

## WITCHES AND WIZARDS WOOD WALK

The annual 'Witches and Wizards Wood Walk' for first class pupils will take place in the week preceding the Halloween mid term break in Donadea Forest Park. A most enjoyable day was had by all who attended last October and we hope that it will be a huge success again this year. Class teachers will inform parents of the details later this week.

## GAEILIC FOOTBALL COACHING

GAA Coach — Keith McGuinness has recommenced gaelic football training sessions on Fridays with all class levels on a weekly basis. The children are asked to wear their school P.E. uniform every Friday until further notice.

## JUNIOR INFANT ENROLMENT SEPTEMBER 2014

Scoil Bhríde Primary school will hold an enrolment week for Junior Infants due to commence school in September 2014. Applications for enrolment will be taken from Monday 11th of November 2013 to Friday 15th of November 2013 between the hours of 8.30am and 3pm each day. Please bring your child's Birth / Baptismal Certificate and PPS No. which is available from the Dept. of Social and Family Affairs— Client Identity section, Ph. (01) 7043281 / 7043418.

## 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

## CONGRATULATIONS

Scoil Bhríde Board of Management, staff and students would like to congratulate the Offaly Ladies Football Team on their fantastic All Ireland Football win and in particular Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Dalton.

## RAINBOWS PROGRAMME

As part of our School Care Programme, We are delighted to be in a position to offer children from first class to sixth class who have experienced loss through bereavement, separation or divorce in their family the opportunity, to participate in the Rainbows 12 week programme beginning after the Halloween break.

When something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. If a parent dies or parents separate, not only do the parents grieve, the children do also. Grief is an expression of love and a normal human reaction to a significant loss.

Children find it difficult to verbalise their feelings of grief because of their age and inexperience. It may surface in their behaviour, schoolwork and emotional well-being.

Rainbows is a support group that helps children put their feelings into words, work through their grief, build a stronger sense of self-esteem, and begin to adapt to what has taken place in the family. Rainbows is not a counselling group. It is a safe, confidential setting where children will share their feelings with each other and with trained facilitators. Children are grouped with others of a similar age experiencing a similar loss. There are usually 3-5 in a group. If only one participant is present at any session, the session maybe cancelled for that week.

A letter will go home to each child on the 17th of October and we would invite you to discuss the contents of the letter with your child in advance of application to attend Rainbows so that they understand what Rainbows is about.

If you have any queries about the Rainbow Programme, please contact Mr. Carney (Rainbows Co-ordinator), your child's class teacher or ask at reception.

## PEDESTRAIN ACCESS

In order to further manage pedestrian traffic entering the school grounds in the morning, there will be new pedestrian access created at the gate closest to the Glánbia entrance. Pedestrians can now enter at this gate, cross the zebra crossing and walk along the footpath up to the school yard.

## HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS PARTY

Celebrations for Halloween are taking place Friday 25th October. The children will be dressing up in fancy dress costume and taking part in enjoyable Halloween games and celebrations in class. Everyone is looking forward to the celebrations. As a fundraiser children will be asked to bring in €2. This year the money raised will be used to help fund the *Rainbows* Programme. We appreciate your generosity.

# SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Carrick Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue No. 11  
14th September 2013

*Dear Parent(s), / Guardian(s)*

*Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for the 2013 / 2014 school year. I hope all our new pupils, parents, teachers and special needs assistants who have recently joined our school community have settled in by now.*

*Congratulations to our two teachers - Ms. Mc Donnell and Ms. Dalton and the Offaly Ladies team that won the All-Ireland Junior Football Championship. The whole school community of Scoil Bhríde PS is very proud of their huge achievement.*

*The Office of Public Works has recently informed me that the closing date for tenders for the construction of our new school is Friday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. The 30 classroom primary school is now due to commence construction in Nov. / Dec. 2013 and is expected to be completed in Dec. 2014. It is encouraging to see that the new school access road is now completed and that the road works in Killane have now commenced. The Board of Management will continue to update parents as information becomes available..*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our pupils, parents and staff for the great co-operation and support that I have received so far this year. I trust that we will all have 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).

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.

### **DROP OFF AND SUPERVISION**

The Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their co-operation with the schools drop off system. We would like to remind parents that supervision at Scoil Bhríde Primary School is from 8:35 am to 1:30 pm (Junior & Senior Infants) and from 8:35 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 8.35am in the morning as there is no supervision in place and children are not covered by insurance.

## **HOMEWORK CLUB**

Mr. McDonnell, Mr. Spain, Mr. Carney and Mr. O' Regan reported that the after school *Homework Club* is now up and running again for the 2013-14 school year. The Homework Club is available to children from First to Fifth Class. Study commences at 2:30 pm each day and concludes at 3:30 pm. The Homework Club takes place each week up until the Christmas holidays. It is supervised by teachers at all times in a quiet atmosphere conducive to study. If you wish for your child to attend the Homework Club please speak to your child's class teacher or ask at reception.

### **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS**

Scoil Bhríde Primary School would like to congratulate Naoise Colvin, a fourth class pupil for her great achievement in coming second in an international kickboxing competition in Belgium last month. Also well done to Mark O'Leary in fifth class who won a medal representing Scoil Bhríde in the inter-schools cross country competition in Tullamore Harriers last month.

### **TEAM HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL**

Scoil Bhríde is collaborating with the *Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal* to send shoebox gifts to children who have very little. If you are interested in filling a shoebox please remember to do the following;

- ◆ Get an average sized shoebox and wrap it with Christmas paper. Please wrap the box and lid separately
- ◆ Choose who you'd like to receive your gift — a boy or a girl, in one of three age groups; 2-4 years, 5-9 years or 10-14 years.
- ◆ Cut out the appropriate sticker from the promotional leaflet and stick it to the top of your box.
- ◆ Fill your box with appropriate gifts
- ◆ Include €4 ( in the attached envelope, either on top of the gifts, or taped to the inside of the lid).
- ◆ Close the box with an elastic band, but please don't seal it with tape as it needs to be checked.
- ◆ Drop the box into the school before November 11th.

## **SCHOOL CHOIR**

Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Coleman, are involved with the Scoil Bhríde Primary School Choir. The choir will practice each Thursday afternoon from 2pm—2.30pm. The first choir practice will commence on Thursday the 7th of October. Auditions for pupils from 2nd class who wish to try out for the choir will be held on Thursday October 24th from 2pm—2.30pm.

### **SCHOOL BAND**

Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Horan and Ms. Butler will recommence practice with the children who are members of the School Band on Wednesdays from 2:30pm—3:00pm. The first practice will commence on the 6th of November. Pupils who wish to become members of the school band can come to Ms. Fitzgeralds room on Wednesday the 23rd of October at 2pm with their tin whistles.

### **GAELIC FOOTBALL**

Mr. O' Regan, Mr. Carney, Mr. Spain and Mr. McDonnell are continuing to train Gaelic football for boys on Fridays between 2.30 — 3.30. Similarly Ms. Dalton and Ms. Evans are organising football sessions for girls in Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Classes on Tuesdays from 2.30 — 3.30 commencing on the 15th of October. Pupils who are interested in these sessions should bring their gear on these days.

### **SPLIT BREAKS**

In the interest of health and safety the Board of Management and Staff of Scoil Bhríde have decided to implement a three way split break system in the school in order to afford children the maximum amount of space on yard. This means that there is now three different breaktimes and lunches split between special classes, junior and senior parts of the school.