# Oscoil Shride Hallowe'en 2020



Hi All. Thank you all for your support and good cheer in these times. We all have to work extra hard to navigate the constantly changing challenges presented to us.

Sticking to the basic rules seems to be the best plan at this time. Proper hand hygiene, cough etiquette "social distancing" and face coverings are important and we all have to shoulder the responsibility - complacency is the enemy.

Please ensure your child does not arrive at school too early.

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Compliments again to the <u>vast</u> majority of parents who drive safely and with awareness and care. The drop offs are working well for the most part. Please see our website for traffic management in the school. Please be vigilant as some drivers are parking precariously and driving selfishly. Upset and congestion is being caused by those parking behind middle row even though there are numerous parking spaces available. In particular parking near the very top of middle row as this is impacting the flow of cars into car park.



The HSE confirmed 2 positive tests for Covid-19 associated with a fourth class and everyone deemed to be a close contact was contacted. All the parents/ guardians of that class were also contacted. Confidentiality and respect is afforded to all and please disregard any nonsense and speculation etc. on anti-"social media". I will share everything I can with parents. The welfare of the school community is paramount.

Please remember the COVID-19 response is being led by the HSE and the school works closely with them and follows all of their directions.

If you/someone in your household is being tested for Covid-19, you ALL must restrict movements while you await your test results, i.e no-one attends work or school.



If you have been identified as a close contact of a person who has tested positive for Covid 19, you should:
(a) get tested (b) restrict movements for 14 days, EVEN IF your test comes back negative.

If your child returns a negative test while there is a positive case in the household, they must await a second test from the HSE 7 days later (If the HSE does not contact you, you must contact them)

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#### **Junior Infant News**

#### Hello Everyone!

We have really enjoyed our first couple of weeks in Junior Infants. We've met lots of new people; Mr. Kelleher (the school principal), Mr. Gallagher (our deputy principal who greets us with a smile - and sanitizer - each morning), our teachers Ms. O'Toole, Ms. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Wright and lots of other friendly faces. Although we were a little nervous at first, we quickly made friends and settled in.

Since the beginning of the year we've been busy learning new sounds and making patterns and sets in Maths. We love Bua na Cainte and our Gaeilge lessons. 'Rólaí Pólaí and 'Lámh, Lámh Eile' are our favourite songs. We begin each morning working with our fingers; cutting and sticking, using peg boards, using multi-links and making patterns with our beads and string. Our fingers are already starting to get stronger.

We enjoyed learning about Autumn over the past few weeks; learning why leaves change colour, why leaves fall off their trees and why Oak trees take so long to grow. We now know that Hedgehogs go into hibernation for the winter months because the weather is far too cold for them.

Last week, we had Maths Week and it was brilliant. We played lots of Maths games and loved working together in our pods.

<sup>\*</sup>a close contact is: -someone living in your household -someone you have been in face-to-face contact with within a 2 metre distance, for more than 15 minutes indoors or outdoors.

We're really looking forward to Halloween and can't wait to get dressed up in our scary costumes.

Happy Hallowe'en everyone and have a lovely week off.

# Senior Infants

Senior Infants have settled back into school very well, all looking very grown-up this year! We have been very busy learning about our personal family trees, the five senses and the colour wheel. We enjoyed identifying signs of seasonal change on our fun autumn walk and have made some lovely hedgehogs and squirrels.

**First Class** have really enjoyed being back in school! We loved doing experiments using our senses. We created optical illusions and we had to guess what the smells were in the mystery jars! We discussed the amazing art of Henri Matisse and made our own paper cut out pictures! After exploring Autumn and going on a nature walk, we made fantastic environmental art pieces. For Space Week, we loved learning about the Solar System and the story of Neil Armstrong. We did a Maths Trail around the grounds of school for Maths Week. We have been playing lots of games to practice our doubles, number facts to ten and subtraction. We are so excited for Hallowe'en!

In **2<sup>nd</sup> Class** we feel very grown up going to our new classrooms upstairs! We have learned lots of exciting things in our first term back. We have been writing reports about animals like tigers and orcas. In geography, we learned all about habitats for local wildlife. We also learned about castles in history. We are making Hallowe'en decorations out of clay and can't wait to bring them home! We really enjoyed maths week, especially the maths trail. We are looking forward to making our First Holy Communion this year.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

We have all settled into 3<sup>rd</sup> class and are happy to be back in school and with our friends again. Our First Confession was held on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 6 months since it was first cancelled on 6<sup>th</sup> of March. We were also delighted to receive our First Holy Communion on the 19<sup>th</sup> (Ms. O'Reilly's class), 20<sup>th</sup> (Mr. Breen's class) and 26<sup>th</sup> September (Mr. Maloney's class). We had a great day with our families – it was worth the wait!!

