



SCOIL MHUIRE NEWSLETTER

When we said goodbye to Zoom assemblies and online work at the end of June we really had no idea when, or even if, we would be back. Thankfully we were able to open our doors and we have now successfully completed the first half-term. Fingers crossed that, despite the new Level 5 restrictions, we will be able to continue as we have begun. It has been fantastic to have the children back in school and they really seem to enjoy being back. It has been a real team effort and, on behalf of the Board of Management, I would like to thank all the parents, guardians and our pupils for responding so well to the new protocols and for your help in keeping everything working smoothly. Thank you to all the parents that helped get the school ready for reopening and helped with the rearrangement of our school library. A special thank you to Colm Geoghegan for his work in the courtyard. Thank you so much to the wonderful teachers and staff of the school who have adapted incredibly well to the strange circumstances and new procedures to help your children settle back in and to keep them all safe and well. They really have gone above and beyond.

As well as welcoming our pupils back, it was the first day of school ever for a new cohort of Junior Infants who started with Ms Shinnors. They are settling in really well and having great fun! We also had new pupils start in our brand new Special Class for children with ASD with Ms Reardon. We also had a couple of new pupils further up the school too!

It's not just new pupils, as we have welcomed a number of new staff members to the



Our new Jnr Infants!

Scoil Mhuire family too, Ms Reardon in our new ASD class and Ms Dunne in 6th, who is deputising for Ms Brennan. We also have two new SNAs, Dervla and Julie. I hope you all you have a lovely Hallowe'en break and manage to have some spooky fun at home! Thank you so much for all of your help and support - Peter

Changes!

Since the summer there have been some considerable changes to school and grounds. In August 'Helping Hands' installed a new outdoor area which looks absolutely beautiful and has allowed them to provide much of their early education outdoors. It also provides the school with a wonderful facility that we will have for years to come.

Towards the end of September we installed a new sensory room in the school to provide a space for children with sensory needs to both explore and unwind. This was part funded with a grant from the Department of Education & Skills and part funded through fundraising efforts that have taken place over the past few years. A special thank you to Darren McCarville for building a new partition wall and for fitting new doors and to Fergus Byrne for his plastering work.



We have also very recently installed a new agility trail / obstacle course at the front of the school. The children already love it! It's a great way to have fun and stay active at the same time! This was funded entirely by you through your support of various fundraising initiatives over the past few years - thank you very much! A special word of thanks to the Parents' Association as it was they who organised and ran these events. They spent countless hours looking for sponsors, organising events, arranging tickets & prizes and much more - all in their own time. A special word of thanks to Sarah Hudson for supplying some of the ground materials and to Richard O'Neill for clearing out the excess soil.

1st Communion

Congratulations to the children of Ms Kenny & Ms Mescall's 3rd class who finally celebrated their 1st Holy Communion in two wonderful ceremonies in our local church on Saturday 26th of September. Thank you so much to Fr. Joe for making both ceremonies so special and thank you to Ms Mescall & Ms Kenny for preparing the children so well.



Covid-19

Thank you, once again, for your co-operation so far with all the new procedures that we have had to put in place to mitigate the risk of spreading Covid-19. Our Parents' Guide to these procedures has been updated since the start of the new year with a major update concerning remote learning in the event of a full or partial Covid-19 related school closure to be published very shortly. To keep up with this and other Covid-19 and Return to School matters, please check the special section of our school website at the following address:

Please do not send your child to school if:

- Your child has a high temperature (38 degrees Celsius or above)
- Your child has a new cough or loss or changes sense of taste or smell or shortness of breath
- Your child has no symptoms of Covid-19 **but** is living in a household with someone who has symptoms/is suspected of having Covid-19
- Your child has no symptoms of Covid-19 **but** is a close contact of a proven case
- Your child has been outside the island of Ireland in the previous 14 days
- Your child has vomited or had an episode of diarrhoea within the past 48 hours.
- Your child is sick

Please remember that if you have been referred for a Covid-19 test by your GP your entire household must restrict their movements and no-one from the household should come to school until told otherwise. If you have any queries about whether or not your child should come to school, please phone the office on (045) 864085 or email: office@bmesch.ie

Class Dojo

All classes in the school are using Class Dojo to assign homework. Please ensure that you are familiar with Class Dojo as this will be main learning platform used in the event of any full or partial school closure due to Covid-19. Each child has their own login code, which has been printed and laminated for them. If this is misplaced, please let us know. If you haven't yet connected with your child's class on Class Dojo you can do so at the following link: <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?s=56373e53a9d894c0104ac6e0> or by responding to the invitation that was emailed to you. There are tutorials on using the app/website on our school website - <http://www.bmesch.ie/covid-19-hub.html>.

Reminders

Uniforms / Clothes: Please ensure that all items of clothing – uniforms, jackets, sports gear etc. – are labelled with your child’s name. We have already had a number of jumpers, coats and other bits left behind with no names on them.

Car Park: When parking please do not park at school exit or in the bus area. Please encourage your children to only cross the road at the pedestrian lights.

Attendance: As per Túsla regulations, we are still required to collect notes for absences. These can be emailed directly to your child’s teacher or to the office at office@bmesch.ie. Please ensure that the note contains the date(s) of, and reason for, any absences.

Twitter: Following the school on Twitter is a great way to keep up with all the latest news. Our handle is [@BallymoreEusNS](https://twitter.com/BallymoreEusNS). Our Twitter feed is also displayed on our school website too (<http://www.bmesch.ie>) so you’ll never have to miss out on the latest goings-on!