

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION IN PARISH MISSION

This term we welcomed Sr. Ena, Sr. Mary, Sr. Enda Marie, Joseph and Judith, members of the Parish Mission Team to our school from the 6th – 10th of October. We would like to thank all parents who attended the presentation and the Céilí Community team for their hard work.

ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Children from 1st to 6th classes will participate in lessons to increase their awareness and knowledge of the importance of road safety over the coming weeks. In particular, lessons will focus on the importance of being seen, the rules for crossing the road, the rules for cycling and appropriate behaviour when on footpaths.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)— LITERACY

Our school's Literacy SIP places a particular emphasis on improving children's writing across all class levels. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's written work and to support and nurture a positive disposition towards writing messages, notes, lists etc at home.

WITCHES AND WIZARDS WOOD WALK

The annual 'Witches and Wizards Wood Walk' for first class students took place today in Donadea Forest Park. A most enjoyable day was had by all who attended.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Scoil Bhríde is taking part in the annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal with Team-Hope. This charity allows our children to reach out to other children by giving a gift. We would like to give a very special thank you to the parents and children who send in boxes for this special cause. The final date for delivering gift filled shoeboxes to the school is 23rd of October.

OFFALY CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who represented Scoil Bhríde in the Offaly Cross Country Competition in Tullamore Harriers recently.

SCHOOL CHOIR

This year the choir will participate in a musical education programme called 'Peace Proms'. Already we are busy rehearsing new songs which we will perform alongside various other schools from around the country. The choir will have an opportunity to perform with a full orchestra and conductor. The event will take place in the RDS, Dublin, in February 2015. More information will be available nearer closer to this.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

Mr. Spain, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Carney, Mr. McDonnell, Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Butler are continuing to train Gaelic football. Boys and girls from 1st class to 2nd Class and boys from 3rd Class to 6th class train on Mondays and Thursdays at lunch times. Similarly Ms. Dalton and Ms. Evans have organised football sessions for girls in 3rd Class to 6th Class on Tuesdays from 2.30 — 3.30. Pupils who are interested in these sessions should bring their gear and mouth guards on these days.

HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS

Celebrations for Halloween are taking place Friday 24th October. The children will be dressing up in fancy dress costume and taking part in enjoyable Halloween games and celebrations in class. Everyone is looking forward to the celebrations. As a fundraiser children will be asked to bring in €2 per family. This year the money raised will be donated to the local Red Cross and to Barnardo's. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

VISITING A FAMILY OWNED FOREST

Pupils from Ms Morrin's 6th class will visit a farm afforestation project on Friday October 17th as part of their Social Environmental and Scientific Education Programme. Pupils should wear their school track suit and appropriate footwear.

SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Carrick Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue No. 16
16th October 2014

Dear Parent(s), / Guardian(s)
Welcome to our first Newsletter of the new school year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a productive and enjoyable year. Also I would like to extend a special welcome to the parents of all new pupils joining us for the first time.

You will have noticed, we have two new classrooms located in the school playground. This has stemmed from our growing numbers, with three new classes of Junior Infant pupils enrolled since September 1st.

I am happy to report, that our new school building has progressed very well over the summer months, and I am reliably informed that as we go to print, the build is on schedule for a January handover to the Board of Management. It is a very exciting and busy time for us. Plans are being prepared for the move to the new premises early in the new year.

At this time of the year, I like to remind you all that the school has a very well organised and committed Parents' Association. Your ideas and support are crucial in helping to make the Parents' Association a success. From time to time during the year the Parents' Association run meetings, talks, events and fund raisers. These contribute greatly to the social life of the school.

Although pupils are only a few weeks back, you will see inside we have had a very busy start to what promises to be a very memorable year in the development and growth of our school. Is mise le meas, Caoimhín Ó Dufaigh

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our whole school community was deeply saddened on Wednesday September 24th by the news that one of our pupils, Seán O'Connor, had died. On behalf of Seán's parents, Majella and Gary, his brother Odhran, sister Cadhla, his family, the Board of Management, staff and pupils we would like to thank everyone who offered support during this sad time. In particular, we would like to thank the boys and girls who participated in the Guard of Honour and those who sang in the Choir. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a Anam.

