

Scoil Bhríde Newsletter

NO: 58



CHRISTMAS 2024

Principal's Address:

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s),

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our school newsletter. We are full of festive cheer in Scoil Bhríde at the moment with Christmas Pantos, concerts and the return of our mischievous elf, Tinsel, all helping to get us in the Christmas spirit. I would like to commend the children on the hard work and effort that they are putting into perfecting their Christmas plays and performances.

As our first term draws to a close, I would like to thank our staff for all their hard work. Thanks to the teachers for their commitment and dedication to learning in the school, to the SNAs and bus escorts for their care of our pupils, and the ancillary and cleaning staff for all their hard work in the running and upkeep of the school.

As we look forward to January, our first major event will be our Open Evening on Thursday, 9th January 3.00-6.00pm. We aim to provide prospective students and their families with an opportunity to view our school facilities, meet with staff members all while having a fun-filled evening. You can view our prospectus by scanning the accompanying QR code.

Finally, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Board of Management, staff and pupils, I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Is mise le meas,

Caoimhín Ó Dufaigh (Príomh Oide)



REOPENING OF SCHOOL

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

Enrolment for 2025/2026

Our enrolment for incoming Junior Infants takes place from 6th – 27th January 2025.

Enrolment forms can be found on www.scoilbhrideps.com, from our school reception or by contacting the school on 046 977 3451.

Completed forms can be emailed to enrolment@scoilbhrideps.com or posted to Scoil Bhríde Primary School, Killane, Edenderry, Co Offaly.

Forms will only be processed during the enrolment period.

Our Open Evening will take place on 9th of January, 2025, from 3–6pm. We look forward to seeing you then!

Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2025-2026 school year

The following are the dates applicable for admission to Junior Infants

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| The school will commence accepting applications for admission on | 6 th January, 2025 |
| The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on | 27 th January, 2025 |
| The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is | 17 th February, 2025 |
| The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is | 24 th February, 2025 |

NOTE: The school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance with the school's Admission Policy.

**Failure to accept an offer within the prescribed period above may result in the offer being withdrawn*

Special Class Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2025-2025 school year

The following are the dates applicable for admission to the school's Special Class which caters for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

| | |
|--|--|
| The school will commence accepting applications for admission to the special class on | 6 th January, 2025 |
| The school shall cease accepting applications for admission to the special class on | 10 th February, 2025 @ 10am |
| The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application for admission to the special class is | 3 rd March, 2025 |

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|--|------------------------------|
| The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is | 10 th March, 2025 |
|--|------------------------------|

The Lunch Bag

The school has the ability to manage and change lunch orders for the Lunch Bag. If you wish to change/cancel your child's lunch order please do so by contacting reception on info@scoilbhrideps.com or 0469773451

Astro-Pitch Development

We are thrilled to announce that our astro turf is now in use by classes at the school! While it may not be fully completed just yet, we're optimistic that it will be finished in the coming weeks.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who made this dream a reality! A special shout out to all our generous sponsors, the incredible supporters of our fundraising night, the dedicated Parents' Association, and all the staff and parents who sold tickets. Your voluntary donations have truly made a difference in helping us create this wonderful space for our students.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Emerald Pitch Developments for transforming our vision into reality with this fantastic new space.

A special thanks also goes to our talented former pupil, Mark Forde, for creating an impressive video that beautifully showcases this project.

We appreciate each and every one of you for your unwavering support and contributions. We now have a resource that will benefit students for years to come!

Please scan the QR code to watch a short video of our new astro turf pitch. A huge thank you again to all of our sponsors:



| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| McGuinness Maintenance Services | Eden Décor Centre, Edenderry | Playtown, Tullamore | St. Mary's Secondary School | Oaklands Community College | Byrne & O'Sullivan Solicitors, Edenderry | Baucon Kitchens and Wardrobes |
| Edenderry Swimming Pool | Rational Windows and Doors, Edenderry | MSL Healthcare | The Lunch Bag | PMB Construction | Edenderry Credit Union | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| The Stationery Shop, Edenderry | Edenderry Livestock Mart | Anna Marie Boutique, Edenderry | Larkin's Bar and Lounge, Edenderry | Sweeney's Service Station, Edenderry |
| Bargains Galore, Edenderry | Edenderry Power Station | Walsh's Buses, Edenderry | MTC Solutions, Edenderry | Brereton's Fuels, Edenderry |
| Oakline Commercials | | | | |

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|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Cuileann Electrical | William Gorman Plant Hire | Hurst Brothers | Gay Lawton Motors | ABC School Supplies | Logan's Bar |
| Byrne's Bar & Lounge | McGreal's Department Store | Bretland Construction | Fitsquad Gym | Folens Publishers | Marsh Nissan, Tullamore |

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality will be prioritised for us again in Scoil Bhríde in 2025, and we will continue to work closely with Tusla's Education Welfare Officer, David Molloy. Please ensure that your child is at school each day, unless there is a good reason for them to be absent. If your child is absent, please mark the reason for absence on the Aladdin app, or send a note to school with your child. Also, if your child is late for school, please sign them in at reception, and sign them out if they are leaving school early. Thank you for your support and cooperation on this matter.

