

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Scoil Bhríde Parents' Association would like to announce the following dates for your diaries;

\*Tuesday 10th of October from 12pm-1:30pm. A coffee morning for all Junior & Senior Infant parents. All most welcome.

\*Tuesday 17th of October @ 8pm: Our AGM will be held. Please come along.

\*Friday 27th of October. Halloween fun & games will take place for all classes during our schools dress up day. There will be music, lots of games & treats on the day. Prizes for the best costumes also.

All the above events will be held in our school halla.

Any parent that would like to get involved can contact us on our Facebook page or by contacting the current chairperson Nathalie on 0862461980.

Thank you for your continued support and here's a start to another great year for all our students.

## WORLD TREE DAY

Lá na gCrann (Tree Day) took place with week in Scoil Bhríde. Ms. Masterson's first class helped our caretaker Frank plant a new Oak tree on the school grounds to celebrate the day. Some classes went on a lovely tree walk around the school grounds to investigate our lovely tree population. The Junior and Senior Infants took part in a Sammy Squirrel colouring competition to help celebrate the day.

## OFFALY CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETICS COMPETITION

On Friday the 6th of October, over 30 boys and girls from 3rd-6th Class took part in the Offaly Cross Country Athletics competition. It was a very successful day for us, coming home with 4 medals. Both Nathan Cassidy and Sarah Leech finished in the top ten in the 6th Class category, while Harry Goulding and Cillian Murray received medals in the 5th and 4th Class categories respectively. Well done to all who participated.

## GAA COACHING & ACTIVE SCHOOLS APPLICATION

This term Jimmy Grady from Offaly GAA and Edenderry GAA is coaching children in our school. Many thanks to Jimmy, Offaly GAA and Edenderry GAA for their help.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR

Please find below the details for extra-curricular activities for boys and girls between now and Christmas.

Day	Activities	Times
Tuesday	Gaelic Football: 5th & 6th Class boys 2nd — 6th Class girls	2.30 – 3.30
Wednesday	Band	2.30 – 3.15
	Gaelic Football: 3rd & 4th Class boys	2.30 – 3.30
Thursday	Choir	2.30 – 3.30
Other	Hurling and camogie to commence after mid-term. More to follow	

## CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL

Well done to the boys and girls football teams who competed in the Cumann na mBunscol competitions again this year. Two young teams have learned and progressed brilliantly throughout the competition. Scoil Bhríde would like to sincerely thank all the parents for their continued support and for providing lifts to the boys and girls throughout the competition. The boys and girls will continue to train over the winter and will return again in spring. A huge thank you also to Derry Rovers and Edenderry GAA for the use of their facilities and continued support. Thanks to Ms Masterson, Ms Carroll, Mr Desmond, Mr Swan and Mr Spain for all their help.

## NUT ALLERGY NOTICE

It has come to our attention that an increasing number of children in Scoil Bhríde have potentially life threatening allergies to peanuts/nuts. This allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of peanut/nut products, cross contamination and breathing peanuts in the air. To protect the welfare of all our students, the Scoil Bhríde Board of Management have decided to make Scoil Bhríde a "NUT FREE SCHOOL".

## HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS

On Friday 27th October, Halloween celebrations will take place in Scoil Bhríde. Children will be dressing up in costume and participating in Halloween festivities in class. We are looking forward to seeing all the creative costumes.

# SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Killane, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue No. 29  
12th October 2017

Dear Parent(s), / Guardian(s)

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for the 2017/2018 school year. I hope all our new pupils, parents and teachers who have recently joined our school community have settled in by now. Congratulations to the Scoil Bhríde Garden Committee who secured the "Best School" title from the Edenderry Tidy Towns Committee.

I wish everybody a happy, enjoyable and safe Halloween break.  
Is mise le meas,

Caoimhín Ó Dufáigh (Príomh Oide)

## NEW STAFF JOINING US THIS YEAR

Scoil Bhríde would like to welcome our eight new members of staff who have joined us this year:

Ms. Maguire	Ms. O'Shea
Ms. Keegan	Ms. Monaghan
Ms. Wilson	Mr. Crowley
Ms. Hastings	Mr. Swan
Ms. Reynolds	Ms. Wallace

## ENROLMENT FOR JUNIOR INFANTS SEPT 2018

Scoil Bhríde PS will enrol pupils for Junior Infants for September 2018 during the period from 13<sup>th</sup> —17<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or can be collected from Reception.

PHONE / FAX: 046-9773451

Website: [www.scoilbhrideps.com](http://www.scoilbhrideps.com)

Email: [info@scoilbhrideps.com](mailto:info@scoilbhrideps.com)

## NOTES FOR PARENTS

### **MORNING SUPERVISION / DROP-OFF SYSTEM**

We would like to inform parents that staff will continue to provide voluntary supervision of the morning drop-off. Parents are reminded that supervision commences at 8.35am and children should not be on the school premises before that time as they are not insured. Supervision at the drop off finishes at 8.50am. It is important for pupils to be punctual in the mornings. Children arriving after 8.50 will have to enter the school via the main Entrance. *Parents are reminded not to use the Bus Set Down Area located along the front of the building but to use the side drop off areas instead.* Please do not get out of your car and please have your children alight from the passenger side of the car. Parents/pupils walking into the school grounds are reminded to use the zebra crossings at all times. All pedestrians are advised to enter by the small pedestrian gates at the main entrance and to stay on the footpath at all times. In the evenings, Infants should be collected promptly at 1:30pm and Senior Classes collected at 2:30pm as our school insurance ceases at this time.

