

Scoil Bhríde Newsletter

SCOIL BHRÍDE



ÉADAN DOIRE
AUTUMN 2025

NO: 61

Principal's Address:

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for the 2025/2026 school year. I hope that all our new pupils, parents and teachers who have recently joined our school community have now settled in well.

I would like to say a big well done and the very best of luck to our girls' football team who have qualified for the Cumann na mBunscol final in O' Connor Park. This will take place after the midterm break, at 1.15pm on Thursday 6th November. Congratulations also to the boys who represented the school so well in their own Cumann na mBunscol competition.

The Primary Gang, our school band, has welcomed some new members this year and they have been rehearsing together since the start of the year. It has been wonderful to hear their music throughout the school. Our new singing group is also up and running, which is fantastic to see. A huge thank you to everyone involved in both of these great initiatives, including Music Generation Offaly and our own talented staff. We look forward to enjoying their performances in the coming months.

Our third, fourth and fifth classes have also been learning the violin with Music Generation, which has been a lovely addition to their musical experience.

I wish everyone a happy, enjoyable and safe Halloween break.

Is mise le meas,

Caoimhín Ó Dufaigh (Príomhoide)

MID TERM BREAK

Scoil Bhríde will close for the Halloween mid-term break from Monday, 27th October to Friday, 31st October. School will reopen at 8.50am on Monday, 3rd of November. We will be looking forward to seeing everyone after a well-deserved break!

Key Information to Know In Relation to Child Protection

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement can be viewed at reception and on the school website at <https://www.scoilbhrideps.com/policies/child-protection-policy/>

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the principal, Mr. Kevin Duffy.
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is the deputy principal, Mrs. Debbie Duffy.

You can bring any matter in relation to child safeguarding for any child in the school to the DLP in confidence.

Please report any issues of concern in relation to the school's child protection procedures to the DLP.

Questions & Answers Relating to Child Protection

- 1) What is the role of the DLP?
The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is responsible for managing child protection concerns within the school, ensuring that any reports or disclosures are handled in line with the Department of Education's Child Protection Procedures.
- 2) Where can the School's Child Safeguarding Statement be viewed?
The school's Child Safeguarding Statement can be viewed at reception and on the school website at <https://www.scoilbhrideps.com/policies/child-protection-policy/>
- 3) Who is the Designated Liaison Person?
Our Principal, Mr. Duffy, is the Designated Liaison Person.
- 4) Who is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person?
Our Deputy Principal, Mrs. Duffy, is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

Bí Cineálta

We're delighted to introduce "Bí Cineálta" — the new national anti-bullying initiative for Irish primary schools. Bí Cineálta means "Be Kind", and it encourages kindness, empathy, and understanding in all areas of school life. The focus on restoring relationships helps build trust, accountability, and a caring school community. By talking about kindness at home, parents can help us make our school a happy and inclusive place for everyone.



Attendance

Attendance and punctuality is a priority for us in Scoil Bhríde and we will continue to work closely with Tusla's Education Welfare Officer, James Maher. 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.

Sacramental Calendar 2025/2026

Please find below the sacramental dates for the year ahead.

First Holy Communion (April 2026)

Saturday, April 25th – 2pm

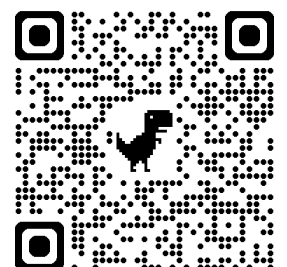
Confirmation (April 2026)

Saturday, April 18th – 2pm



Prospectus

Our school prospectus can be viewed by scanning the accompanying QR code.



School Calendar 2025/2026

<u>August</u> 26th of August – Re-opening of School	<u>September</u> 23rd – Staff Meeting (school will finish at 1:30pm for all students)
<u>October</u> 24th – Halloween Fancy Dress 27th of Oct to 31st of Oct inclusive – Halloween Mid-Term Break	<u>November</u> 4th – School Photographer 18th & 19th – Parent / Teacher Meetings
<u>December</u> - School Closure (Staff Training Day) 19th – Christmas Holidays (school closing at 11.30 am)	<u>January</u> 5th – Re-opening of School 20th – Staff Meeting (school will finish at 1:30pm for all students)
<u>February</u> 2nd – Public Holiday (School Closure) 19th and 20th inclusive – Spring Mid-Term Break 23rd – Re-opening of School	<u>March</u> 6th – School Closure (Staff Training) 16th – School Closure 17th – Public Holiday (School Closure) 27th – Easter holidays (School closing at 11.30 am)
<u>April</u> 13th – Re-opening of School 18th – Confirmation takes place at 2pm. 25th – First Holy Communion takes place at 2pm.	<u>May</u> 4th – Public Holiday (School Closure) 5th – Staff Meeting (school will finish at 1:30pm for all students). 29th – School Closure (Staff Training)
<u>June</u> 1st – Public Holiday (School Closure) 19th – Summer Holidays (School closing at 11.30 am)	<u>July</u> 22nd of June to 17th of July ‘School Summer Programme’ – pending approval of Board of Management & Department of Education & Youth

- In the event that Scoil Bhríde PS has an unplanned closure(s) due to adverse weather conditions, the school may compensate for up to 3 days' closure during the first three days of the Easter Holidays, i.e. the school will remain open on either or all of the 30th and 31st of March, and 1st of April 2025.
- Relevant parents will be notified of School Support Plus meeting times by class teachers / SET
- 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 will be made available on our school website – www.scoilbhrideps.com

Halloween Fancy Dress Fundraiser



On Friday, 24th 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. All money collected will go towards school resources and funding extra-curricular activities.

