

*Scoil Bhríde*

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*Clane*

*Co. Kildare*

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*Date:* 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

## November Newsletter

### **\*\* School Closure\*\***

The School will close on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. This closure is sanctioned by the Department of Education to facilitate whole school training on Autism. This training is given to all schools when they open a special class for Autism.

### **Email addresses**

We are currently updating our system to include a contact email address for all children. Thank you to all the parents from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> who have already given their email addresses. We have been requesting this class by class. We are asking the parents from Junior and Senior Infants to give an up to date email address to their child's class teacher. Please write it on a note and send it into the teacher. This would serve as another form of communication with parents. We would hope to email items such as the newsletter etc.

### **Current shortage of teachers**

There is currently a shortage of substitute teachers in the country. We had two teachers out sick before the Halloween break. We were unable to find a substitute teacher for these classes. The Special Ed team covered these classes in rotation as they were infant classes but these teachers also have their own students to teach. Classes will need to be split if we are unable to get a substitute. Please be patient with us as we try to deal with this situation.

### **Basketball News**

The year has got off to a great start and the 6<sup>th</sup> class girls are already training hard with their coaches, Mrs Arrigan and Miss McNelis. In November they will participate in the Cumann na mBunscol Large Schools Basketball League, we wish them the very best of luck. To prepare for this, the girls played a practice match against Prosperous at home in Scoil Bhríde on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of October. This was our first official basketball match in our new sports hall and it was great that we won.

### **Enrolment for Junior Infants**

Enrolment for Junior Infants for the 2018/ 2019 school year will take place from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The following documents will be needed for enrolment – a copy of a birth certificate, a utility bill as proof of address, the child's PPS number and a copy of their Baptismal Certificate (this is not a requirement – it is needed if the child is to receive sacraments during their time here).

### **Art Grant**

All new government buildings are entitled to a 'Per Cent for Art' grant. This is a grant to fund a piece of art work for the school. The money can only be used for an art grant. Scoil Bhríde is entitled to this grant as part of the new build that was completed on our school. A committee needs to be set up to pursue this project. If any parent has an interest in art and would like to assist us on this committee please contact the school and let us know. This would involve working with the committee to prepare a proposal and submit it to a framework.

### **Swimming**

The 5<sup>th</sup> class students will be attending swimming lessons for the next 6 weeks in K Leisure Naas. The school's swimming policy is available to view on the school website.

### **Assembly**

At assembly we will continue to discuss items such as uniforms, no nail varnish, healthy lunches etc. I would like to thank you the parents for supporting us by encouraging the girls to have their hair tied back. Everyone is really co-operating with this.

At assembly over the next few weeks we will be introducing 'lámh' signs to the children. This is a simple form of sign language used to help non-verbal children communicate. It is one of the ways we are trying to make our school a more inclusive school.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Ms. Michelle Doyle on her recent marriage. Ms. Doyle is going to change her name to her married name so will be called Mrs. Dermody.

### **Today FM**

Some of our 4<sup>th</sup> class students recently had a short chat with Shauna O'Reilly from the Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show. The children were asked their thoughts on over 27's wearing hoodies and if home economics should be a subject in primary schools. This was aired over the mid-term break. It was a fun experience for the girls. A link to this podcast is on the school website.

### **Christmas Cards**

The children have designed their own Christmas Cards. These will be available to order from the school shortly and will cost €7 per pack of 10 cards. Thank you to Mrs. O'Shaughnessy for co-ordinating this project.

### **Student Council**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> student council was elected before the holidays. A class captain from each of the classes will sit on the council. The class captains were elected by their peers following a campaign. Our Head girl is Jodie Corry. We would like to wish all the members of the council the best of luck as they embark on their new role.

### **Wood Turning**

The students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will have the opportunity to work with a wood turner on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. This will cost €2 per child. This will be a new experience for the girls and one we hope they will enjoy.

### **Library Visit**

4<sup>th</sup> class visited the library on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to Jackie for having the girls

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

The parent teacher meetings for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will be held next week. Your daughter's teacher will be in touch to arrange a time with you.

Meetings for Junior and Senior Infants are held at the end of January.

### **Minor Footballers**

We would like to congratulate the Minor Football Team who came to visit the school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. It was a great opportunity for the girls to see the cup and have a chat with the players.

### **Nano Nagle**

Scoil Bhríde is a Presentation School. The Presentation order was founded by Nano Nagle. Her feast day is celebrated on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. Mrs. Brown's girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> class will lead us in a prayer service that day.

### **Maths Week**

Maths week was a great success. There were fabulous art displays around the school, maths quizzes, daily puzzles and a fun maths day was organised with the TY students. I would like to thank Ms. Maguire for all her hard work co-ordinating the weeks activities, and to all the teachers and the students for their active participation in all the activities. The Maths art can be viewed on the website.

**Attendance**

Please remember to send in a written note to explain your child's absence from school. Once a child is absent for 20 days we are obliged to notify TUSLA. Once your child is absent for more than 15 days we will write to you to let you know that your child is nearing 20 days.

**Sensory room**

Our new sensory room was kitted out at the end of September. The Parents Association have kindly taken a short video clip of this and put it up on the website if anybody would like to have a look at it.

**Green Schools**

Ms. Stafford has organised workshops for Ms. Mc Kenna's class and Ms. Dignam's class on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**Shoe Box**

If you are participating in the Christmas Shoe Box project, please make sure the shoe boxes are brought to the school by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of November as they will be collected then.

**POD**

We are still missing some children's PPS numbers which we need to enter into POD – the governments system to track children in school. If we don't have your child's PPSN, please send it into the office as soon as possible

**Thank You**

A sincere Thank You to the O'Neill family from Abbeyfield Farm for their generous donation to the ASD class. This money will be used to purchase a specialised swing for the children in the class.

**Book Fair**

Our annual Book Fair will take place from Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup>. It will take place in the Servery beside the P.E. Hall. The opening times are as follows:

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, opening at 1.50pm until 3.30pm
- Thursday 16th November to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, lunchtime each day and from 1.50 – 3.30pm.
- Monday 20th November, night time opening from 7.00pm until 9.00pm.

The Book Fair is a great way for the school to replenish our stock of books as we get commission of 60% of our takings for holding the Book Fair. This commission is used to purchase new books. Many thanks for your support in the past and hoping to see you again this year.

**Reminder**

Coloured braids are not permitted in school as per our code of conduct.

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**Eimear Hennessy**  
**Principal**