

Scoil Mhuire

School Newsletter



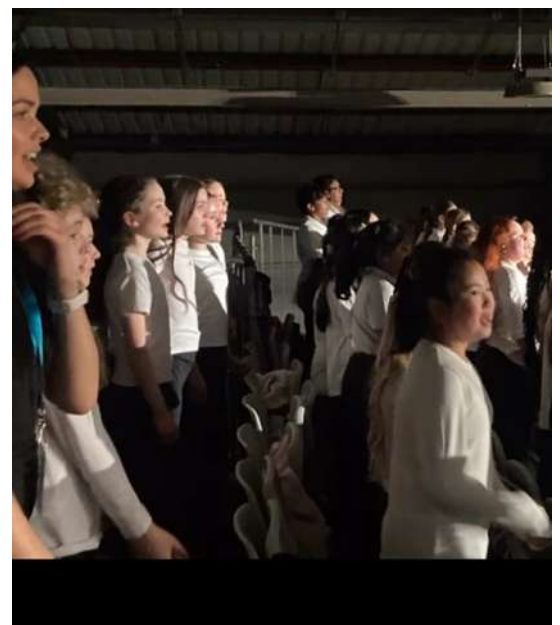
Term 2 Highlights

Welcome to our latest Scoil Mhuire newsletter. As we approach the Easter break, it is wonderful to look back on a term defined by growth, creativity, and a shared sense of purpose. We began the term in January, which feels like a lifetime ago, and classes had their parent teacher meetings. These are important opportunities to discuss the progress that all pupils are making in school and to seek feedback from our hardworking teachers. It gives us an opportunity to strengthen the home/school relationship and to share in the joy of seeing our pupils grow and learn.

Walking through our corridors, the energy and enthusiasm of our students are palpable, and this edition captures just a glimpse of the hard work happening in every classroom. From the vibrant buzz of Seachtain na Gaeilge to our recent successes on the sports field, the children continue to show remarkable character and talent. We also want to extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated staff and supportive families, who make Scoil Mhuire such a thriving place to learn and grow. We hope you enjoy these highlights from a truly memorable term.



Soccer superstars
and singing
sensations!





Equality



Equity



UDL

Our UDL work continues to go from strength to strength. Aably lead by Mrs. O'Malley and Ms. Leahy, our commitment to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is evident throughout the school. Our goal is simple: create a school environment where regulation and communication are seamless for everyone. By proactively removing barriers, we are shifting the focus from "fitting in" to "thriving." Every classroom is now powered by common visual timetables giving our students the clarity they need to take charge of their day.

Emotional balance is just as vital as academics, which is why regulation station boxes are now a staple in every room, providing instant sensory support. We have also brought in Lámh signs across the whole school. Lámh is not just a support tool, it's a universal language that bridges gaps, boosts brain development, and ensures that no matter how a student communicates, they are always part of the conversation.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils and the work they have undertaken to embed UDL in our classrooms. Their voice and inputs are important to us and we want to ensure that all pupils feel heard.

Ms. Leahy's class have shared a video of the 'Days of the Week' song, to teach us the Lámh signs. It has been widely used across all classes to support our learning! Some of the girls from our senior classes help us by demonstrating individual signs. We often share these on our school Instragram, so please keep an eye out!





Fitter, Younger

The school spirit was at an all-time high last Monday as we laced up our runners for the return of our whole-school marathon relay. Under the expert guidance of Ms. Smyth, who continues to champion our 'Move Well, Move Often!' initiative, every single student took to the track to contribute to our collective goal. While the clock was running, the focus remained firmly on fun, fitness, and supporting one another, creating a vibrant, non-competitive atmosphere that brought the entire campus to life. The children, and some very enthusiastic teachers, made us proud as they cheered each other on and, most importantly, came together as a school to enjoy a day of collaborative outside play!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising effort. When we have the final amount raised, we will be using the money to purchase more P.E. equipment and hopefully add even more variety and fun to our time outside. The addition of our outside play equipment has been very popular with our younger pupils and it is truly heartening to see them enjoy movement and sport together in such a child-centered way.





Scoil Mhuire Soccer



for the first time, Scoil Mhuire has entered a team to the FAI School Soccer competitions. Our love of the sport began last year when we were lucky enough to access some coaching. This year, Mr. Shine and Ms. Lawlor worked with the FAI to have a coach visit the school and help train our senior classes. Jordan has been visiting our classes this term and helping to prepare our first ever soccer team!

