

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL BASED CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

The festive season is upon us again. It is always an exciting time in our school. This year all classes are performing Christmas Carols and Festive Songs for parents and family members. The dates and classes are as follows:

Christmas Performances	
Wednesday 16 th	
9:00 – 9:45	Junior Infants (Ms. Dalton) Junior Infants (Ms. Keane) Junior Infants (Ms. Rourke)
9:55 – 10:40	Senior Infants (Ms. Dillon) Senior Infants (Ms. Butler) Senior Infants (Ms. Leonard)
10:50 - 11:35	First Class (Ms. Egan) First Class (Ms. Evans) First Class (Ms. Masterson)
11:45 - 12:30	Second Class (Mr. Nugent) Second Class (Ms. McKeon) Second Class (Ms. O’Callaghan)
12:40 - 12:55	Third Class (Mr. Carney) Third Class (Ms. Fitzgerald)
1:20 - 1:50	Fourth Class (Ms. McKeown) Fourth Class (Mr. O’Shea)
2:00 - 2:30	Fifth Class (Mr. Winters) Fifth Class (Ms. Cullinan)

Christmas Performances (cont’d)

Thursday 17 th	
9:00 - 9:30	Sixth Class (Ms. Morrin) Sixth Class (Mr. Casey)
1:00 - 1:30	Pre-School (Ms. Scully) Pre - School (Ms. Brennan) ASD (Ms. Alford, Ms. Craig, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Gavin)

PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Boys and girls from Scoil Bhríde provided Christmas shoppers with a treat when they performed their Christmas Carols in Dunnes Stores Shopping Centre on Friday December 11th. Many thanks to all who stopped by to enjoy the singing and encourage the children.

VISIT OUR LIBRARY DAILY

Parents are advised that the school library is now open before school from 8.35am to 8.50am and after school from 2.30 pm to 3.00 pm. You are asked to encourage your child to visit the library, read their book and take the quiz on their book. Your child’s participation in the library is monitored as is their reading comprehension and fluency through the quiz, so it is very important that they are reading their library books. We would like to acknowledge a very generous contribution of books we have received which were sponsored by local business ‘**pbmedia.**’ Our sincere thanks to all involved.



SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL Killane, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue No. 21
15th December 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our school newsletter. It is hard to believe we are at the end of the first term already and that Christmas is upon us! I am sure you will agree it has been a very busy term and with lots more to look forward to over the coming weeks we will all need the holidays to recover! Inside you will find details of all the festive activities the teachers and pupils have planned for the coming weeks.

You will be aware we had our Whole School Evaluation from 30th Nov—3rd Dec. The Inspectors returned to provide an oral report to Members of the Board, the Chairperson of the Parent’s Association and the Teaching Staff on Thursday last. I am delighted to inform you that they were very happy with the management of the school and the teaching and learning occurring within the school. In particular, they noted that responses from questionnaires administered with pupils and parents showed that our pupils are very happy and content in school and that you—our parents—are confident about the school and very happy to have your children with us. The Inspectors noted that satisfaction levels among pupils and parents were well above the national averages.

On behalf of the Board and Staff I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your continued support. The education of your child is very much a partnership between parents and the school and this was noted by the Inspectors.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Is mise le meas,

Caoimhín Ó Dúfaigh (Príomh Oide)

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NOTES FOR PARENTS

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Scoil Bhríde Parents' Association would like to thank all those that supported the NKF Country Chase and Monster Christmas Raffle and Auction in Larkin's Lounge on Sunday 13th December. We would also like to thank all the local businesses and families that donated prizes, services and sponsored the event. The money raised will be used to subsidise school trips and purchase equipment that will benefit all children in the school.

The Parents' Association Committee was voted in at November's meeting.