### **PARENT / TEACHER MEETING DATE CHANGE**

Please note, the dates for the Parent – Teacher Meetings have been changed to Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd November 2017 .

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is an area of high priority for the school. We endeavour to support and foster good attendance patterns this year and we ask parents to also promote attendance/punctuality by:

- Ensuring regular and punctual school attendance.
- Notifying the school if their children cannot attend for any reason.
- Discussing planned absences with the school.
- Refraining from taking holidays during school time.
- Informing the school in writing of the reasons for absence from school.

## **LIST OF SCHOOL CLOSURES AND EVENTS**

<b>OCTOBER</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 27<sup>th</sup> – Halloween Fancy Dress</li><li>• 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.—03<sup>rd</sup> Nov. (Inclusive) Halloween Mid-Term Break</li></ul>	<b>NOVEMBER</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 23<sup>rd</sup>—Parent / Teacher Meetings</li></ul>
<b>DECEMBER</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Holidays (School closing at 11.30 am)</li></ul>	<b>JANUARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8<sup>th</sup> – Re-opening of school</li><li>• 23<sup>rd</sup> – Staff Meeting (School closing at 1.30 pm)</li></ul>
<b>FEBRUARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; 16<sup>th</sup> - Spring Mid-Term Break</li></ul>	<b>MARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 19<sup>th</sup> – Public Holiday (School Closure)</li><li>• 23<sup>rd</sup> – Easter Holidays (School closing at 11:30am)</li></ul>
<b>APRIL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9<sup>th</sup>—Re-opening of school</li><li>• 24<sup>th</sup> – Staff Meeting (School closing at 1.30 pm)</li><li>• 21<sup>st</sup>—Confirmation (12:00pm)</li></ul>	<b>MAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7<sup>th</sup> – Public Holiday (School Closure)</li><li>• 8<sup>th</sup>—School Closure</li><li>• 26<sup>th</sup> - First Holy Communion (12.00pm)</li></ul>
<b>JUNE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4<sup>th</sup> - Public Holiday (School Closure)</li><li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> – Summer Holidays (School closing at 11:30am)</li></ul>	<b>JULY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> July ‘July Provision for pupils with ASDs’ - pending approval of Board of Management &amp; Department of Education &amp; Skills</li></ul>

### **GARDEN COMMITTEE**

Our Garden Committee have been a busy bunch since returning to school. We are thrilled to tell you we won the "Best School Overall" in the Tidy Towns awards 2017. We harvested our vegetables and sold our produce and in doing so we raised €100 which will go towards future garden projects. Thank you so much for all your support. Our winter projects are in full swing and we are creating a bug hotel and bird feeders to ensure our local wildlife are safe, warm and well fed for the winter. Many thanks to the CE Scheme and the Tidy Towns Committee for your continued support in helping create our garden.

## **RESULTS OF PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

Last term the Board distributed a questionnaire to all parents of children attending the school to ascertain their views on a number of issues. 263 questionnaires were returned representing 112 families with children in the junior end of the school (JI – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class), 127 families with children in the senior end (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class) and 19 families with children both in the junior and senior classes. 96% of respondents said their child/children were happy in school and that they were happy with the standard of education they were receiving. 94% of parents said they wanted the practice of taking the children to the Christmas Panto in the Helix to continue and 85% who wanted it continued wanted the children brought every year. Two thirds of parents said they wanted their children to continue to be involved with the production of Christmas Cards. The initiative will continue but no parent should feel under pressure to buy cards if they do not want them. 93% of parents said they wanted us to continue the tradition of singing carols at Dunnes Stores and 96% were in favour of educational trips throughout the year. 84% of parents asked that the cost of trips be kept below €25. The Panto and the 1<sup>st</sup> Class Witches and Wizards Wood Walk were the two most popular trips listed. A number of parents made some further suggestions across a range of activities/topics and these are being looked at to further improve our school for our pupils. A big Thank You to all who took the time to complete and return the survey.

### **GREEN SCHOOLS**

The Green-Schools are working hard to achieve our 3<sup>rd</sup> green flag. This year’s theme is water. Well done to Ms. Carroll’s 3<sup>rd</sup> class who came up with our new catchy water code for the school:

*Come on Scoil Bhríde let’s go!*

*We need to get saving our water flow.*

The green committee is asking all the children in the school to learn the code off by heart. They have also started a campaign called ‘Water Wednesday’ where everyone is encouraged to bring water in their lunch-boxes.

The green committee hasn’t forgotten about our recycling commitments and recently came first place in Of-faly for collecting the most recyclable batteries for WEEE Ireland. An impressive 125kg of batteries were collected and recycled! Well done to all involved.