

Scoil Shride Hallowe'en 2021



Hi All. We're here again....talking about Covid-19. We are in the fortunate position of having a very well ventilated school with space and while I have no doubt we have Covid-19 cases lurking, with cooperation and constant vigilance, we can keep the wolf from the door. As you know the format of Contact tracing that had run has been discontinued. There is pressure mounting to continue it as the number of cases increases. We will, of course, do our best to make the school as safe as possible. However, we have only been contacted on three occasions of a positive case in classes – by the parents themselves and the HSE, when contacted on the hotline said to maintain vigilance and adhere to protocols etc. Thank you all for your support and - in some cases - tolerance at this time. We all have to work extra hard to navigate the constantly changing challenges presented to us despite the confusing messages from authorities. (Spare a thought for those who have English as a second language. How can they grasp the contradictory messaging we are all receiving?) We are just trying to carry on as best we can and not upset our children. We try reassure them that we are all keeping them safe and we realise there is much anxiety out there at the moment.

Sticking to the basic rules seems to be the best plan at this time. Proper hand hygiene, cough etiquette “social distancing”, face coverings and VENTILATION 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. Please model best practice in front of the pupils.



Substitution Issues.

Many, but not all teacher absences are substitutable. Since last academic year and for this academic year the Department has allowed some absences to be substituted that previously were not allowed. (Last academic year, if a substitute was not available, the school could “bank” those hours and use them again when a substitute became available. This was moderately beneficial but surprisingly ceased for this academic year. We all heard through the media. When I become aware of a teacher absence I have 4 options after I check whether the leave is substitutable or not. 1. We are in a cluster of 19 schools to avail of a Substitute Group. 2. I also have my own separate list of substitutes. 3. **Subseeker** is with the Irish Primary Principals’ Network (IPPN) and 4. Our I.N.T.O. union has **Teacher Connect**. We have struggled to get substitutes and often we have no choice but to use our Special Education Teachers to fill the gap. This is a common practice. Our Deputy Principal, Mr. Gallagher has substituted for teachers on many, many occasions. I have also taken classes but nothing like Mr. Gallagher’s number. The issue has been brewing for a number of years and first reared its head when a 3-year course became a 4-year course. There was a sudden shudder in the system and it has not really recovered. Rest assured we are trying our best to prioritise the needs of the pupils – as always - and we were all disheartened to hear inaccuracies and declarations about the problems shared in the media. (while in classes once again, I am very impressed with many excellent, appropriate healthy lunches. Some parents should really publish a Healthy interesting Lunches book)☺

Covid Learning And Support Scheme (CLASS)

The Department of Education has launched an initiative where school are given additional teaching hours to best support some children who may have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19. We hope to run this after Hallowe’en.

MOBILE PHONES and Tablets

Mobile Phones and Tablets are great and really useful. Few words to the wise, if your child is due to get one, download an app that gives you information and control over the phone and agree its usage well in advance of purchase. Have that conversation! Don’t fall prey to ‘pester power’. Not everyone is getting one! There is increasing evidence suggesting the earlier the introduction of phone/Tablet devices in a child’s life (aged 8, 9), the less well they fare in literacy and numeracy as well as other developments.

Also, ask yourself – what could my child be doing or learning instead of them being on the phone? How might they be missing out on say creativity?, boredom?, imaginative games?, conversation?, activity? etc. while they are often being just end-users on the phone? Please also realise that unless you have filters, your child will get access to unsuitable/ explicit material. Make sure you’re comfortable with that. Don’t live in denial.

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Junior Infant News

Hello Everyone! We have really enjoyed our first couple of weeks in Junior Infants. 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, sorting by colour and making sets in Maths. We love Bua na Cainte and our Gaeilge lessons. We loved learning 'The Wake Up Song' and the dance to 'Best Day of My Life'. We enjoyed learning about Autumn over the past few weeks; learning why leaves change colour, why leaves fall off their trees and all about the hedgehog and the squirrel. Our class Autumn walk was a highlight of this month. We now know that Hedgehogs go into hibernation for the winter months because the weather is far too cold for them and that the squirrel's teeth never stop growing! We are playing lots of games for Maths week this week! We are making a cool fireworks picture out of 2D shapes. We're really looking forward to Halloween and can't wait to get dressed up in our scary costumes. Happy Hallowe'en everyone!!



Senior Infant News



We have been working super hard in Senior Infants since we came back! We have looked at all things Autumn and went on a lovely Autumn walk. We are really looking forward to Halloween, especially dressing up on Friday in school! We have done loads of Halloween art to make our classrooms look particularly spooky! We have also been enjoying Maths week and logged onto a zoom call with other schools around Ireland where we played Maths games together and worked out some Maths problems!! We have also loved using our Beebots. We hope everyone has a safe and happy Halloween!!!!





