

French Classes

Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Evans will begin French Classes for Senior Infants who wish to learn French in October. The lessons will take place on Wednesdays from 1.30pm —2.00pm and will continue for four weeks.

Rugby coaching

Rugby Coach — Patsy O' Gorman has recommenced his rugby training sessions with First, Second, Third and Fourth Classes on a weekly basis. These sessions continue for ten weeks and pupils are reminded to wear their school P.E. Uniform on the day their class is involved with rugby training.

Insurance scheme

Parents who wish to avail of the Pupils' Insurance Scheme should return their details and the appropriate amount of money to their child's class teacher on or before Friday 28th of September.

School photographs

The photographer will be arriving in the school on Monday 24th of September. All children should wear their full school uniform. Family photographs can be facilitated.

attendance

All absences from school should be explained to the class teacher in writing by a parent/guardian. A record of all absences is maintained by the school. The effect of absences on a child's progress and behaviour will be documented. Under the Education Welfare Act (2000), the school is legally bound to report to the Welfare Board any child who is absent from school for 20 days or more. Where there is no justifiable reason parents are liable to prosecution by the Welfare Board.

List of School Closures & Events

August	September <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd – Re-opening of School• 24th – School Photographs• 25th – Staff Meeting (School closing at 1.30 pm)
October <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26th – Halloween Fancy Dress• 29th Oct. – 2nd Nov. Inclusive – Halloween Mid-Term Break	November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 28th / 29th – Parent / Teacher Meetings
December <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13th – Christmas Concert• 21st – Christmas Holidays (school closing at 11.30 am)	January <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7th – Re-opening of school• 22nd - Staff Meeting (School closing at 1.30 pm)
February <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14th & 15th - Spring Mid-Term Break	march <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18th – Public Holiday (School Closure)• 22nd– Easter Holidays (school closing at 11.30 am)
April <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8th – Re-opening of School• 23rd - Staff Meeting (School closing at 1.30 pm)	may <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6th – School Closure• To be Confirmed - First Holy Communion
June <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd — Public Holiday (School Closure)• 26th – Summer Holidays (school closing at 11.30 am)	July <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27th June to 24th 'July Provision for pupils with ASDs' - pending approval of Board of Management & Department of Education & Skills

◆ In the event that Scoil Bhríde PS has an unplanned closure(s) due to adverse weather conditions, the school may compensate for up to 3 days closure during the first three days of the Easter Holidays, i.e. the school will remain open on either or all of the 25th / 26th / 27th of March 2013.

◆ Please note that some Staff Meetings / Parent – Teacher Meetings / School Planning Development Days that took place during school hours will now take place outside pupils' tuition time as part of the Croke Park Agreement.

◆ In consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Management, the Principal reserves the right to make any future amendments to this list of closures and events.

◆ Relevant parents will be notified of Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting times by class teachers / resource teachers.

◆ The school calendar is also available on our school website.– www.scoilbhrideps.com

Scoil Bhríde Primary School Carrick Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue No. 8
18th September 2012

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Board of Management and staff I would like to sincerely welcome you all back to another school year. I especially welcome all our new pupils and parents who have recently joined our school community this year. I also welcome our new teachers and Special Needs Assistants who have joined us following their appointments during the summer holiday period.

This school year is destined to be an historic one for Scoil Bhríde PS. I have recently been in contact with the Office of Public Works (OPW) for an up-date on their plans to commence the construction of our new 30 classroom school. I am delighted to inform you that the planning and preparation for building by the OPW is all going according to plan thus far. It is the intention of the OPW to hand over the completed school building to the Board of Management in mid-August 2013. The building will then be occupied by our pupils and staff approximately two weeks later when we return from our summer break.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our pupils, parents and staff for their co-operation in ensuring such a smooth start to this school year. I wish one and all a very enjoyable and productive school year.