The New Primary Maths Curriculum

The primary school maths curriculum is changing. The new curriculum offers an engaging, playful, and inclusive learning experience for children, focusing on both the “how” and “what” of mathematical learning. The aim of the new maths curriculum is for children to see maths as important and useful in their everyday lives. Our teachers received training for this new curriculum in the last academic year and will receive further training in 2025. We hope that these changes will bring about a more positive experience of maths for the children at Scoil Bhríde.

Literacy Updates

Some of our local librarians from Edenderry Library visited our Junior Infant classes this month. All the children enjoyed their story time sessions.

First and Second Class pupils took a trip to Edenderry Library. They participated in a scavenger hunt and enjoyed a story in the library.

Fifth Class pupils participated in Creative Writing Workshops with Offaly Fighting Words and wrote their own story called ‘The Wonky Christmas’. They are looking forward to sharing their story with the rest of the school. Mr Brereton’s 6th Class completed the last chapter of their book with the Offaly Fighting Words team. They were presented with a printed copy of their story.

Some of our Fifth Class pupils have started our first school book club and meet every Friday in our school library.

Children’s author Shane Hegarty will be visiting our school on the 23rd of January. Shane will complete two workshops with the 3rd and 4th classes. Shane is the author of many bestselling series including ‘Boot ’ and ‘Darkmouth’. ‘Boot’ was nominated for the Sainsbury’s Children’s Book Prize and the An Post Irish Book of the Year.



Christmas at Scoil Bhríde



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Children are practicing very hard and are preparing to entertain their parents and family members in their magnificent Christmas plays and Singalongs. Please see times for performances below:

| <i>TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER</i> | | <i>WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER</i> | |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 09:30- 10:30 | 2 nd Class Carols | 09:30-10:00 | Junior Infants Carols |
| 10:15-10:45 | 4 th Class Carols | 10:15-10:45 | 3 rd Class Carols |
| 11:30-12:00 | 6 th Class Carols | 11:30-12:00 | Senior Infants Carols |
| 13:15-14:15 | 5 th Class Play | 13:15-14:15 | 1st Class Play |

Santa Visit

We are all looking forward to Santa's big visit. Santa is very busy this time of year but will take some time off to visit the boys and girls of Scoil Bhríde on Thursday, 19th December to wish us all a Merry Christmas. 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.



Christmas Panto

As part of our school's Drama programme, all children in 2nd, 4th and 6th classes had an opportunity to attend a Christmas Panto. The children from 2nd to 6th class attended "Rapunzel" in the Helix. Our Junior classes and some of our Sonas classes enjoyed a trip to Playtown to meet Santa Claus. These outings were thoroughly enjoyed by all students.

Team Hope's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

This year, 140 shoe boxes were donated by the pupils and staff of Scoil Bhríde to Team Hope's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. We are so proud of everyone for the kindness and generosity that was shown. We would like to extend a huge "thank you" to everyone who participated in helping this wonderful cause. Pictured is our Junior Infants helping to load all of the shoeboxes up when they were being collected!



Christmas Cards

Recently our children created their own personalised Christmas cards. We are sure the recipients will be very impressed with the fantastic works of art they receive. Thanks to Ms. Melia and all of the staff who helped to organise this initiative.

School Choir

Our fantastic choir sang in Ofalia House last Friday 13th December. They also sang beautifully at the Parish Carol Service in St. Mary's Church, Edenderry on Sunday last. Well done to all – you did our school proud!

Sensory Santa

A Sensory Santa Grotto was created in the school this year. Students could visit Santa in a calm, sensory-friendly environment within the school environment. Santa visited on Friday the 6th of December.



Tinsel Alert

HE'S BACK! Tinsel has returned to Scoil Bhríde and is causing havoc! Please report any sightings of this mischievous elf to Mr. Duffy before he causes any more trouble!

You can see what Tinsel has been getting up to on the Scoil Bhríde Facebook page.



Peace Proms

On 11th December, our 5th class students travelled to the National Basketball Stadium in Dublin for a workshop in preparation for Peace Proms in the New Year. Peace Proms brings young singers and musicians from all over the country together to perform as one. On this day, the children got the opportunity to sing and dance through the Peace Proms material with renowned conductor Greg Beardsell. They had a wonderful day out and are really looking forward to the Peace Proms concert on the 1st of February @2pm in the RDS Dublin. Tickets for this event can be bought from the following link

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/peaceproms/1448772?>



Remembrance Tree

This year our school marked “All Souls” month in November with our special remembrance tree which was erected in our school foyer. We also held a special remembrance service which afforded members of the school community with an opportunity to remember those loved ones who are no longer with us.