First Class News

We really enjoyed our first few weeks in 1st class. We are adjusting well to having an extra hour in school! In Science, we enjoyed the experiments about our senses. We had to predict what we thought was in the cups by shaking them. We also enjoyed the experiment where we observed what happened after a few days to celery in a jar of water and red food



that it is Autumn, we got to go on an Autumn walk. We looked out signs of Autumn around us, of leaves on our walk! We are so get to visit the school library again get to visit every week. We went on for maths week and we are enjoying fun activities this week. We are so Hallowe'en and getting to dress up!

Happy Hallowe'en everyone!



colouring! Now for all the collecting lots happy that we this year and a Maths Trail all the extra excited for





2nd Class News

We are enjoying 2nd class so far and are having lots of fun. We are feeling very grown-up with our classrooms upstairs this year! We have started learning to write in cursive which we are very excited about. We can't wait to learn how to write our names in cursive. We are looking forward to making our First Holy Communion this year, and have already started practising some prayers. We are enjoying Maths Activities for Maths Week.



Third Class News

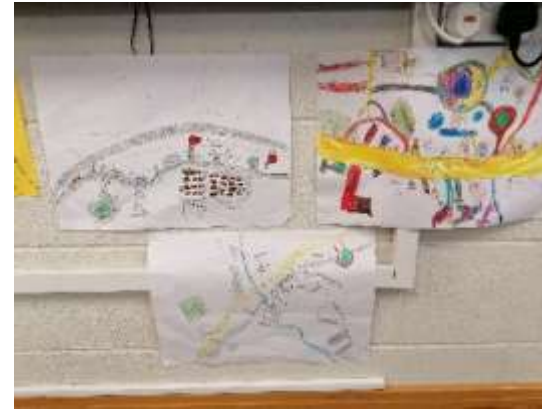


All 3rd class children have settled back into school life with great enthusiasm. Our big event for this term was our First Holy Communion which took place on September 25th and October 2nd. It was a beautiful ceremony and we got to celebrate at long last with family and friends.

In class we have been learning about our local area and creating maps of Kill.

We have also been learning about our heart. We measured our heart rate and compared it with before and after exercise. We investigated tooth decay and the effects of different drinks on our teeth. To do this we placed eggs in cups of water, coke, coffee and vinegar. The results were very interesting and we will be sure to take care of our teeth!

In maths we have been investigating symmetry. We created some Autumn pictures of



symmetry in the environment.

Maria and Ross's Class

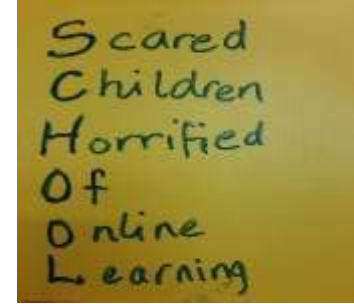
Maria's class are very excited for the Halloween holidays! We have been learning about Autumn and Hallowe'en. We went for an autumn walk. The children are having fun doing some spooky activities. They found some spiders in their jelly! They can't wait to dress up and have a party!

Ross's class also made playdough, mixed colours and learned about different types of houses. The children have enjoyed learning about Autumn too and are really looking forward to Halloween



Fourth Class News

Fourth Class have been very busy over the past few weeks. We have been learning about the Continents and Oceans of the World. Ms. Christian's Class have been working with an Artist Marta Golubowska constructing dioramas of different Continents and learning about endangered animals within these regions. Ms. Farry's Class loved learning about Light and enjoyed making and comparing Sun Shadows at different times during the day. Ms. Roche's Class have really enjoyed making mnemonics for new spelling words. There was great excitement over the last few days when Classes elected their representatives for the Student Council.



Fifth Class News

We have really been enjoying the first two months in 5th Class. After 2 years with our previous teachers, we were very excited meet our new teachers. We have been very lucky to be some of the first classes in the school to be given the chance to take part in GAA training with an external coach. We have also been work hard on our handwriting, hoping to be chosen to get a pen license! We have been learning a lot in Maths, practicing long multiplication, division, fractions, and tables, and we are now learning how to measure angles. This week is also maths week, so we are really looking forward to taking part in some of the games and challenges organised by Ms. Buckley and Mr. Carty! We have also really enjoyed exploring problem solving using the IZAK-9 cubes. We have been completing some Hallowe'en art over the last couple of weeks in preparation for Hallowe'en 2021 (we can actually do trick or treating again this year!) and we are very excited to dress up in school on Friday!



6th class News

6th class, the year of Confirmation and Graduation has got off to a busy start. We have been learning about the structure of the Earth, from the crust to the mantle to the core. We then made clay models of Earth and painted them. We really enjoyed making them.

We've also been exploring the history of the Olympics following the successful year Ireland have had in Tokyo, Japan. We also explored the life of Malala Yousafzai, from Pakistan and her work to find peace in war-torn Afghanistan against the Taliban. She is only 24 and has won a Nobel Peace Prize already which is very impressive!

