

Scoil Bhríde Newsletter

SCOIL BHRÍDE

NO: 61



EASTER 2026

Principal's Address:

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter for this academic year. It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of the second term! As you'll see from this edition, it has been a busy and exciting few months, with plenty happening both in and out of the classroom.

*A highlight of the term was our wonderful music assembly. Our school band, *The Primary Gang*, performed alongside students from 3rd, 4th and 5th classes who have been learning violin through Music Generation. We also enjoyed performances from our singing club and Peace Proms singers, making it a fantastic celebration of music in our school.*

Our senior classes have also been very active. Sixth Class took part in Science Blast, demonstrating great curiosity and creativity in their investigations, while Fifth Class showcased impressive entrepreneurial skills during their Enterprise Day.

Sport and extra-curricular activities continue to thrive in Scoil Bhríde, with great participation in soccer, hurling and camogie training and matches. We also enjoyed wonderful whole-school events such as World Book Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge and our colourful Lá Glas, which brought great energy and enthusiasm throughout the school.

A heartfelt thank you to our parents, staff and the Parents' Association for your continued support throughout the term. As we look ahead to the final term, we wish all our families a very happy Easter.

Is mise le meas,

Caoimhín Ó Dufaigh (Príomh Oíde)

REOPENING OF SCHOOL

School will reopen after the Easter holidays at 8.50am on Monday, April 13th. We will be looking forward to seeing everyone after a well-deserved break!

NUT ALLERGY NOTICE

Reminder that our school is a NO NUT school. Nuts or foods containing nuts are not permitted. We encourage healthy eating every day with a small treat allowed on a Friday.

SACRAMENTAL DATE/TIMES



First Confession:
26th March (during
school)

First Holy Communion:
25th April at 2pm

Confirmation: 18th April at
2pm

School Uniform

As our weather continues to improve, please note that pupils may wear shorts to school on sunny days. Please ensure that your child's shorts are plain black and knee-length. Pupils may wear black shorts, white polo t-shirt and school tracksuit top.

Homework Club

Homework club will run for 6 weeks after the Easter break which will bring us up to the week ending the 22nd of May. Homework club was a great resource this year and was offered to students free of charge. If you would like to give Homework Club a go please contact our HSCL, Mrs. Quinn.

Attendance Update

As a DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) school, we are committed to supporting student attendance and working in partnership with families to ensure every student reaches their full potential.

Regular school attendance is crucial for student success. Research shows that students who attend school consistently are more likely to achieve higher academic outcomes, develop strong social skills, and complete their education. Even a few missed days can affect learning progress.

The National Attendance Strategy requires our school to monitor attendance in a three tiered system and implement various measure at each tier. More information is available in our Attendance Strategy on our school website.

Department of Education Inspection – Positive Report for Scoil Bhríde

We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent Department of Education inspection. The evaluation focused on Attendance and Literacy as part of our DEIS school improvement plan. Overall, the inspectors found that the quality of teaching, learning and school life in Scoil Bhríde is very good.

A Happy and Supportive School

- Pupils are engaged, motivated and enjoy their learning.
- Very positive relationships exist between staff and pupils.
- Children feel safe and know there is always a trusted adult to talk to.
- Wellbeing is central to our school culture.
- Parents reported feeling well supported by staff.

Literacy Highlights

- Strong early support for pupils who need extra help.
 - Excellent teamwork between class and support teachers.
 - A clear focus on promoting a love of reading.
 - Daily reading opportunities and strong use of our school library and outdoor swap library.
 - Very good progress in pupils' reading skills.
- Next Steps: We will continue to strengthen how we share literacy targets with parents and support pupils in improving their own work through clear feedback.

Attendance Highlights

- Significant improvements in attendance, including for pupils who previously found it challenging.
 - Breakfast Club, Homework Club and Nurture supports are making a real difference.
 - Attendance is carefully monitored and families are supported when needed.
- Next Steps: We will further strengthen our whole-school approach to supporting children's readiness to learn each morning and continue refining attendance monitoring systems.