A huge thank you to Mr. Desmond and Mr. Garvey who volunteered to take part in the Scoil Bhríde "Mummy Challenge" during assembly. Well done to the boys and girls who took part; Ollie, Páidí, McKenzie, Orlagh, Zoe and Maja.

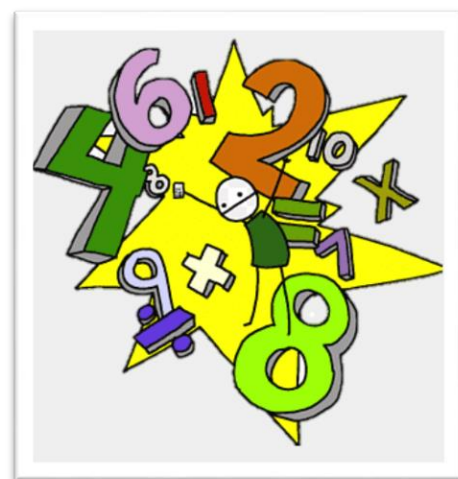


Maths

This term, our pupils have truly discovered how exciting maths can be. Maths Week was a brilliant celebration of creativity, problem solving and fun. Throughout the week, the children enjoyed a variety of hands on activities showing that maths is all around us, from games and puzzles to outdoor challenges and team competitions.

Each class explored maths in playful and engaging ways, with scavenger hunts, shape building, estimation stations and lively quizzes that had everyone thinking and laughing. It was wonderful to see pupils working together, sharing ideas and building confidence as they tackled challenges.

Since Maths Week, that same enthusiasm has continued in our lessons through practical, interactive activities using games, manipulatives and real life problem solving. We hope every child continues to see maths as a subject full of discovery and enjoyment.



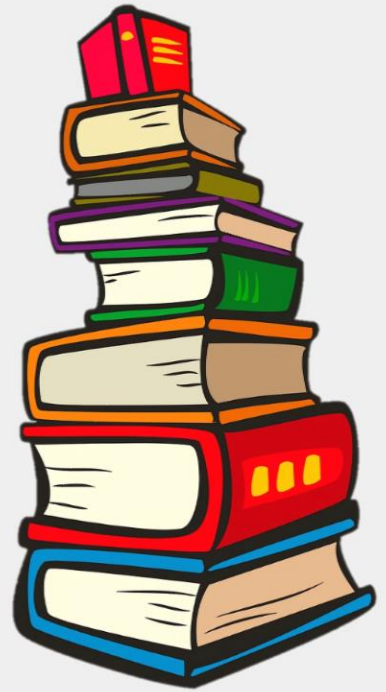
Literacy Updates

This week, Mr O'Connor's Sixth Class pupils completed their first Creative Writing Workshops with *Offaly Fighting Words*. They are delighted to be taking part in the 2025 Story Seeds Project and are looking forward to sharing their story with the rest of the school soon.

A big thank you to Edenderry Library for generously donating a wide selection of books for our new School Outdoor Library — which Frank is currently busy building!

Edenderry Library is hosting a range of fun and exciting book events over the Halloween break — including a Hogwarts Experience, an author visit, and a special Dog Man morning! If you get the chance to pop in, don't forget to register for a library card if you haven't already.

We're also excited to share that our School Library has been restocked with lots of fantastic new books, thanks to the rewards earned from our hugely successful Book Fair last March.



Parents' Association

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the Scoil Bhríde Parents' Association. Their support, hard work and generosity allow many initiatives and events to take place throughout the year.

Cumann na mBunscol

The girls' and boys' football teams have been very busy playing in the Cumann na mBunscol Competition.

The girls team has had a brilliant season so far. They had great wins over Clara, Killeigh and St Marys N S Edenderry, and were only narrowly beaten by Mucklagh in the group stage. Their efforts have earned them a place in the Cumann na mBunscol A Final, where they will play Mucklagh N S at

1.15pm on Thursday 6 November in O' Connor Park in Tullamore.

We would like to wish the girls the very best of luck in the final. The whole school is behind them and we are all very proud of everything they have achieved, win, lose or draw.

The boys' football team had a strong season in the Cumann na mBunscol A competition, playing three matches, against Scoil Eoin Pól Tullamore, St.

Patrick's Edenderry, and St. Francis' Clara. After narrow defeats to Tullamore and Edenderry, the team finished on a high with a great win over Clara.

Twenty eight boys represented Scoil Bhríde with skill, teamwork, and pride, including 14 from 5th class, promising a bright future for next year's campaign.



Thank you to all the teachers and mentors who have taken time out to train these teams.

School Band

The Primary Gang are back! Band members from last year, Finley Ashcroft, Ethan Fox and Charlie Kelly have been joined by new members Edward Manole, Shane Flynn and Rían Duffy. They have been hard at work practicing since we returned to school in September & we are all looking forward to hearing them rock out this year! We would like to thank Music Generation Offaly for helping out with the school band again this year.



Scoil Bhríde Singing Club

**TURN UP THE VOLUME
ON YOUR TALENT!**

Scoil Bhríde's new singing club
4th to 6th class, every Thursday 2.30-3.15
make music and memories with
Music Generation and Mrs Farrell

