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Newsletter February 2022

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Welcome back

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a nice Christmas even if it was a little bit quieter than normal. It was lovely to welcome the boys and girls back to school and they seemed genuinely happy to be back. The reopening of our country and the lifting of so many restrictions is great news. There is of course no guarantee the pandemic is over, but the signs are certainly good. So, for now, let's rejoice and be happy.

St Brigid's Day



St Brigid's Day celebrates the contributions of Irish women through the ages, highlighting their stories and promoting their contribution to society. Our students made St Brigid's crosses where the older children helped the younger children complete their task. A special word of thanks to Conor and Micheál and the Murphy family for supplying us with the rushes to make the crosses. There are more crosses available in the church for those who did not yet receive one.

Green Flag



Students at Lisdowney NS, Scoil Bhríde together with our Green School Co-ordinator Ms Sweeney continue to work hard in the background towards securing our Global Citizenship Travel Green Flag. This will be our 10th Green Flag. Chiara Hanrahan our Green Schools facilitator will visit with us over the coming weeks. The green school committee at their recent meeting have agreed on the school motto for this theme. "If you want to be cool use less fuel!"

Spring Clean



Our annual Spring Clean day will take place on Friday 6th May 2022. We encourage all students and families to participate in this clean up of the school environs and your locality. We all need to reinforce the importance of recycling and re-using material where possible. Promote personal responsibility for litter and heighten awareness of litter and waste issues. We will also be holding an "adopt our road" afternoon shortly where children will participate in a 2 minute clean up and "the ripple effect".

Condolences



The Board of Management, staff and all involved with Lisdowney NS, Scoil Bhríde would like to extend our sympathies to all families in our community that have lost loved ones in recent weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families at this difficult time.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Angela Mullally a former parent rep, community rep and Chairperson of our Board of Management. Angela always gave so freely of her time and worked tirelessly at promoting and supporting the growth and development of Scoil Bhríde over many years. Angela was also heavily involved in the wider community of Lisdowney all in a voluntary capacity. Thank you Angela for all you have done for Scoil Bhríde and Lisdowney. You have made a huge difference to all the lives you touched. Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam.

Cycle Parking



We are delighted to inform you that Lisdowney NS has been accepted to receive a 20 space cycle parking rack in the coming months. This project is being executed and funded by An Taisce.

School Self Evaluation



The current focus of our School Improvement Plan 2021/2022 is on Gaeilge. We encourage children and parents to engage in the Frásaí Na Seachtaine initiative daily and speak the cúpla focal as gaeilge sa bhaile le chéile. We continue to work on Oral Language, problem solving, commonly misspelled words and writing genres. Children are encouraged to develop their creative writing skills and spelling accuracy of commonly misspelled words.

Parents Council



Thanks to the Parents Council for organising a clothes collection recently. There was a great response from the school community and beyond. €300 was raised through this fundraiser. The Parents Council will organise a trolley draw at Easter. Details to follow. There will be a no uniform day on 16th March - children can dress up in their Irish/St Patrick's Day colours - Lá glas. We ask that children contribute €2 per child or max of €5 per family.

Lisdowney Montessori

Lisdowney Montessori Play & Learn would like to thank you all for your continued support over the years. LMP&L are now compiling a waiting list for ECCE Scheme places, going forward.

There is early drop off service from 8am available for Primary school children. If you wish to consider LMP&L services please contact Helen on 087-6978588.



Schools GAA Training

Mr Fitzgerald along with Martin Power will co-ordinate schools GAA training this year. Students are looking forward to training for the coming season. We thank both men for their willingness to give so generously of their time.

Confirmation Communion First Penance



Provisional dates for Lisdowney Parish

Confirmation for all three schools will take place on Sunday April 3rd.

First Penance for all three schools will take place on Wednesday 27th April 2022.

First Holy Communion for Lisdowney NS will take place on Saturday May 7th.

First Holy Communion for Gathabawn NS will take place on Saturday 14th May.

First Holy Communion for Clonbtubrid NS will take place on Saturday 21st May 2022.

Contact Details

Phone Contacts If parents/guardians change their phone number, address, you must inform the school office as soon as possible. We must have contact details in the event of an accident or illness.

Board of Management

A Board of Management meeting took place on Tuesday 25th January 2022. Next meeting will be towards the end of March. The following policies were ratified - The SSE report and the School Improvement Plan.



Warm Clothing

There has been a notable drop in temperature over the last couple of days, and with windows and door open to facilitate good ventilation, it is really important that the children layer up to stay warm at this time. Children may continue to wear school tracksuit until March when we shall review this.

Covid 19

Whilst many of the public health measures put in place were removed on 22nd January the protective measures in schools will remain until 28th February.

Catholic Schools Week 2022



A big thank you to all the boys and girls in Lisdowney NS, Scoil Bhríde on their participation in Catholic Schools week celebration at our school. Students participated with respect and reverence in their engagement in the daily reflection activities. The theme for this year is "Catholic schools living life to the full". Maith sibh a pháistí.