Child Protection

The inspection confirmed that the school meets all required child protection and anti-bullying procedures.

The Board of Management welcomes this very positive report and remains committed to continuing improvement. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping all our pupils to thrive.

Three Tier Approach to Attendance

Tier 1: Satisfactory/Regular Attendance Attending: 95% or more of the time	Tier 2: At-Risk for Chronic Absenteeism Attending: less than 95% but 90% or more of the time	Tier 3: Chronic Absenteeism Attending: less than 90% of the time
<u>Actions For All</u>	<u>Actions For Some</u>	<u>Actions For a Few</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive morning greetings coming into school/class • All classes will avail of a “Soft Start”, this maybe – sunshine start, morning meetings, play, movement breaks, low demand activity, subject of preference, meditation/mindfulness. • Student first approach – meeting basic needs of children before expectation of academic work. • Building positive student/teacher relationships through meaningful connection and engagement. • Begin each day with a positive greeting at the door – classroom/school door. • Breakfast club available to all students from 8.30am to 8.45am. • Homework Club available to students from 2nd to 6th class. • Yearly attendance initiative to be implemented for all class levels. • Positive comments on attendance “I’m glad your back as opposed to “Where were you?”. • Attendance awards for best/most improved attendance for individual/class level. • Promoting our “Be a Hero” Motto <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Here ➤ Everyday ➤ Ready ➤ On time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance letter sent once a student has missed 10 days (monitored every 6/8 weeks). Parents/Guardians encouraged to seek support of HSCL in letter if needed. • Attendance letter sent once a student has missed more than 20 days with information regarding notification to Tusla. • Students missing 20 days included in Tusla Attendance Report. • HSCL to work with students whose absences are in relation to school refusal or those that have missed 20 days or more. • Bespoke measures implemented including Sunshine group/start for classes with identified attendance issues. • HSCL to liaise with SCP to support students with attendance issues on a brief/intake capacity. • Referral to external agencies where necessary and appropriate. • HSCL to dedicate time each morning to support students and their parents/guardians where school refusal is an issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Letter to include individual pie chart visual to be sent when a student has missed 30 days. • Make attendance referral Educational Welfare Officer James Maher once significant cases of absenteeism is identified (40+ days) • Notify parents/guardians of referral and organise attendance clinics. • HSCL to engage in Home Visits to encourage and support school attendance. • In cases of persistent and significant cases of school refusal, the school will consider referrals to Tusla on a case by case basis.

We recognize that school attendance is a partnership between home and school. Your cooperation is vital in helping your child benefit fully from their education. By working together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Bí Cineálta

At Scoil Bhride, Bí Cineálta (Be Kind) is part of everyday life. Pupils are encouraged to show kindness through their words and actions, whether that means including others in play, helping a classmate, or speaking respectfully.

We celebrate acts of kindness across the school and remind children that small actions can make a big difference. By continuing to promote Bí Cineálta, we are creating a positive, inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

Bí Cineálta child-friendly poster which is on display in every classroom in the school.

Positive Behaviour – Green Card System

Scoil Bhríde's Green Wall displays all the green cards earned by our wonderful students for engaging in positive behaviour this term. Well done to everyone who worked hard and displayed positive behaviour to earn a green card!



Our 'Green Wall' located in Reception

Daffodil Day

The Student Council, assisted by Mr. Swan, organised a fundraiser for Daffodil Day to raise money for the Irish Cancer Society. They sold Daffodil Day pins on Friday, 20th March, and set up an online fundraising page. The total amount collected by the fundraiser was €857.



Literacy Updates

This term, we have been busy celebrating reading across the school and promoting a love of books among all of our pupils.

We celebrated World Book Day with a whole-school Pyjama Day. The children enjoyed a range of fun reading activities while relaxing in the comfort of their pyjamas.

