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Newsletter March 2021

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Welcome back

It was a rather different return to school in January 2021 for teachers, students and families. Launching into remote learning has been challenging for all. I would like to thank the teaching staff on the fantastic work they have done in the delivery of same and a huge thank you to parents and congratulations to our students on their excellent engagement and on the high standard of work that they continued to produce each week. It was great to get the whole school back to normal on March 15th.



St Brigid's Day

As with all our traditional school activities the making of St Brigid's Day crosses this year took on a new approach. Thank you to the Murphy family for gathering wreaths and making it possible for families to continue with the tradition of making St Brigid's crosses and giving them out to people in the community in as much as could be achieved. Thank you also to Fr O Farrell for blessing the crosses.

Policies

Our school Child Protection Safeguarding Statement is displayed on the school's [website](http://www.scoilbhidenslisdowney.weebly.com/administratio)—
<http://www.scoilbhidenslisdowney.weebly.com/administratio>
[n.html](http://www.scoilbhidenslisdowney.weebly.com/administratio)
Copies of the school's CP Safeguarding Statement and end of year BOM report are also available on request.

Remote Learning

Teaching and learning this term has been very different for students, teachers and parents.

Engagement from students for the past 6 - 9 weeks of home learning has been extremely high and feedback has been very positive. We congratulate and are very proud of our students and encourage them to keep up the great work and continue to do your best.

Both Seesaw and Google classroom worked well within our school environment and we encourage students to continue to use the skills learned during this lockdown period.

Seesaw



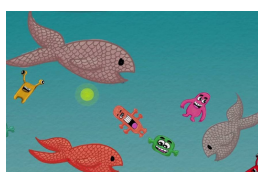
Green School

Ms Sweeney is working hard behind the scenes on developing our Marine Environment Green School project.

Students have been....looking at marine pollution and its impact on Climate change.

They have been studying the harmful effects of micro plastics and researching what products contain microbeads and how they get into the food chain. Check out the following [link](https://greenschoolsireland.org/themes/global-citizenship-marine-environment)

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Internet Safety



Internet Safety day took place on 9th February 2021. The Internet and digital media can help our pupils learn, create and communicate in ways that we would never have imagined in our youth. The online world is very much part of their lives, they are “growing up digital” with technology embedded in every aspect of their lives.

Now more so than ever as children navigate the world of remote learning, digital literacy skills are hugely important. They need to be media savvy and know how to effectively search for and evaluate online content; know how to protect personal information and reputation; know to respect copyright and intellectual property and know where to get help if problems arise. We encourage parents to speak to their children about safe use of the internet to ensure correct safety measures are in place. <https://www.webwise.ie/> is an excellent resource for parents, teachers and teenagers.

Spring Clean

This year's Spring Clean day will take place on Friday 30th April. This will be carried out under HSE and Department of Education Covid 19 guidelines. We encourage children to at all times be aware of their environment and remind them not to leave rubbish after them at home, at school or in their community. We remind children about our Green School "adopt their road" project remember to complete a 2 minute clean-up within your 5k limit.

As a school community we continue to ask students and their families to be pro-active in tackling climate change in their local area.

The Ripple Effect is something we began in 2017 where we launched a green school idea such as the "adopt a road" clean up and share this idea with those we know - cousins, neighbours, friends and ask them to do the same and spread the word - hence the ripple effect. Now we want you to continue



Sympathies



As a school community we would like to express our sympathies to the Dunne family on the sad passing of Maureen Dunne on the 20th October 2020. Maureen was inspirational in teaching many of our past students the skills of playing the violin. Maureen had a wonderful love of music and was an extremely talented music teacher with a wealth of knowledge and experience. May she Rest in Peace. Our thoughts are with all families that have experienced the loss of a loved one at this time.

Board of Management

A Board of Management meeting took place on March 23rd. The following were amended and ratified: Covid 19 Policy, Statement and Risk Assessment and school cleaning programme. Next meeting will take place in April.

School Self Evaluation

We are continuing to concentrate on spelling accuracy of commonly misspelled words. We are also focusing on writing genres and the associated vocabulary. The following writing genres will be taught throughout the remainder of the year - Narrative, Recount, Procedural, Persuasive, Report, Explanation and writing to socialise. After Easter, third to sixth class Oral Language lessons will be integrated with genre writing. Please ask your child about their school work and listen to their oral language homework each week. The importance of oral language development cannot be overstated.

Oral language skills form the foundation of literacy and academic success. A solid foundation of oral language helps children become successful readers, strong communicators, as well as increasing their confidence and overall sense of well-being and prepares them to become confident secure adults.

Lisdowney Montessori

If you have any queries regarding enrolment at Lisdowney Montessori for September 2021 please contact Helen on 087 697 8588.

At Lisdowney Montessori Play and Learn we really appreciate all the support we continue to receive from parents from surrounding areas.

This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary and we look forward to many more years of continued positive growth. Thank you from all the team at Lisdowney Montessori Play and Learn –Helen Coogan, Anne Mackey and Eileen Grace.