We have been improving our GAA skills with Kelly from Kildare GAA every Tuesday on the Astro-turf pitch, looking at hand passing and kick passing. There are some future Kildare GAA stars in the making! Thank you, Kelly! Furthermore, lots of 6th class boys and girls have joined Kill GAA hurling and camogie. Keep it up everyone! We're hearing great things about you!

Ms Holland's class have decorated the Secret Garden for Hallowe'en and it looks very spooky!!! 😊 We look forward to what's in store for the garden at Christmas and Easter.

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 6th class where we will hopefully be able to organise some events, Covid regulations permitting.

Choir

It is just wonderful to have our school choir back singing on Wednesdays at lunchtime with Ms. Moynihan and Mr. Maguire. We are delighted to have Ms. Collier lending us her musical talents this year also and helping with the choir. We have great enthusiastic singers and look forward to a great year of singing and fun! Here's hoping we get to do little performances during the year.

School Band

Calling all children who play a musical instrument – We are very excited to start up a Scoil Bhríde music band! Stay tuned for details of when to audition for this!

If anyone has any donations of amps, leads, guitars and bass guitars in good condition and not being used at home we would greatly appreciate it.

First Holy Communion

So lovely to see all the children in our current 3rd classes receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion at the end of September. You all looked great and we hope you all had a fantastic Communion weekend. Thank you to the teachers involved; Ms. S Tuohy, Mr. Carty, Ms. O'Reilly and Ms. Feeney and all involved in making the day special.

Confirmation

Congratulations to last year's 6th classes on receiving the sacrament of Confirmation recently. Thank you to Ms. Finnegan, Ms. Farry, Ms. Holland and all involved. The children looked wonderful and it was so lovely to see you all again.

Green Schools' Committee

We are taking part in The Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year. The Christmas Shoeboxes must be in before November the 5th. We will be sending a link through Aladdin in which the labels can be downloaded and printed at home to help reduce paper usage in our school. As our green flag this year focuses on global citizenship it is important that we do our part and help vulnerable children across the world. Ms. Holland's 6th class have been very busy helping to decorate our indoor secret garden by replanting the garden beds and decorating the windows for Hallowe'en. We are having great fun weeding different areas around the school and planting wildflowers. Wildflowers are important because they provide food for bees during the summer. Thank you to all the 4th class members who are doing a fantastic job on litter patrol and keeping our school litter free. Remember to continue recycling over the Hallowe'en break.

Have a fang-tastic Hallowe'en.



Student Council

We are delighted to be able to get the Student Council up and running again this year in Scoil Bhríde. We have just elected our members for the coming year and are looking forward to getting involved in some exciting projects. Our Student Council is made up of children from 4th - 6th class. Our members were chosen very carefully by their classmates to represent all the children in our school. Our new committee members are; Mr. Maguire and Ms. Cooney's Class - Georgia Condrón and Liam Youd, 6th Class, Ms. Jameson - Jayden Bradley and Chimwi Obuseh, 6th Class, Ms. Holland - Lacey Moran and Aaron O'Brien, 6th Class, Mr. Kelly - Conor Braiden and Anna Moran, 5th Class, Ms. Finnegan - Luke Moran and Hannah Rose O'Hara, 5th Class, Ms. Moynihan - Ryan Seale and Lexi Morrín, 5th Class, Mr. Breen - Ella Fagan and Andy Gavin, 4th Class Ms. Roche - Rián Fay and Jessica Carey, 4th Class, Ms. Farry - James Moylan and Ellen Moran and 4th Class Ms. Christian - Orla Youd and Katie Hayward.

We are looking forward to getting to work after the mid-term break!

Aladdin E-payments

Thanks to all for making e payments via Aladdin in the last week. As we all get used to this it will make the payment of items to the school much easier for you and the school.

Please make sure to fill in your full address when making a payment. This is a regulatory feature to ensure extra security whilst paying.

If you receive an 'ERR 503' this could be because of entering the address incorrectly. If this continues to occur, try the payment on another device and it should work correctly.

Attendance Notes on your Aladdin App:

We have now updated the 'Attendance & Notes' Section of your Aladdin App. You can now also enter reasons in advance for a future absence or if your child will be late or leaving school early, which will save on writing any notes into school. Thank you!

Compliments again to the vast majority of parents who drive safely and with awareness and care. Please see our website for traffic management in the school. Please be vigilant as some drivers are parking precariously and driving selfishly. "Confusion and Delay" (to quote *Thomas the Tank characters*) 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.



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 ☹️ 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 !!**

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 Earl's Court or the laneway beside the school as parking area.

Single use plastic:

Just a reminder to remember to continue to use reusable drink bottles in school and **no single use plastic bottles!**

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.

Happy Hallowe'en everybody 😊

Brendan Kelleher and Staff