As part of our One School – One Book initiative, every class listened to and completed activities based on the book *After the Fall* by Dan Santat. Our school hall was transformed into a reading den for the day, where children enjoyed listening to audiobooks, making paper planes, creating book characters and reading from a wide selection of books.

Our infant classes also enjoyed a special story time session with Claire from Edenderry Library.

Our School Book Fair was a great success once again this year.

Rewards from the book sales will allow us to add even more books to our school library. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the fair.

This term's Reading Superstars will be announced at the school assembly. Each Reading Superstar will be recognised for their great efforts with a certificate and a book of their choice to keep. Finally, our Fifth Class students recently took part in creative writing workshops with Offaly Fighting Words, where they had the opportunity to develop their storytelling and writing skills.

Thank you to all the children and families who continue to support reading at home.

Don't forget to avail of Scoil Bhríde's Outdoor Library, which is a wonderful way for families to enjoy books together.

Word Millionaires!

We added four new Word Millionaires to our library board. **Kali Usher**, **Nicola Janevica**, **Edward Manole** and **Max Simpson** have all read over a million words this year.



Enterprise Day

Well done to our 5th class pupils who hosted a very successful Enterprise Day on Wednesday, 4th March. Our pupils demonstrated wonderful innovation and creativity, with many wonderful products for sale on the day. Conor Fay (5th, Mr. Abbott) won “Most Enterprising Student” and will go on to attend an awards ceremony hosted by the Local Enterprise Office at the end of the month.



Seachtain na Gaeilge & St. Patrick's Day

We had a very busy week in Scoil Bhríde with Seachtain na Gaeilge and the build up to St. Patrick's Day! A huge thank you to Ed Kenny who put on an amazing show for the children on Friday, March 13th. This coincided with our 'Lá Glas'.



Mathematics Updates

Pupils across the school have been thoroughly enjoying using their new Maths Journals in class. These journals give children the opportunity to record their thinking, explain their strategies, and reflect on their learning in a more meaningful way. It has been wonderful to see the creativity and confidence pupils show when representing their mathematical ideas.

Alongside this, the new Primary Maths Curriculum encourages a more hands-on and exploratory approach to learning. Children have been taking part in a variety of practical activities using concrete materials, games, and collaborative problem-solving tasks. These experiences help to deepen their understanding and allow them to actively engage with mathematical concepts.

We are delighted to see such enthusiasm for Maths throughout the school and look forward to continuing to build pupils' confidence and enjoyment in the subject.

Well done to all the 'Marvellous Mathematicians' this term who received their certificates and rewards!

A special congratulations goes to Mr Brereton's class for winning the maths award for their time and effort on Freckle. Your hard work and dedication are fantastic to see. Keep up the great work!

School Tour Dates and Venues

School tour dates and venues will be released in the coming weeks.

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

Extra Curricular

Peace Proms

Congratulations to our 5th class who recently performed in the RDS in Dublin as part of the Peace Proms concert. The children made a great effort to learn several songs and dances over the last few months and did a great job representing Scoil Bhride at the concert which took place in February. Well done to everyone involved.

Cumann na mBunscol

Our hurling and camogie teams are gearing up to compete in the Offaly Cumann na mBunscol hurling and camogie competitions, which will begin after the Easter break. Over the past few months, we've seen fantastic attendance and a great attitude at training on our new astro pitch. We want to wish both teams the best of luck – we have no doubt that they will represent the school with pride.

Soccer at Scoil Bhríde

On Thursday, 26th March, our teams travelled to Tullamore to compete in the FAI 5's competition. The players have been training hard in preparation and we look forward to them representing the school. After the Easter break, our Sonas classes will also be attending the FAI "Football for All" competition.

These opportunities are made possible by the significant time and effort invested by our staff and volunteers. A huge thank you to the teachers who organise the indoor soccer lunchtime leagues and those who lead the boys' and girls' after-school training sessions.

Special thanks also to Gary Quinn, who generously gives up his time every Friday to coach our students. The children thoroughly enjoy these sessions, and the high standard of skill across the school is a direct result of this coaching and the students' own dedication.