



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wish to thank the school community and the community of Huntstown for the tremendous warm welcome and messages of support that I have received on my return to Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa. It is with a sense of pride and privilege that I begin my role as principal of this great school and I look forward to what will hopefully be a long and successful tenure.

I wish to congratulate the staff and pupils on a very successful first term and thank them for their hard work and co-operation. I wish to thank especially Mr. Harty for his leadership during this time, ably assisted by Ms. O'Connor.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and reading about many of the fantastic initiatives that are currently running in our school. It is indeed a vibrant place of education and I look forward to getting to know and working with all the members of our school community.

Finally I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh uilig agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibhse.

**Kieran Lyons**

Principal



### Team Hope Shoebox Appeal *By Shane Hughes and Caoimhe Mc Loughlin, 4<sup>th</sup> class*

This year all the 4<sup>th</sup> classes participated in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. We made posters about it and presented them to other classes in our school. We learned about children from other countries who have very little and realised how very lucky we are compared to them. We decided to fill empty shoeboxes with gifts for them. We included the 4 W's - Wash, Write, Wear and Wow! We put in toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and facecloths. We included things to write with like pencils, pens, crayons and paper. We included hats, scarves, gloves and new underwear. 'Wow' was our favourite thing to do. We put in toys, lollipops, sweets, jigsaws, balls, dolls, cars etc. We also put €4 in every box to help pay for delivery. We then wrapped the shoeboxes in Christmas paper. Our school made more than 70 shoeboxes. Our teachers, Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Harty were very proud of our generosity. A man came to collect all our shoeboxes. It took 2 classes to bring them all to his car! Thanks to Ms. Fagan and Ms. Murray to organising the Shoebox Appeal in our school.



### Science Club

We are delighted to announce that the 6<sup>th</sup> students in our Science Club will present their project 'Does age have an influence on how we see optical illusions?' at the Primary Science Fair in the RDS on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January. This is a great honour for the school since competition to present at the fair is fierce and only a small number of projects from the thousands submitted to the judges are chosen for the Primary Science Fair. The children have been working hard with Ms Carr, Ms Coady, Ms Heslin, Mr O'Callaghan and Ms O'Dea.

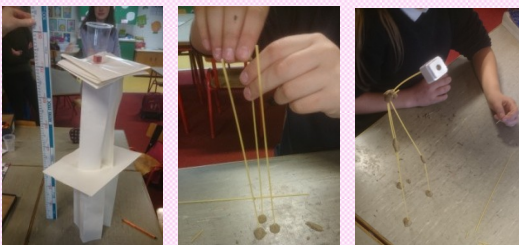
We hope that the children will enjoy their day and that they will be further inspired to explore Science, Technology and Maths when they are in secondary school.

*The Science Club*

*in action :*

*Building towers that can hold a cube/cup using only paper.*

*Repeating the experiment using only pasta sticks and play-doh.*



### Our School Musical

Where were you in the '80's?! Take a trip down memory lane this February with the children from our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes as they bring you our latest school musical, 'Back to the '80's'.



'Back to the 80's' is a story about life, love and overcoming adversity and serves to show us through music, song and dance how to keep on going even when things aren't going your way. The show runs from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February in Draíocht and tickets will be on sale very soon. For further information, see [www.draiocht.ie](http://www.draiocht.ie).

## A Word of Thanks

It only seems like a few weeks ago we returned to school after our Summer holidays, and now we're moving towards Christmas and the start of a new year. Since September, Ms. O' Connor and I have been acting Deputy Principal and Principal, respectively. It has been my privilege to have worked with Ms. O'Connor, a colleague of over 31 years, in this capacity. My sincere thanks to her for her help, support, guidance, patience (and good humour!) during this time.

Thank you to our Board of Management and Parents' Association and to our wonderful teachers and SNAs. Thank you also to Monica and our cleaning staff, and to our Lollipop ladies, Vera and Terri. A very special word of thanks to Carmel, our school secretary, Michael, our school caretaker, and Marie and Tina who ensure that none of us go hungry or thirsty.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all the children and their parents/guardians who help make Scoil An Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa such a wonderful school.

My best wishes to everyone for a very happy Christmas 2016 and a happy and healthy 2017.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.

**John Harty**

Deputy Principal



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### Parents' Association

The Parents' Association continues to promote all areas of school development and play an invaluable role in developing and maintaining positive and active partnerships between home and school. So far this year, our Parents' Association has facilitated the organisation of our Book Rental Scheme, collected the annual voluntary family contribution to the school, organised the Pupils' Personal Accident Scheme, purchased teaching and learning resources and subsidised pupils' travel costs for school outings, to name but a few. Our Parents' Association deserve our thanks and support for their great work. We are very fortunate to have such a group of dedicated parents who give freely of their time and energy to promote the development and well-being of all the children in our school.

