



Bikes and Scooters

It's fantastic to see so many children cycling and scooting to school! There are racks at the back of the school where bikes and scooters can be left safely during the school day. Since there are lots of little people in the yard at the beginning and end of the school day, please make sure that children walk with their bikes and scooters in the yard to keep everyone safe. Also we recommend that children wear helmets when on the move.



making some Hallowe'en decorations

Movie night

Prior to mid-term the PTA organised a Movie Night in school for all the classes. Everyone dressed up in their Hallowe'en costumes and watched a movie with their friends while munching on some goodies! It was great fun and most enjoyable. A huge thank you to the PTA and the staff who helped out on the night.



5th Class having fun after competing in Orienteering before mid-term

Welcome back!

It's hard to believe that it's November already and as John told us today, there are only 48 more sleeps until Christmas! I hope that everyone had a lovely mid-term break and has come back to school fully rejuvenated for the remainder of the term.

We have a lot to fit in for the rest of the term and I'm sure those 48 days will fly by! Of course the big event is our annual **Christmas Fair** which is the highlight of the school year and takes place this year on the 8th December. It's a good time to start doing a pre-Christmas clearcut, we will be accepting donations for the fair from Monday 27th November.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the setup and running the stalls. Even if you can't help on the day of the fair, perhaps you could help by providing a raffle prize or a few hours to help sort through donations. There will be a meeting for anyone who can help on Tuesday 14th November at 8.30 a.m. in the school. Please don't be shy, it's a great way to get to know other parents and be a part of this great, fun day!

Mrs. Perdue



Late for School!

School officially starts for all pupils at 8.20 and formal instruction begins at 8.40 a.m. This teach le chéile time is a valuable part of the day which allows the children to get to chat with their friends, play, and prepare for the day ahead; if they're late they miss this vital social interaction.

It is also important that children are on time for school as it can be embarrassing for the child to arrive once the school day has started and everyone is already engaged in the work of the class. It can cause many children unnecessary stress to be always late as well as being disruptive to the class.



Parents of pupils who arrive after 8.40 are required to sign the child in at the school reception.

Please make a special effort to get your child in to school on time.

Wellbeing Week

We were really proud to have been awarded the Amber Flag by Pieta House for promoting positive mental health.

We are having a Wellbeing Day on Monday 13th November and will be focusing on our mental and physical health that day. Thank you to Ms. Storey and Ms. Farrell for leading this.

Book Fair

Our recent book fair was a terrific success and we raised €2352 which can be spent on restocking the class libraries and other books. Thank you to 6th class who were a great help.

On Friday we dressed up as characters from books and held a parade in the school yard. There were some terrific costumes showing a high level of creativity!



Parent Teacher Meetings

Our annual Parent Teacher Meetings will take place in the school hall on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th November. School will end early for pupils on Friday 24th at 1 p.m. Each meeting will last for 10 minutes per pupil.

It is imperative that everyone is punctual and keeps to their time. If you are late, additional time will not be allocated and you will have a shortened meeting!

You will be able to book the meetings on line - details will be sent soon.

The parent teacher meetings are to discuss your child's academic progress - if you have any other issues which you wish to discuss with the teacher, you should make a separate appointment for another time.

5th and 6th class children should attend the meeting with their parents. This is to encourage the children to be part of the conversation about their own learning and to foster independence in preparation for the transition to secondary school.



PTA AGM

The PTA AGM will take place on Monday 27th November at 7.30p.m in the school.

We are delighted to welcome co-author of the Weaving Wellbeing Programme, Fiona Forman, who will give a talk on raising resilient children. Fiona is passionate about children’s wellbeing and mental health and we hope that there will be a great turnout to hear her speak.

BoM Elections

The present Board of Management will end its term of office on the 31st November this year and the new board will take over on the 1st December. The election of two parents, one mother and one father, to act as parent nominees on the board will take place at the PTA AGM on Monday 27th November.

Nominations will be sought at the meeting. Parents may self-nominate or be nominated and each nominee must be seconded by a person in attendance. If there are more than one nomination for each panel, a secret ballot will be held at the meeting.

Choir

The choir had its first outing when it sang at the family service in church in October and the children were really great! The choir is due to sing again on the 19th November and has also been invited to sing at the Parish Lunch on the 12th December.



The Junior Choir

Grandparents’ Day

We were delighted to be able to host Grandparents’ Day once again on the day that we broke up for mid-term. Lots of grandparents and older friends and relatives were able to come. 6th Class were excellent hosts and helped out with all aspects of the visit. Each class entertained the guests in the hall as well as showing off their classrooms. Everyone had a great day!



Diocesan Service

The Diocesan Service for schools in the Dublin and Glendalough Dioceses takes place on Thursday 9th November in Christchurch Cathedral. Ten of our 6th class pupils are invited to represent the school at the service. This service is a lovely occasion with children from schools all over the joint dioceses joining together in the cathedra.

Christmas Plays

The Christmas Plays in Junior & Senior Infants and Ranganna 1 & 2 are such an integral part of the run up to Christmas in school and are loved by all. This year the plays will take place in the school hall on **Wednesday 20th December**.





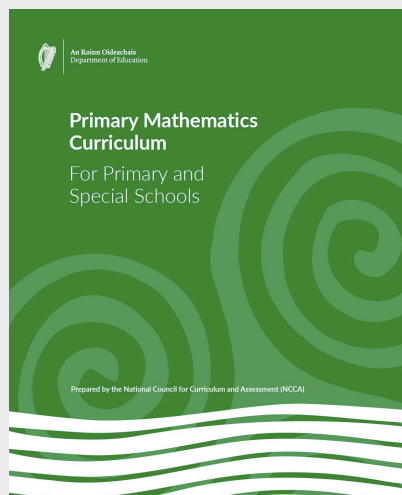
Voluntary Contributions

The Board of Management is very grateful to parents who help financially through the voluntary contribution. Since the school is a registered charity we can also claim tax back from Revenue through the CHY scheme.

School finances are under pressure as a result of rising costs and the Board of Management is hugely thankful to those of you who have contributed.

School closure

School will be closed on **Thursday 14th December** to facilitate teacher professional development on the new Primary Maths Curriculum.



Lost property

We continue to accumulate a mountain of lost property! While we try to reunite items with owners it's amazing how many children don't recognise their own clothes. PLEASE, please, please take a minute to name your children's belongings so that there's some hope of matching owners to lost property

DATES AT A GLANCE

8th November: 4th class trip to Brú na Bóinne

9th November: Diocesan Service for 6th class

13th November: Wellbeing Day

18th November: Parish Winter Fair

22nd-24th November: Parent teacher meetings
(*school closes at 1p.m on Friday*)

28th November: 5th Class trip to Peter Pan

8th December: CHRISTMAS FAIR

12th December: Choir singing at parish lunch

14th December: school closed for teacher CPD

17th December: Family service, Rathfarnham Parish
(*choir singing*)

20th December: Junior Christmas Plays

21st December: School Christmas Carol Service

22nd December: School closes for Christmas holidays at 12 noon.

8th January 2024: School re-opens for new year.