The team are competing in both cup and league competitions. The league competition is organised into group stages and regional leagues where schools play in a group stage followed by a semi-final and final. The cup competition is a knockout competition open to all schools in Dublin. Our first match was on a rainy day and we were lucky to have an all weather pitch to play on. Our opponents, Ballinteer ET, were an experienced soccer school and gave us a great game. The referee even said that it was one of the most exciting schools' games he had overseen! We emerged victorious and delighted! We went back to school, grateful for the hairdryers and towels delivered to the school by our amazing parent supporters.

We are so grateful for the support of our parents. Without them we could not participate in these competitions. It is thanks to their generosity that the buses, referees, competition fees, pitch rental fees and all other costs can be met. As you may know, there is no funding available to us to support these endeavours and we have to rely on our fantastic parents who continually give of their time and financial support to help us provide these opportunities for our pupils. Thank you so much to you all.

A final word of thanks to Mr. Shine and Ms. Lawlor who have worked tirelessly to bring these opportunities to our school. Please enjoy the match report from our most recent game below!

Athletics News

Despite the grey skies and relentless downpour at Porterstown Park on Tuesday, our 3rd to 6th-class athletes proved that they are truly made of tougher stuff. While the weather was nothing short of appalling, it could not dampen the incredible fire and determination of our athletes. Watching them navigate the mud and rain with smiles on their faces was a masterclass in resilience; they didn't just endure the conditions, they embraced them with a sense of adventure and camaraderie that left us all bursting with pride.

Though they returned to school soaked to the skin, their spirits were sky-high, proving that their character is just as strong as their athleticism. We could not be prouder of how they represented the school, showing us all that a bit of rain is no match for true grit and a positive heart. We would like to thank our dedicated teachers who supported the squad and travelled with them on the day. A special word of thanks to Ms. O'Connor, whose commitment to athletics in our school is always appreciated. We could not have these events without the commitment of our teachers. We are also hugely indebted to those parents who came out to cheer on our school, in spite of the rain! Your support, especially in such dreary conditions, was very much appreciated. A report from the day, from one of our amazing athletes, is included below.



Our Football Game



Today our Football Team won



an epic match against Donabate



ETNS! Isla Mkeon was the



team captain. At the start of



the match we were playing against



the wind. The other team were



skillful, but we gave it our all!



It was an even game, but our



goalie, Emily O'Hara saved some



astonishing goals. In the end it



went to extra time, one of our



players, Jenna Lennon Doyle



came in from the right side and



scored the winning goal!! We are



super proud of our incredible team + coaches. We are now in the last 16!



Cross Country Porterstown

On Tuesday the 24th of March girls from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th competed against multiple schools in the Fingal Cross Country League. It was a very wet day with rough wind, however Mount Sackville pushed on through till they reached the finish line. Our third classers were up first, they ran astonishing races, one of the races being one by Jessie Trears. The fourth classers were up next giving their best efforts with majority of them coming top five in their heats scoring points for our school. Then came the fifth classers who were rapid on the track working hard from start to finish. After a while the sixth classers were up, in the second heat Bella Mujica won her heat. As for the other sixth classers, once again, many came top five in their heats. Our school left Porterstown with smiles on their faces, drenched but happy. Once they returned to school they got warm welcomes, hot chocolate and dry clothes. Everyone had a fantastic time.

School Improvement Planning

Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiúil: Bringing Irish to Life!

As part of our ongoing School Improvement Plan (SIP), we are placing a special focus on Gaeilge neamhfhoirmiúil (informal Irish). We want Gaeilge to be more than just a subject, we want it to be the soundtrack of our corridors, the cheers on our pitches, and the laughter in our classrooms. Our goal is to move beyond formal lessons and cultivate a genuine, lifelong love for the Irish language. By weaving Irish into the everyday fabric of school life, we are showing our students that the language is vibrant, modern, and most importantly ours to share.

We believe the best way to achieve this is through a playful and fun approach. Whether it's a quick "Maith thú!" on the yard, a "Cúpla Focal" challenge, or our dedicated Gaelbhratach initiatives, we are encouraging the girls to 'bain triail as' without the fear of being perfect. This positive, low-pressure environment allows their confidence to bloom and creates a school culture where Irish is spoken with pride. We invite you to join us on this journey by using whatever Irish you have at home. remember, in our school, we value effort over perfection and "baint úsáid as" (using it) over everything else!

Our Coiste Gaelbhratach, valiantly supported by Ms. Clifford, help us to use our Gaeilge and work hard to support us. They receive training from Gaelbhratach and meet their representatives to update them on how well we are doing. Our monthly assemblies celebrate those students and classes who have made a very special effort to use their Gaeilge and we love seeing how the children lead and contribute to this initiative. To work together with us, you might like to try out some of these phrases at home:

Bain triail as - Try it

Taimid ag súil go mór leis! - We can't wait!

Nach deas é? - Isn't it lovely?