### Emergency School Closure Procedures

In the event of significant adverse weather, the Principal will consult with the Chairperson of the Board of Management. Any decision to close the school will be made at the earliest possible time. A decision to close our school due to adverse weather conditions or disruption to water and/or electricity services etc. will only be made in circumstances where it is felt that the number of staff available on a given day is inadequate to provide for the welfare and safety of the children, and/or the weather conditions are likely to put the health and safety of the children and staff at risk. The Board of Management will inform parents and staff by text. Further information relating to the exceptional closure and subsequent days will be conveyed by text and posted on our Parents' Association Facebook Page and on the school website. **Parents/Guardians, please make sure we have a contact number for you, and have a contingency plan in place should our school need to close at short notice.**

### School Alterations and Extension Programme

Our school embarks on an alterations and extension programme in the new year at a cost of half a million euro. This will result in the provision of an additional classroom adjacent to Ms. Higgins' room and alterations to existing rooms, to provide the school with additional resource/learning support areas. A start date for the project has not been finalised yet. The Board of Management will keep parents/guardians informed of developments as information and details come to hand.

### Sparkle for Autism

Our school has three special classes for children with autism. We also have a number of children with autism in our mainstream classes. Recently, the parents of one of our children, Ciara and Mick Jones, along with a group of dedicated volunteers, organised a Sparkle for Autism Ball to heighten awareness of autism and raise funds for our school and the charity AsIAM.ie. The Ball was a wonderful success and a great evening was had by all. Well done Ciara and Mick. Sincere thanks to you and your committee for organising this spectacular event in support of our school.

### Senior Infants go to College

Ms. Mullany's and Ms. Cooper's Senior Infant classes visited Blanchardstown Institute of Technology recently. Students from the college read their own "Storybook" for the children, and the children asked questions, made suggestions and voted for their favourite book. A big "Thank You" to Marguerite Drake, Children's Librarian in Blanchardstown Public Library for including our school in this project.

## Boys' Senior Gaelic

A huge congratulations to the Boys' Senior Gaelic Football team on making history by winning the Corn Clanna Gael for the first time in the school's history. Playing and winning in Croke Park was a fantastic experience for the boys, beating a very strong St Kevin's team from Kilnamanagh. A special word of thanks to all 26 boys who played their part throughout the year, showing fantastic attitude, commitment and discipline, when representing their school.

A very special word of thanks to the team mentors Mr Stapleton, Mr Hanley and Mr Burke. Thank you also to the parents association for their continued support and to Mr Kestell for providing the school banner and having the school pitch ready for matches and training throughout the year. Well done all!

## The Green Team

The children on the Green Team have been working hard this term. We are now working towards our fifth green flag and this time the theme is 'Biodiversity'.



In the last few months, we have been examining and identifying the trees and plants on the school grounds. We also carried out 'leaf identification surveys' among students and we hope that by educating our fellow classmates about some common trees

on the school grounds, we will be able to re-survey pupils later in the year and see improved results. Our next task is to build a 'mini-beast hotel' on the school grounds. At the moment we are gathering up all sorts of recycled construction materials such as wooden pallets, roofing tiles, bricks, straw, sticks and pipes in an attempt to build an inviting home for the many bugs that live on our school grounds.



## National Children's Choir

Since September all the 4<sup>th</sup> classes have been working hard learning new songs from the National Children's Choir repertoire 2017. On Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November all the 4<sup>th</sup>

classes went to St. Canice's school in Finglas by bus. The conductor was Ms. Murray. We played in a different yard. We rehearsed 6 songs. These songs are called 'Moon River', 'Oró Sé Do Bheatha Abhaile', 'Hallelujah Chorus', 'Lightning', 'Fill, Fill a Run Ó' and 'Mornin' Glory'. Our favourite song is 'Lightning' because it is exciting and the tempo is fast. It was a long day but it was worth it. We can't wait for our concert in the Basketball Arena in Tallaght in spring. We thank Ms. Fagan, Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Thynne, Ms. Murray and Ms. O' Connor for all their help. You can find more information on [www.nationalchildrenschoir.org](http://www.nationalchildrenschoir.org).

*By: Gledia Garcia, Jennifer Blood & Lauren Hutchinson (4<sup>th</sup> Class)*

## Athletics

We started off the school year with amazing attendance of children from 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> classes for training during lunchtime. The Thursday group started off with running non-stop for 5 minutes while the Friday group started with 7 minutes. Each week they were asked to do two of the same exercises at home in preparation for next week's training. Both groups have built up their stamina and are now able to run consistently for 10 and 12 minutes. This is a fantastic achievement which they can credit to themselves. Congratulations to everyone who has been involved and we look forward to seeing some new faces in January!