# 4<sup>th</sup> Class News

We are now in 4<sup>th</sup> Class. A lot of things have changed now because of COVID 19. We have separate pods and bubbles. Each class is a bubble and has 5 or 6 pods. Mr. G says the pods are like treasure islands that we have to keep safe. No one is allowed in. We have to keep our books on the table and we have to try to keep them tidy. Even outside we have to keep one metre apart.

Our yard now is the previous 1st and 2nd Class yard. Because of COVID 19, we are not allowed in the basketball courts, due to social distancing.

Every morning when we come in we have to sanitise our hands and we have to wash our hands before we eat, after coughing and sneezing and after using the toilet.

Ms. Roche's class is reading Kensuke's Kingdom and Ms. Flatley's is reading Awful Auntie. Mr. Maguire's class is learning lots about different types of trees.

#### Our 5th Class News

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Class news this year is... so far we have been adding normal fractions and improper fractions and have been getting our pen licenses. We also learned about the Amazon rainforest and did Amazon art. We then learned really cool facts about the 1960s and learned a song from the Beatles. In Irish we wrote Hallowe'en essays as we are looking forward to Hallowe'en. We had great fun at Maths Week. We did maths mysteries and we played maths games. We also did an outdoor maths trail. We had loads of fun.

## 6<sup>th</sup> class

Sixth class so far has been great. We've done debates, art, Gaelic and have learnt about the Troubles, the Famine and the heart.

We watched a documentary about the Troubles in Northern Ireland and in our pods we did projects about the Belfast and Derry murals. We also did mini projects about the Famine. We have been doing loads of art including clay, painting and drawing. We did clay Earth globes. They were very messy but turned out really good. We also had lots of fun painting our Autumn Birch trees, cow paintings inspired by Eoin O' Connor and designing Hallowe'en masks. We have been having such a good time on the astro playing Gaelic with Kelly the trainer, we have been playing lots of matches and we are learning how to play great Gaelic, thanks Kelly!

Our classes have had such fun writing funny headlines for our 6<sup>th</sup> class newspaper, 'The Kill Times'. We are also learning about debating. We are going to hold a debate on Friday about homework, so, let's see who is going to win.

For maths week, we joined a zoom call with a mathematician, it was great fun. We played a few maths games in class like Pac-man. We also did a mystery and treasure hunt sheet. We loved the maths trail outside around the school too.

# Maths Week 2020

This week (October 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>) was Maths Week. We played lots of maths games like Multiplication dice games and Space factor games. We went on a Maths trail but we could not go inside but it was still fun. On the Maths trail we answered lots of questions like 'How many steps did you take walking around the edge of the Junior yard?' In class we played Maths Mystery. It was lots of fun. We split up in our pods and solved a problem looking at all the clues. This week was very exciting. Each day we watched Maths TV at ten o'clock. On Wednesday there was Maths Magic. It was confusing at the start and then he showed us how it worked.



 $4^{\text{th}}$  Class are reading the questions on their Maths Trail. The boys are playing maths dice games.



 $1^{st}$  Class getting ready to do their Maths trail.  $2^{nd}$  Class are watching the Maths TV activity. By Niall, Scott and Tom ( $4^{th}$  Class)

Please walk to school. If you are cycling, **Wear a helmet.** If you are driving please do not idle your car's engine and remember we have 82 car parking spaces only. Drop off and leave from the drop-off area in the carpark. Use the Church car park and develop healthy habits with your child. Please respect our neighbours and do not use Earls Court or the laneway beside the school as parking area.



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#### Single use plastic:

Just a reminder to remember to continue to use reusable drink bottles in school and no single use plastic bottles! Let's all have a look and see what we can Do and not just say.

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Research around schools in the U.K. have demonstrated decrease in air quality attributed to car engines running idle while in the school grounds. Our playgrounds are **NO IDLING ZONES**!!

It is important to note that when the school is not open for pupils, it is out of bounds to the public. This means no access to the basketball court, All Weather Pitch or grounds in general. This applies to weekends and after school without specific permission of the Board of Management. It is trespassing to be on the premises without permission.

Thanks to Ms. Moynihan, all the contributors and Paula for helping with this newsletter.