Chairperson: Nathalie Leeper Murphy

Secretary: Carol Corri Meehan

Treasurer: Sorcha Maher

Committee members: Jackie Bryan, Gillian Sweeney Noonan, Michelle Murphy, Nicola Kenna, Paula Hickey, Fiona Hutchinson, Caroline O'Neill, Briain Reilly and Nuala Kelly.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Many thanks to the Parents' Association for providing the school with the indoor Pella football and hurling equipment. We would also like to thank them for purchasing materials for our playground markings.

CHRISTMAS EVENT SCHEDULE

The festive season would not be complete without a trip to the panto. All classes will attend the Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk in the Helix. Trips commenced last Friday and will continue until our last trip which will be to the sensory friendly show on January 8th for pupils attending our Special Classes! Many thanks to the Parents' Association for their very generous contribution towards the cost of the buses. The Association's contribution reduces the total cost to parents for the visit to the Panto.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

All the children have been involved in developing their personalised Christmas Cards. The order has been sent and we are awaiting the delivery of the cards. Many thanks to Ms. Evans and Mrs. McCarthy for organising this initiative.

CHOIR

Scoil Bhríde Choir sang carols in St. Mary's Church, Edenderry, on December 10th. For many in our parish this event signals the start of Christmas. A lovely evening was had by all.

CAROL SINGING AT OFALIA HOUSE

Ms Cullinan's and Mr Winters' classes visited Ofalia House and provided a carol service for the elderly on Monday December 14th. This annual visit is always an enjoyable experience for all involved.

SANTA'S VISIT

Santa will be taking a little break in what is a very busy time for him, to wish the boys and girls of Scoil Bhríde a Merry Christmas on Monday the 21st December at 11am. We hope that all the pupils are being well behaved in advance of his arrival! Many thanks to the Parents' Association, for extending the invitation to Santa and for all their work in preparing for the visit.

TEAM HOPE'S CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

On Monday 9th November, Scoil Bhríde took part in the annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal with Team-Hope. A total of 278 boxes were collected. We would like to extend a very special 'Thank You' to the parents and children who sent in boxes for this special cause.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & LAURALYNN CHILDREN'S HOSPICE FUNDRAISER

Scoil Bhríde's recent cake sale in aid of St Vincent de Paul raised €617.13 which was accepted by Rory Kennedy. In addition, Scoil Bhríde's fancy dress raised €325 in aid of the LauraLynn Children's Hospice. Majella O'Connor accepted the cheque from Mr. Duffy on behalf of the LauraLynn Foundation. Thanks to all those involved for helping raise the money.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Scoil Bhríde's Green Schools Committee have been working hard to identify ways to help save energy. Here are three top energy saving tips you can try at home:

1. Buy energy efficient light bulbs (CFLs) instead of traditional bulbs – they use 1/5th energy and last up to 10 times as long. They will pay for themselves in under a year and from then on they are saving you on your electricity bill
2. Attic Insulate – insulating your attic will keep the heat in your home for longer and pay for itself in 2-3 years.
3. Fit a lagging jacket – lagging your hot water tank will keep the water hotter for longer and will have paid for itself in a few months.

More to follow in the New Year!

IRISH FLAG PRESENTATION

On Monday 9th November we welcomed members of the Army from Athlone as part of the preparations for the forthcoming commemorations of the 1916 Rising. They were accompanied by two members of Air Corps Flight Sgt. John O'Brien and Sgt. Val Murray. They presented the school community with the National Flag and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation. The Proclamation was read by Flight Sgt. John O'Brien. Three pupils Aoife, Jake and Eoghan accepted the gifts on behalf of all the pupils.

SCOIL BHRÍDE TAG RUGBY

Congratulations to the children from 4th to 6th Class who completed the Leinster Rugby Schools Programme. Many thanks to Patsy, Edenderry Rugby Club and Leinster Rugby for all their hard work.

DISABILITY INCLUSION TRAINING

Many thanks to Oisín Jordan, FAI and CARA for providing 11 staff with a 6 hour generic sports disability inclusion workshop on November 2nd.