>th</sup> June                  | Staff Meeting                 |               |
| Friday         | 30 <sup>th</sup> June                  | Start of Summer Holidays      | Half Day      |

# Yard Angels

'Yard Angels' is an exciting new initiative that has been set up in Howth Primary School. Children from 6th class have volunteered to be 'yards angels' to help Junior and Senior Infant children to learn to play together.

## What do they do?

The 'yard angels' act as good role models, showing turn taking, good manners, waiting patiently, following the rules of the game and the yard rules. They have been trained to promote independence in the children rather than doing things for them such as giving them the words to ask someone to play with them.

When the bell goes and it is time to line up, the Yard Buddies on duty that day will help the S.N.A. and teacher on yard to ensure all classes are lining up.

## What are the goals of the initiative?

1. Promote friendship
2. Promote inclusion
3. Make yard a fun place
4. Reduce play-based conflict and promote conflict resolution.



## Choir

The school choir has started up again. We are hoping to perform for the upcoming Sacraments this year. There was a great turn out for our first meeting. Practice will be on Tuesdays in school each week. All are welcome to join.

## Green Schools

*Ms. Lynch assembled 24 students from 2nd to 6th. We meet on Fridays to discuss and make plans. Every week, my fellow green school members and I go out to the community garden and help plant, paint, and weed. A lot of this would not have been possible without the help of Nicole, Angela, and Howth Tidy Towns. Each part of the community garden was made with love and passion and I'm so grateful I could be a part of it.*

### **Addison 5th Class**

*Ms. Lynch has written all our accomplishments and things we want to do in a book. We still have many more to accomplish. This year we are hoping to continue recycling our rubbish and cleaning our school and we are currently doing litter pick-ups. My friends and I also raised €54.10 for school fencing. I love Green Schools and the committee and we are still reaching our goals!*

### **Annabel 5th Class**

