

MY ON

We have a new online resource for every student in the school!! <https://www.myon.co.uk/login/index.html> By now, all students should have received their username and password from their class teacher. This Digital Library is available to students any-time, anywhere, even throughout the holidays, as long as they have a device with an internet browser. There are thousands of exciting books available all the time. There is a high proportion of non-fiction (information) books, also short fiction books, graphic novels and a selection of challenging classic fiction. The information books cover a very wide range of interests, useful for 'just interested' or for project work assigned by their teacher.

A huge benefit is that myOn uses our students most recent ZPD (Accelerated Reader reading range) and will recommend books to them according to their interests and within their reading ability range. It will also prompt them to take a quiz to check their understanding.

MyON is multi-functioning: many of the books have audio so that students can listen while they follow the text, then can enlarge the pages, use dictionary tools, make notes in their own journal, and create their own reading lists. MyON remembers the last book they read, and where they got to. It also tells students how much time they have spent reading and how many pages they have read in the session. Students can even download up to twenty books to read offline.

We are so lucky to have access to this amazing resource. Happy reading!!!!!!!

AUTHOR VISIT

During the last week of November, some of the students in 4th and 5th class had a virtual visit from the children's book author Anthony Garvey.

During the session, he read from the six books in the Gravespeakers series. He explained how he became an author and offered advice to every child hoping to become the next Roald Dahl or JK Rowling. He also opened the chat facility on Zoom and answered many questions from the students. The students thoroughly enjoyed this session.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PANTO

Unfortunately this year, the pupils of Scoil Bhríde are unable to attend our annual professional theatre performance. This is normally a great day out for the students so we took the decision to purchase the online performance to ensure the students could still be exposed to a professional drama. We are delighted to be able to show "The Sword and the Stone" produced by the Helix theatre company in classrooms from the 16th to the 22nd of December. Hopefully the children will enjoy the show just as much from the comfort of their own classrooms.

SANTA'S VISIT

Santa Claus is extremely busy this year, even more busy than he usually is at this time. However, he has decided to take a small bit of time out of his VERY busy schedule and will make a quick stop to the school to say hello to all the girls and boys from Scoil Bhríde on the 21st of December.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

This year the staff at Scoil Bhríde have made an extra special effort decorating the school. The hard work of our very dedicated and very artistic staff is really appreciated and we cannot thank them enough for their immense efforts. A special mention to Majella Pender, Frank Byrne, Therese Jordan, Fiona Hutchinson, Siobhán Groome and Fiona Brady and a huge thank you to Declan Manley for supplying the Christmas trees.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We would like to bring a bit of festive cheer to Scoil Bhríde on Monday, 21st December 2020, and support a great cause at the same time. We are inviting all children and staff to wear their most "Christmassy" outfit (Christmas jumper, tinsel, elf costume, Santa costume etc.) on this day. We would be so grateful if those who dress up would donate €2. All money collected will be going to the Laura Lynn children's hospice.

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



Newsletter Issue No. 42
10th December 2020

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s),

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter for the 2020/2021 school year.

We are celebrating Christmas with a difference in Scoil Bhríde this year with many of our usual Christmas activities taking on somewhat of a twist! In the coming weeks we will celebrate our Christmas mass via video link and enjoy the panto from the comfort of our classrooms.

Regardless of the changes to our usual Christmas activities we are celebrating with greater cheer than ever with a special effort made to decorate our school with beautiful art work and decorations. I wish to extend a huge thank to our wonderful staff for creating such a magical Christmas spirit around the school. A special mention must go to our SNAs and caretaker Frank for doing such a wonderful job decorating the school and to Ms. Maguire and Ms. Reynolds for the beautiful artwork on our windows.

As we look forward to 2021, we will begin with Enrolment week for prospective students and their families on January 14th. Unfortunately we cannot hold our annual open day this year but will be on hand to answer any questions you have about our school and its facilities. Please feel free to phone 046-9773451 or email enrolment@scoilbhrideps.com

On behalf of the school Board of Management, staff and myself, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a joyous new year.