Le do Thoil - Please

Tá mé go maith, go raibh maith agat - I'm good, thank you

Rinne mé dearmad - I forgot



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Ms Clifford and her Coiste worked hard to bring us a wonderful Seachtain na Gaeilge this year. We enjoyed songs, poems and we even had puppet shows as Gaeilge, performed for our Junior Infants by our amazing 6th class pupils!



Chuaigh Rang 4 ar chuairt go dtí Scoil Oilibhéir. Bhi ceol, craic agus spraoi acu!

4th Class visited Scoil Oilibheir. They had music, fun and games!

A huge thank you to Antóin and his team for a fantastic céilí. It is wonderful to have such a great relationship with our neighbouring schools.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Bhí seó faisin iontach ag rang Ms. Leahy. Féach ar an spraoi ar fad a bhí acu.
Ms. Leahy's class held a fabulous fashion show. Look at all of the fun they had.



A MAGICAL NIGHT AT THE PROMS!

We are still buzzing with pride following 5th Class's spectacular performance at the Peace Proms concert in the RDS! For those who may be new to this incredible initiative, Peace Proms is much more than a choir performance, it is a powerful musical celebration that brings together thousands of primary school children from all over Ireland to perform alongside the world-class Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. Being part of such a massive, professional, production is a memorable opportunity, and we feel incredibly lucky that our students were able to stand on that iconic stage. It was a joyful explosion of music, light, and harmony, delivering a message of unity and peace through the language of song.

The journey to the RDS was paved with months of dedicated rehearsal, as the children mastered their repertoire of songs and choreography. However, every minute of hard work and every practice was proven worthwhile the moment the first notes rang out. To see the sheer joy radiating from the children's faces as they sang their hearts out was a truly unforgettable experience for both the staff and the families in the audience. They were, quite simply, unbelievable. Their energy was infectious, and their conduct was exemplary, representing our school with such poise and passion. It was a night where all that preparation transformed into pure magic, leaving us with memories and melodies that will last a lifetime.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Ms. Magee and Mrs. O' Malley who organised and rehearsed prior to the concert and participated with the children on the night. We hope these photos give you a taste of the absolute joy experienced by everyone who was there on a very special night.



A MAGICAL NIGHT AT THE PROMS!



School Workshops

In Scoil Mhuire, we endeavour to encourage every pupil to value their own wellbeing and mental health. It was such a treat to have Una Curran of Finding Your Wings visit our school for a series of dedicated wellbeing workshops. Una's approach is truly effective, and seeing the children engage so deeply with her sessions was one of the highlights of the term. Each class was given the space to explore mindfulness, breathwork, and emotional awareness in a way that felt accessible and, most importantly, joyful. Una helped them tap into a sense of calm and self-belief that radiated throughout the classes. The energy in the school following these workshops was tangible, a mixture of quiet, calm and confidence that showed just how much the children connected with the practice of looking after their own mental health.

The benefits of integrating these wellbeing practices into the school day are far-reaching. Through mindfulness and self-regulation, children can learn that they are not just learning to stay calm; they are building the foundational skills for lifelong resilience. Scientific research shows that regular wellbeing practice improves focus, reduces anxiety, and enhances emotional intelligence, allowing children to navigate the ups and downs of life with a steady hand. By making these sessions a priority, we are teaching our children that their mental and emotional health is just as important as their academic success. These tools empower them to recognise their own strengths, handle challenges with grace, and foster a kinder, more supportive environment for themselves and their peers. Our commitment to wellbeing is led by Mrs. O'Malley and we are very grateful to her for organising these workshops for us.



Class News

Junior Infants

Junior Infants completed lots of work about the farm recently. They talked about houses and homes. They really enjoyed participating in the marathon relay event, they also loved our scooting day and had lots of fun!



Senior Infants

Senior Infants have been incredibly busy this term. They have been growing cress seeds, training for GAA and celebrating World Book Day!



First and Second Class created these beautiful pictures inspired by their visit to The Ark to see the Henry Girls. The Second Class pupils recently celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the parish church.



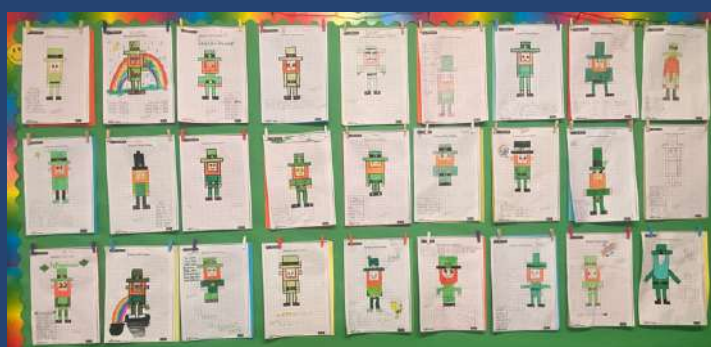
The girls in Third Class have been working very hard during term 2 this year. From amazing us with their creativity during their seó faisin, helping us all to learn new Lámh signs, working on their comprehension strategies and formal letter writing in literacy to engaging in lots of active brain breaks. They even found time to create this beautiful art inspired by the work of Claude Monet! What a busy term it has been in Ms. Leahy's room!