Nollaig Shona Dhaoibh,

*Ms Quinn, Ms Valentine & Ms Hegarty*



## National Film Award

Congratulations to Mr. Herity's Fourth class of 2015-2016 on being nominated for 3 awards at this year's National FÍS Film Festival award ceremony in the Helix Theatre on Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The nominations were for "Best Editing", "Best Newcomer" and "Best Acting" for their film "Just a Wish Away", which had been shortlisted as a finalist from almost 150 entries. Much to the delight of the children and parents present at the ceremony, Mr. Herity's class won the Best Acting category. Well done everyone and a big THANK YOU to Mr. Doyle, Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Herity and his class of 2015-2016. Next stop Hollywood and the Oscars!

## Student Council 2016/17

The student council represents all of the boys and girls in the school. The members are elected by ballot in each of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. We are looking forward to a great year where the members of the council can have a real and lasting impact on the life of our school. The council meets regularly and all of our representatives can address concerns raised by their classmates



and other students in the school. When opportunities to enhance life in the school are identified, the council is first to support a new project or activity. Well done to all involved!

## Boys' Junior Gaelic

Well done to the Junior Boys' Gaelic Team. We participated in the Cumann na mBunscol competition and were victorious, finishing top of the league. We had an excellent performance against Corduff which was our first game on our newly developed pitch. Superb wins over Scoil Ghráinne, Adamstown E.T. and a hard fought win over a very talented St. Patrick's N.S. Diswellstown, saw us clinch the title. We are very proud of the effort and dedication the boys showed so far this year. Their hard work and true sportsmanship were evident in all their training sessions and matches and we look forward to continued success in the new year. *Mr. Thynne and Mr. Costello*

# School Calendar 2017 – Terms 2 and 3



School will reopen after the Christmas break on **Mon 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**February Mid-term Break:** **Mon 20<sup>th</sup> to Fri 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017** inclusive



**School Closure:** The school will close on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017** to facilitate inservice training for teachers in the new Primary Language Curriculum

**St. Patrick's Day Holiday:** **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Easter Break:** Our school will close from **Mon 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017** unless we need to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures. It will re-open on **Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017** inclusive

**May Bank Holiday:** **Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

**June Bank Holiday:** **Mon 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

School will close for the summer holidays at 12 noon on **Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**



## ROALD DAHL 100

### Roald Dahl Celebrations

There was lots of excitement in the school this term as we celebrated Roald Dahl's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Celebrations kicked off with a wonderful 'Golden Ticket' raffle with Ms. Kennedy's 4<sup>th</sup> class scooping the coveted 'Golden Ticket' to win a hamper of chocolate treats.

Over the weeks that followed, classes enjoyed exploring the works of Roald Dahl and produced some incredible projects in response to the texts. Celebrations ended with a Roald Dahl themed fancy dress just before midterm where many children took on the challenge of dressing up as one of the many characters in Mr. Dahl's books. We were amazed by the creativity and imagination of all involved! Well done boys and girls and thank you to Ms. O' Connor and her team for organising the celebrations.



*Just a few of the many children and staff members who took part in our Roald Dahl themed fancy dress*

### School Website

Our school website is a wonderful resource for parents, students and the wider school community. It has seen a significant increase in visitors in the past year.

We invite you all to log on to the website [www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com](http://www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com) where you will find lots of information about the school, recent and upcoming events, work samples and lots of material which can be downloaded for use at home.



### Ciarán Daly Memorial Cup

This year's soccer blitz saw eight teams of eight boys and girls from our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes contest the Ciarán Daly Memorial Cup after school on Mondays and Fridays in September and October.

Great goals, precise passes, terrific tackles and super saves were the order of each day as our eight teams came through the group stages. Brazil, France, Germany and Spain left the competition at the quarter-final stage, with Holland and Portugal losing out in the semi-finals. Ireland and Italy met in the final on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, with Italy coming out on top after a titanic battle. Medals were awarded to all our semi-finalists and all involved had a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Thanks to organisers Mr. Costello, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Kestell and Mr. Sullivan, to referee John Kelly, to Barry, Tony and all at Hartstown Huntstown F.C. for their help and to Mr. Harty for his continued support throughout.



### Calling all Gardening Enthusiasts and Willing Volunteers!

Horticultural students from I.T. Blanchardstown will be coming to the school in late January to engage in a community-based gardening project.

This is a great opportunity for our school to benefit from the students' sharing of knowledge and skills. In order for the project to go ahead, we are looking for a **minimum of 5 parents** who would be willing to work alongside the students in the creation of the project. Parents involved do not need to have any gardening expertise - all we ask for is your commitment and enthusiasm!

Volunteers must be available to participate **one morning per week (4 hours) for the 13 week duration** of the project. All of the work will take place on the school grounds. If this is something you would like to get involved in, please contact Ms. Lucey or send a note in via your child. We look forward to hearing from you!!!