*Is mise le meas,
Caoimhín Ó Dufaigh (Príomh Oide)*

PHONE / FAX: 046-9773451
Website: www.scoilbhrideps.com
Email: info@scoilbhrideps.com

NOTES FOR PARENTS

CHILD PROTECTION INSPECTION

On the 13th and 14th of October 2020, two inspectors from the Department of Education and Skills visited our school for a follow-up *Child Protection and Safe-guarding Inspection*. Our initial inspection was conducted shortly before the school closed in March 2020. The inspectors looked at all of our plans, policies and procedures relating to Child Protection. They also interviewed staff, and conducted focus groups with some children from each class level. The inspectors were highly complimentary of the school and the measures we have put in place to keep our children safe. We were deemed to be “Fully Compliant” with all Child Protection requirements.

MORNING DROP OFF

Just to remind all parents that the drop off times in the mornings are as follows: 8:50-9:00 for Junior Infants, 1st class, 3rd class and 5th class. 9:00-9:10 for Senior Infants, 2nd class, 4th class and 6th class. 8:50 for Buses and Sonas classes. Please remember no child should be on the premises before 8:50am as there is no supervision provided and children are not insured.

STAFF MEETINGS FOR 2021

Staff meetings will be held on the 26th of January and 20th of April for the coming year. This will require a staggered finish time for all students commencing at 11.45am. More details will follow closer to the dates.

COVID 19 GUIDELINES

We would like to thank all families for their continued co-operation with the schools Covid 19 guidelines. Please remember to not congregate at collection times as much as possible.

ENROLMENT 2021 /2022

Enrolment for the 2021/2022 school year will commence on the 14th of January 2021. Enrolment forms can be requested via email to enrolment@scoilbhrideps.com and are also available at the school reception. Unfortunately, we will be unable to host our annual open day. However, for more information and a virtual look around our school please visit www.scoilbhrideps.com

REOPENING OF SCHOOL

School will reopen after the Christmas holidays at 8.50am on Wednesday, January 6th. We will be looking forward to seeing everyone after a well deserved break!

HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS

Thank you to everyone who made our Halloween fundraiser a huge success. We raised nearly €840! Thank you to everyone involved.

REMEMBRANCE TREE

Our beautiful Remembrance Tree was erected for the month of November to mark “All Souls” month. The tree afforded members of the school community with an opportunity to remember those loved ones who are no longer with us.

ACCEPTABLE USAGE POLICY

A Reminder: in line with the schools AU Policy phones, tablets and any other personal devices are prohibited for use by students on the school grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

HEALTHY EATING POLICY

We would like to remind parents and guardians that we operate a *Healthy Eating Policy* in Scoil Bhríde. We ask that children do not bring in chocolate, sweets, crisps, fizzy drinks etc. from Monday to Thursday. Children are permitted to bring in a small treat on a Friday. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

CHRISTMAS MASS

On Friday 18th, the school will celebrate Christmas with a mass service via video link from St. Mary’s Church, Edenderry. A special thank you to Fr. McEvoy for providing us with this very special opportunity to celebrate mass with him.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We would like to extend a huge congratulations and well done to our current 3rd class students who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday 13th. We hope you had a lovely day of well deserved celebrations.

GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Our school is working very hard to achieve the Travel Flag. On the 23rd October, every class enjoyed taking part in a Witches Walk. It was spooktacular! Also, a big well done to all students who walked, cycled and scooted to school during Clean Air Week. Prizes were given out to each class - well done everyone! We are also delighted to have launched the No Idling Campaign. We hope you will support this by turning off your engine outside the school.

CHRISTMAS INITIATIVES

Given that our usual Christmas celebrations cannot take place as normal we have started some brilliant Christmas traditions in Scoil Bhríde this year. These include the “12 songs of Christmas”, door decorating, video performances and a whole school advent calendar. Thank you to Mr. Hefferman, Mr. Swan and Ms. Morrín for all their help in organising these events.

We also had a very mischievous elf causing all sorts of trouble around the school!!!