NEW STAFF JOINING US THIS YEAR

Ten new members of staff have joined us this year as follows:

Ms. Fitzpatrick	Ms. Craig
Ms. Dillon	Mr. Nugent
Ms. Morrin	Ms. Mooney
Ms. Scully	Ms. Kenna
Ms. Hevican	Ms. Lawlor

MORNING DROP-OFF

Parents driving their children to school are reminded that a single lane, one-way system, operates for those dropping off children in the morning. In the interest of safety, parents are asked not to overtake other cars while in the school car park area.

Parents walking into the school grounds are reminded that there are two zebra crossings, one at each gate, and adults and children are advised to use these. In the interest of safety, all pedestrians are advised to enter by the small pedestrian gate close to the school building. Pedestrians are advised to refrain from entering through the larger exit gate as this is the gate through which motor vehicles exit the grounds. Parents are requested not to use the small gate located at the top of the yard (swimming pool side of the school) for drop off or collection and not to park in the driveway to the swimming pool or in the swimming pool car park. This entrance/exit gate is reserved for children travelling on school busses.

LIST OF SCHOOL CLOSURES & EVENTS

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st – Re-opening of School• 22nd – School Photographer• 23rd – Staff Meeting (School closing at 1.30 pm)
OCTOBER <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24th – Halloween Fancy Dress• 27th – 31st Inclusive – Halloween Mid-Term Break	NOVEMBER
DECEMBER <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19th – Christmas Holidays (school closing at 11.30 am)	JANUARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5th – Re-opening of school• 20th - Staff Meeting (School closing at 1.30 pm)
FEBRUARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16th & 17th - Parent / Teacher Meetings• 19th & 20th - Spring Mid-Term Break	MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16th – School Closure• 17th – Public Holiday (School Closure)• 27th – Easter Holidays (school closing at 11.30 am)
APRIL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13th – Re-opening of School• 28th - Staff Meeting (School closing at 1.30 pm)	MAY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th – Public Holiday (School Closure)• 9th - First Holy Communion• 30th - Confirmation
JUNE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st - Public Holiday (School Closure)• 2nd – School Closure• 26th – Summer Holidays (school closing at 11.30 am)	JULY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 29th June to 24th July 'July Provision for pupils with ASDs' - pending approval of Board of Management & Department of Education & Skills

- In the event that Scoil Bhríde PS has an unplanned closure due to adverse weather, the school may compensate for up to 3 days during the Easter Holidays, i.e. the school will remain open on either or all of the 30th March / 31st March / 1st of April 2015.
- In consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Management, the Principal reserves the right to make any future amendments to this list of closures and events.
- The school calendar is also available on our school website – www.scoilbhrídeps.com

NOTES FOR PARENTS

SCHOOL FEES

Parents are reminded that Friday October, 10th was the deadline for completing payment of all outstanding school fees for the current school year. If you have experienced any difficulties in meeting this deadline an alternative payment plan can be put in place by contacting Mr Duffy.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Parents of pupils travelling on school busses are reminded that pupils are not allowed to bring any electronic devices onto the bus or into school. Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

ENROLMENT FOR JUNIOR INFANTS

Scoil Bhríde will enrol pupils for Junior Infants for September 2015 during the period from 10th—14th November 2014. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or can be collected from Reception.

COMENIUS

Work on our EU funded project continues. Following from the very successful visit of teachers from Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Poland and England, during the last school year, and in recognition of the contribution the staff and pupils of Scoil Bhríde have made to the overall project; the International Project Team have awarded the following equipment to the school: a digital scanner, a camcorder and digital camera. Already the equipment is being put to good use with pupils from Mr Desmond's and Ms Keane's classes putting their ICT skills to good use with the development of our first Web Quest.