

Scoil Mhuire



Newsletter October 2021

As we reach Mid-Term in the school year, we wish to thank you for your co-operation in supporting our Return to School Protocols with regard to Covid-19. Most of these protocols will remain in place for the rest of the term and into 2022. We will continue to use hand sanitiser on pupils on entry into school each morning. Handwashing, coughing etiquette, social distancing as well as a robust cleaning system will remain in place. The pupils will remain in pods and bubbles for classroom and yard but these pods will change after Mid-Term.



Covid-19:

As you may be aware, the Department of Education has made a major change in the way Covid-19 cases will be handled in schools.

If a school is notified of a positive case it is not required to take any action.

- No in-school contact tracing is being carried out.
- Pupils, who in the past would have been deemed as close contacts, will not be asked to restrict movements and can go to school as normal.
- There will be no requirement for close contacts of a school based case to go for testing.

This means that the management of Covid-19 in a school has moved to a different phase with more responsibility being placed on parents to continue to be vigilant to the systems and to act accordingly. We ask you not to send your child to school if they are presenting with any systems and to seek medical advice from your GP.



**We will have Dress Up Day on
Friday 22nd October.**

Highlights of the Half-Term:



- Space Week with lots of interactive lessons.
- Arts/Crafts – Each class created jewellery from recycled materials and created a school display. This was an enjoyable experience for all the pupils.
- Maths Week – Pupils completed daily fun maths tasks and enjoyed maths trails in the environs of the school.

Drama:

Drama will start after Mid-Term for a number of classes and the other classes will have Drama in Term 2.



Dance:

Dance classes will also begin after Mid-Term for a number of classes and the other classes will have it in Term 2. This is part of our Well-Being Programme.

Sponsored Walk:

We had our Sponsored Walk on Tuesday, 19th October, and with the sun shining it was a very enjoyable day for all. Thank you to those who have returned the Sponsorship Cards.

The remainder of the cards can be returned after Mid-Term. We will have a raffle after Mid-Term for all the pupils who returned cards. The funds from the Sponsored Walk will cover the cost of Drama and Dance.



Other News:

- After Mid-Term Room 4 will move to Room 8 and Room 5 will move to Room 7. |There will be new whiteboards installed in Rooms 7 and 8.
- We would ask you to speak to your child about the dangers around Halloween so that they all stay safe over Mid-Term.
- It has come to our attention that many children are spending a lot of time on screens. We ask that you try to reduce this and also to alert your children to the danger of some items on social media. After Mid-Term the Stay Safe Programme will be covered in all classes as part of our SPHE Programme.

- Our SET team work both in the classroom with class teachers supporting group work and also taking the pupils in groups to support literacy and numeracy activities. You may hear your child talking about these teachers who work with groups in all classes.

The SET Team this year are:

- Ms. McKiernan
- Ms. Fleming
- Ms. Carr
- Ms. Redmond
- Ms. Nic Aoidh
- Ms. Ryan
- Ms. Stynes
- Ms. McCarthy



Please make sure we have the correct contact details for you – **mobile number and email address**. Some parents have unsubscribed to emails from the school. This is the only way we can contact you in the case of an emergency. A text will always be sent alerting you of an email, so it is important to check your emails and also the spam/junk folders.



If you are collecting your child or children early, please ring the school in advance. When you arrive, do not enter the school – please ring the doorbell and someone will bring your child out to you.

Masks:

I appeal to all parents/guardians to ensure they keep a distance of 2 metres when dropping and collecting their children from school. Could we remind everyone that you **must** wear a **mask** once you pass the school gate.

Thank You To All Pupils and Parents

Enjoy the Mid-Term Break

Le gach dea ghúí

Ms. Burke-Heneghan and the Staff of Scoil Mhuire