Libraries Ireland

The benefits of reading are many and varied.

One of the basic reasons why reading is important is that it helps you grow mentally, emotionally and psychologically. Every book gives you an opportunity to learn new things and explore new ideas. Reading keeps our minds young, healthy and sharp.

Find and join your local library service, browse the extensive collection of free items, access online resources, find out about children's programmes, reading tips and information on services to primary and secondary schools, all on LibrariesIreland.ie.

Ireland Reads is a new campaign to get the whole country reading. Follow this [link](https://www.librariesireland.ie/) for more details: <https://www.librariesireland.ie/>

Learning Irish

A workshop for Kilkenny primary school parents who would like to introduce more Irish at home took place on 15th March at 7pm. For details re additional classes please contact Liam at liam@glornangael.ie

News from the Parents Council

A clothes collection will take place on Tuesday April 27th. Please support. Due to Covid 19 restrictions and lockdowns the Parent's Association elections did not take place this year. Parent Association elections will take place shortly to elect a new committee for the school year 2021/2022. We appreciate your support and encourage parents to put their name forward for election. To ensure continuity two members of the existing committee will remain to support the new committee members. Check your emails for further information regarding the above.

Nature Watch

Spring birds to look out for. Checkout <https://birdwatchireland.ie/irelands-birds-birdwatch-ireland/list-of-irelands-birds/>

Garden favourites include Robin, Bluetit, Blackbird, Great tit.

Spring flowers to look out for - check out - www.wildflowersofireland.net

A message from the National Xmas Shoe Box Appeal

44,749 Thank Yous From Team Hope's First Ever Online-Only Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Thank you so much for your Christmas Shoebox donation. We are so delighted to be able to share with you some of the stories from the distribution of Christmas Shoeboxes across Africa and Eastern Europe.



Catholic Schools Week?

Catholic Schools week took place from 24th January to 31st January 2021.

COMMUNITIES OF:
FAITH
Learning
LOVE
Resilience
HOPE



Ombudsman for Children

School is back and the Ombudsman for Children's Office wants to hear from young people.

We know that school is about more than education. It's about friends, fun and a chance for children to be themselves, away from their family. We've heard from teachers and parents, from unions and the Department of Education. Now we want to hear from the young people.

We're running a campaign to hear directly from children about how they feel about going back to school and we're looking for your support.

Are they nervous? Are they excited? What is their favourite thing about school? How has school changed during the pandemic? Their Covid-19 School Hero? What is the reality of homeschool?

We are asking children and young people to send us a video, a photo, a comment, a reel – anything that shows what going back to school means to them. At the end of the process a panel of judges, made up of young people, will select a winner and four runners up. An iPad and other prizes are up for grabs.

#MoreThanSchool will run from Monday 15th March to Monday 12th April.

When a student sends us their entry we will make contact to get permission from them and their parents to share it online or on our social accounts. If we don't get permission, we will not be able to use the entry and we will delete it from our records. If we receive information that makes us think a young person may be in danger or at risk of being hurt, we will have to follow up on this.

We would love if your students could take part in our campaign.

You will find all the info on www.oco.ie. If you have any questions don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks for your help and best wishes for the week

Aoife and the OCO Communications team.

www.oco.ie



Dates for your Diary

- **March 26th 2021** Easter Holidays – school will close at 11.45am on 26th March for infants and 12 noon for remainder of school.
- **April 12th 2021** (Monday) School will re-open.
- **April 30th** - Spring Clean Day
- **May 3rd 2021** (Monday) May Bank Holiday – school will be closed
- **June 7th 2021** (Monday) June Bank Holiday – school will be closed
- Summer Closing Date – **June 25th 2021** (Friday) Summer Holidays – school will close at 11.45am for infants and siblings 12 noon for the remainder of school.

- We encourage parents not to remove children from school during school term time unless completely necessary. If at all possible please try to arrange appointments outside school times as it is very disruptive to school work and progress.

- School doors opens to receive pupils: 8:45am. Please do not drop children before this time to reduce congregations of pupils outside the school. Children are reminded to stand on red markings and sanitise before/on entering the school building.
- Class begins: 9:00am
- Small break: 10:55am – 11:10am (Lón)
- Big break: 12:25pm – 12:55pm
- Infants home time: 1:40pm
- Reminder of school home time: 2:40pm



Enrolment 2021/2022

The revised school enrolment process closed on 15th February 2021. Thank you to all those that have applied. We look forward to welcoming all our new students in September 2021.

If there are any queries about this revised enrolment process please email lisdowneyns@gmail.com

Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2021/2022

The following are the dates applicable for admission to Junior Infants

- The school will commence accepting applications for admission on 1st Oct 2020.
- The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on 15th Feb 2021.
- The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is 1st March 2021.
- The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is 1st March 2021-22nd March 2021

Thank you

Thank you to all for their continued support throughout these challenging times. We hope you have an enjoyable Easter break and we look forward to seeing everybody back on April 12th .

