

Enrolment 2019

Our school's mainstream and Coiscéim enrolment policies are currently being revised to ensure that they comply with recent legislative changes as part of the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018. The revised policies will be communicated to you in December.

Enrolment for Junior Infants 2019 will take place in the school atrium from:

- ◆ 10am - 12noon on Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th January 2019.
- ◆ 7.30pm - 8.30pm on Thursday 24th January 2019.

When enrolling your son / daughter please bring:

- ◇ One original long form copy and one photocopy of your child's birth certificate.
- ◇ One original copy and one photocopy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (if applicable).
- ◇ Proof of address in the form of two original utility bills dated within two months of the enrolment application date.
- ◇ Your child's PPS number.
- ◇ Any relevant reports (e.g. Speech & Language, Assessment of Need etc.).

Holidays

Christmas 2018

School will close at 12p.m. on Friday 21st December and will re-open on Monday 7th January 2019.

February 2019 Mid-Term Break

School will be closed on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd February 2019.
School will re-open on Monday 25th February 2019.

St. Patrick's Holiday 2019

School will be closed from Friday 15th to Tuesday 19th March 2019 **inclusive**.
School will re-open on Wednesday 20th March 2019.

Easter 2019

School will close at 12p.m. on Friday 12th April and will re-open on Monday 29th April 2019.

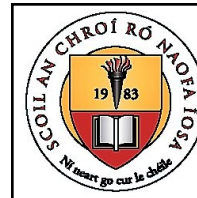
May Public Holiday 2019

School will be closed on Monday 6th May 2019. School will re-open on Tuesday 7th May 2019.

June Mid-Term Break 2019

School will be closed from Friday 31st May to Tuesday 4th June 2019 **inclusive**.
School will re-open on Wednesday 5th June 2019.

There will be a one day school closure to facilitate Language Curriculum in-service training for teachers during the 2018 / 2019 academic year. The date for this in-service training will be communicated to parents when it has been finalised.



Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa November Newsletter 2018

Christmas Raffle

Following on from last year's hugely successful Christmas raffle fundraiser our school's Parents' Association are currently organising this year's raffle. I am delighted to let you know that a brand new 6th generation 32GB iPad will be the top prize in the raffle! Other prizes include a signed Ireland football jersey, Nintendo Mini, Parrot Hands Free Car System, George Foreman grill, toy & food hampers and various gift vouchers (Blanchardstown Centre, Stena Line, Smyths Toys, Just Eat, The Paddocks, hairdressers, electrical services and many more).

As preparations continue for the raffle we would appreciate if any parents / businesses would like to donate prizes for this event. Any business that donates a prize will be acknowledged and thanked in our Christmas newsletter and on our website.

Vouchers or any items that could be included in the toy or food hampers would be gratefully accepted.

Donations of prizes would be very much appreciated, however we will not be including any alcohol products in the Christmas hampers.

Donations of prizes for the raffle and items for the hampers can be dropped in to the school on Fridays 23rd and 30th November and 7th December.

Tickets will go on sale at the end of next week and the draw will take place on Wednesday 19th December. The Parents' Association, Board of Management and staff of the school would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your continued support.

Sparkle for Autism

The *Sparkle for Autism Ball*, organised by Mrs. Ciara Jones who is a parent of two children in our school, was held in Dunboyne Castle Hotel on Saturday 17th November. Almost 200 people came together for a fundraising ball in aid of our school and autism charity *AsIAm*. The night was a great success and a very enjoyable event for all in attendance. Deputy Principal Mr. John Harty and our six SNAs who work in our three Coiscéim classes were presented with awards on the evening in recognition of the fantastic work that they do to support children with autism in the school. Thank you to Mrs. Jones for the incredible effort that she put in to organising the event in order to raise funds to help us support the education of the children in our school.

Shortage of Substitute Teachers

As I am sure you are aware from media reports there is unfortunately a lack of substitute teachers available to primary schools at present. Due to constraints placed on schools by the Department of Education and Skills, not all occurrences of leave by teachers qualify for substitute cover; and in the present environment it is not possible to source a substitute teacher for all leave that qualifies for cover. I thank the efforts of the school's Resource and Language Unit teachers in trying to limit the impact of this shortage of substitute teachers on our pupils; however there are times when classes will have to be split up, even when teachers are on substitutable leave. Thank you for your patience and support on this matter.

Carols for the Community

Last Christmas the pupils and staff of our school come together to perform a fabulous *Carols for the Community* concert in our local church. I am delighted to let you know that this year our staff and pupils will again host an evening of music, song and carols and this free event will take place in the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Huntstown, at 7p.m. on Monday 17th December.

Savvy School Uniforms Closing Down Sale

Unfortunately one of our school uniform suppliers, Savvy Schools, is closing down. *Mr. Price* in the Blanchardstown Centre will continue to supply our school uniform and we are currently arranging a second, local supplier also. When we have the second uniform supplier confirmed we will communicate the details to you.

Savvy Schools are having a closing down sale until the 30th of November with up to 50% off school knitwear, trousers, pinafores etc.; however PE uniforms will not be included in the sale.

Savvy Schools, Unit 2, Centrepoint Shopping Centre, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
Phone: Geraldine 086 7308525

Mr. John Lynch

The first anniversary of the death of former principal Mr. John Lynch is this Thursday, 22nd November. We keep Mr. Lynch and his family in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Birthday Celebration Policy Statement

One of the milestones each year for many children is celebrating their birthday. Birthdays are a special occasion in our school, particularly for our younger children, and we endeavour to make pupils feel 'special' on their birthday (unless we are asked by a parent/guardian not to reference their child's birthday in school).

While celebrating pupils' birthdays is a special occasion for children, the health and safety of our pupils is of utmost importance. Therefore, birthday cakes or other treats cannot be accepted by teachers for sharing at school, given that some pupils have various food allergies or food intolerances.

Furthermore, in the interests of inclusivity and ensuring that no child feels 'left out', children are not allowed distribute birthday invitations at school, and parents/guardians are requested not to distribute birthday invitations on the school grounds.

Congratulations and Farewell to

Ms. Mollahan and Mr. Stapleton

Our school community joins together in saying congratulations and farewell to Ms. Ciara Mollahan, who has been appointed to a new teaching position in Rolestown NS, Co. Dublin, and to Mr. Rory Stapleton who has been appointed as principal of St. Joseph's NS, Ballyadams, Co. Laois.

We thank Ms. Mollahan and Mr. Stapleton for their immense contribution to our school community. Both colleagues have been fantastic class teachers and also completed Diplomas in Special Educational Needs teaching; leading to roles on our Special Education and ASD teaching teams respectively.

In addition to their teaching roles Ms. Mollahan was at the forefront of maths curriculum development and the support of children with Special Educational Needs in the school over the last 15 years and Mr. Stapleton always gave freely of his time in training Gaelic football teams and developing Physical Education awareness in the school over the past 11 years.

Ms. Mollahan and Mr. Stapleton will be sorely missed in Huntstown; however they will undoubtedly be very successful in their new roles. Comhghairdeas agus go n-eirí an t-ádh libh.