The children in 4th class have worked incredibly hard since returning to school after Christmas. They have been creating, writing, dancing and most importantly laughing and having fun in school. Maith sibh rang a ceathair!



Fifth Class are going from strength to strength. They continue to amaze us every day. Fresh from a triumphant Peace Proms experience, they have been busy creating papier mache ocean creatures, keeping active daily through busy breaks and even using playful learning in maths to explore area and perimeter.



Walking into Sixth Class this term each day has been a continuously uplifting experience and an exercise in the benefits of giving students and voice and agency in their own learning. Our current Sixth Class are a constant reminder of our school values of respect, kindness and empathy. This term they have already competed in soccer and athletics. They have entered a unique sustainability competition and their entry has blown us away. They have created puppet shows, assisted in Junior Infants, created beautiful pieces of art and these incredibly creative board games, showing us that allowing young people a choice and a say, can yield results far beyond what we could have imagined.



The children in Mrs O'Malley's and Ms. Donnelly's classes have been showing us since the beginning of term why they are such amazing children and why we love being their schoolmates. On a daily basis they share their spaces, their equipment and their friendship with children from all classes and in this way, everyone benefits. We would like to thank them for their generosity of spirit and the friendship they show to all of us.



Behind the scenes, we are constantly striving for school improvement. Much of this work happens under the radar, remaining invisible until it finally comes to fruition, but it is all driven by our commitment to providing the best possible environment for the children who learn here every day.

Our Digital Home: A Website Update

As part of this ongoing growth, we have been hard at work upgrading and modernising our school website. This has been a significant project, and we are delighted to share that we have finally reached the testing stage! We sincerely thank you for your patience while our online presence was limited; to ensure a smooth transition, we had to strip back most content, leaving only our essential admissions page active.

Our new website is now in its infancy, and we look forward to growing it throughout Term 3. We can't wait to fill it with more updates, photos, and resources that celebrate the incredible life of our school. In the interim, please check our instagram account for regular updates and insights into daily school life.

Our Physical Home: A Campus Project

Our work has also encompassed looking at the physical home we occupy here. We have been taking stock and considering how to improve our school building also, and we hope to have some ideas to share with you in the next term. Watch this space!

Our Family Home: A Staffing Project

As you know, we currently have a multigrade class here in the school at First and Second Class level. These classes are, in our experience, best placed to benefit from multigrade teaching, however, in the longer term, we would like to revert to eight mainstream classes. The current government committed to reducing the pupil teacher ratio to the recommended level of 1:19. Thus far, it has not happened. The staffing schedule for schools was finally released this week and our allocation remains the same. The most effective way for us to regain the teaching post is to have higher numbers in our smaller classes. For the 2026/2027 school year our Junior Infant, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes are full. This means that there are some places available in Senior Infants - 3rd Classes beginning next year. We will open enrollments for these classes next term.

We need your help! We will, of course, be appealing the allocation, however, our greatest chance of being successful will be to increase numbers in those classes identified. Help us to spread the word about our beautiful haven in the heart of Dublin!

and joy that fills our halls every day. It is often difficult to capture in words just how wonderful it is to work within this community, and for the support of our students and families, we are deeply thankful.

As we wrap up this incredibly active term, I would like to share a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and guardians. Your unwavering support and daily kindness are the engine that keeps Scoil Mhuire thriving. We never take for granted the immense trust you place in us each morning at the school gates.

It is a true privilege to share in your children's lives and to watch them grow, laugh, and find their wings alongside us. Thank you for choosing us to be part of their journey and for being such an integral part of our school family.

I would also like to thank our incredible staff. We have an amazing team of teachers, SNAs and ancillary staff whose dedication to our pupils and to the school is immeasurable. Our school is a thriving community that benefits every day from their presence.

I hope every member of our Scoil Mhuire family has an enjoyable break. We look forward to a wonderful, productive Term 3 ahead.

Oralaith Gallagher

Dates to Remember:

School reopens for all pupils on Monday 13th April

We will be closed on Friday May 1st for Oide Whole SChool Training for the Primary Curriculum Framework

We will close for the Bank Holiday on Monday May 4th