Is mise le meas,

Caoimhín Ó Dúfaigh (Príomh Oide)

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NOTES FOR PARENTS

communication

Communication between home and school is very important. Parents should feel free to talk to their child's teacher at any time during the school year. However, in the interest of ensuring the safety of all pupils, teachers cannot meet parents at classroom doors. If you would like to meet your child's teacher an appointment should be arranged at a mutually agreeable time. In the event that a resolution is not reached, meetings can then be arranged with the school principal, again, **by appointment only** (Parents are advised to contact the school at the phone number overleaf to arrange an appointment with the teacher/principal).

We would ask that parents do not contact the Principal and/or staff to seek information or arrange meetings outside of school hours, including weekends, public holidays and/or during school holiday periods. The Principal and staff do not have access to pupils' records during these times. Should parents require documents to be completed or signed this can only be facilitated during school hours.

Morning lines

We would like to remind parents to move to the side near the exit when the first bell rings at 8:50 am. Teachers walk with their pupils in an orderly line into the appropriate building following the second bell.

Health and safety

In the interests of '*health and safety*' we ask that:

- parents do **not** smoke on school grounds.
- pets are **not** to be brought onto school grounds.

Homework club

Mr. McDonnell, Mr. Spain, Mr. Carney and Mr. O' Regan are delighted to inform you that an after school Homework Club will be commencing on Monday the 24th of September. The Homework Club will be made available for children from First to Fourth Class. Study will commence at 2:30 pm each day and conclude at 3:30 pm. The Homework Club will take place each week up until the Christmas holidays. It will be supervised by teachers at all times in a quiet atmosphere conducive to study. Those students who finish their work early will be further challenged by teachers with literacy and numeracy activities.

Payment for the club can be made to your class teacher in a sealed envelope labelled '*Homework Club*'. Payment options for your child/children include the following;

- ◆ An upfront payment of €150 can be made to cover 12 weeks of Homework Club up until Christmas.
- ◆ Alternatively a payment of €75 may be made upfront and the remaining amount can be paid on the first week of school after the midterm.

We would like to remind parents that places in the Homework Club are limited, and will be provided on a first come first serve basis.

supervision

The hours of supervision at Scoil Bhríde Primary School are from 8:50 am to 1:30 pm (Junior & Senior Infants) and from 8:50 am to 2:30 pm for all other classes. We ask parents to promptly collect their child at 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm respectively. The school cannot be responsible for children outside of these hours. Therefore we remind parents that children should not be brought to school prior to 8.50 am on wet mornings.

Outstanding fees

Parents are reminded to send in all outstanding fees for their child's *Book Rental/Art and Photocopying/Testing* on or before Friday 28th of September.

School choir

Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Keane and Ms. Byrne are involved with the Scoil Bhríde Primary School Choir. The choir will practice each Thursday afternoon from 2pm—3pm. The first choir practice will commence on the 4th of October.

School Band

Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Coleman will recommence practice with the children who are members of the School Band on Tuesdays from 2:30pm—3:15pm. The first practice will commence on the 2nd of October.

Outstanding achievement

Scoil Bhríde Primary School would like to congratulate Naoise Colvin, a Third Class pupil for her great achievement in coming Second in an International Sport Competition in Kickboxing in Telford this summer. Well Done Naoise!

Primary curricular aquatics

Ms. Hannon organised swimming lessons for pupils in First, Second, Third and Fourth Classes which commenced on the 12th of September. The lessons continue each week for six weeks. Lessons cost €16. This can be paid in full or weekly to the class teacher. Pupils can wear their school P.E. uniform on swimming days.

Gaelic Football

Mr. O' Regan, Mr. O Sullivan, Mr. Carney, Mr. Spain and Mr. McDonnell are organising football sessions for boys in First, Second, Third and Fourth Classes. Similarly Ms. McDonnell, Ms. Dalton and Ms. Evans are organising football sessions for girls in First, Second, Third and Fourth Classes. Training for both groups will take place on Tuesdays from 2:30pm-3:30pm. These sessions will begin on the 25th of September. Pupils who are interested in these sessions should bring their gear on this day.