Food Dudes



Food Dudes is an award winning curriculum-linked evidence-based healthy eating programme, developed to encourage children to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables. It is based on repeated tastings of fresh fruit and vegetables, rewards and positive role models.

A new and improved programme has been rolled out in schools and includes new varieties of fruits and vegetables, additional tasting days, new eco-friendly rewards, and new supporting materials including DVD and bilingual activities. We are delighted to say that students in Lisdowney NS, Scoil Bhríde will participate in the Food Dudes programme this year from 14th February to 18th February 2022. Please continue to encourage your child to eat healthy food options.

Irish

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH IRISH:

NEW Rang Maher is a new and helpful website suitable for 4th – 6th class. It is particularly helpful for teaching Irish Grammar with videos to learn from, practical activities and useful summaries. <https://rangmaher.com/rang-gaeilge/>

Please check this out.



Outstanding Book Bill Money 2021/2022

It has come to our attention on our Aladdin payments system that the yearly book bill fees for some children are not showing paid on the system. We have been informed that some parents have not received or have not found this link. It was sent back in June 2021. This link has been re-sent to accounts with outstanding balances. I would be grateful if you could please arrange payment of outstanding amounts due. Please check your emails. Thank you.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Infants Room:

Happy birthday to: Joe and Isabel.

During Catholic School's week the children made sure to celebrate Grandparents day by printing their hands on a card for their grandparents.

The children were learning all about 2D shapes and made 2D shape animals during their Aistear time.

They made horses, pigs, cows and roosters out of squares, rectangles, triangles and circles.

The children studied the Chinese new year and the Year of the Tiger. A lot of the children were born in the Year of the Monkey and the Rooster.

The children collaborated in groups and folded paper to create Dragons to celebrate the Chinese new year.

1st and 2nd Class:

Happy birthday to: Jack, Ted and Tom.

We held a Teddy Fashion show as Gaeilge.

We completed scratch art.

We released our class cloud.

We made salt crystals.

We made St Brigid's Day crosses.

Percussion Instruments: we made a band and played together.

We are learning about Global Warming.

We have started coding on the iPads.

3rd and 4th Class:

Happy birthday to Ellie Mulcahy and Daniel Bryan in 3rd class.

We made St Brigid's crosses on St Brigid's Day.

We completed history projects on the Bronze Age.

We are now learning all about the Egyptians and modern Egypt.

Art: We designed chalk monsters and made Valentines cards.

Science: We are learning all about electricity and how a circuit works.

5th and 6th Class:

Happy birthday to: Cillian, Emily and Mark in 6th class.

We have been baking cookies, brownies and scones and working out the unit cost of each. In science we are working on circuits and participated in the light house project using circuits.

For art we studied Van Gogh and created our own "Sunflower" paintings. We created paper folding fan animals.

We helped the younger children make St Brigid's crosses. We are studying renewable and non-renewable energy sources for our Green school study.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Junior Infants

December - Aoife Kenny

Senior Infants

December - Cathal Skehan, Sally O'Shea

January - Cillian Donohoe

February - Joe Phelan, Isabel Serranito Mendes

First Class

December - Alexandra O'Donnell

January - Tom Campion,

February - Niamh Maher, Lisa Thornton, Chloe Quinn

Second Class

December - Laoise Skehan, Thernean Maher

January - Jack Costelloe, Edward Carroll, Ellie O'Shea

February

Third Class

December - Donnacha Burns, Darragh Mooney

January - Ellie Mulcany, Daniel Bryan

February

Fourth Class

December - Robert Thornton, Robert McGree

Fifth Class

December

January

February - Maria Clara Souza Coutinho

Sixth Class

December -

January - Blathnaid O'Shea, Emily Farrell, Cillian Bartholin

February - Mark Foley



Enrolments September 2022/2023

The Annual Admissions Notice was published in October and is ratified by the Board of Management. This confirms dates from which applications will be accepted as well as the closing date for completed applications.

PART 1 - Admissions to the 2022/2023 school year

Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2022/2023

The following are the dates applicable for admission to Junior Infants

- The school will commence accepting applications for admission on 1st Oct 2021.
- The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on 15th Feb 2022.
- The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is 1st March 2022.
- The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is 1st March 2022- 22nd March 2022.

Internet Safety

With many children receiving new gifts of technology for Christmas, this is a timely reminder to monitor the settings and content **on all devices** that children are using at home. Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 8th February 2022. We emphasise the importance of a safe online environment and encourage parents and carers to set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites. Please be aware, that social media sites including Facebook, TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat are not appropriate for primary school aged pupils. Most have an age restriction of 13 due to content which can be inappropriate for younger children. Remember online messages can be sent from most devices that have an internet connection and not just a mobile phone.

Resources attached - A Parents Guide to Cyber Safety and a Guide to Internet Safety for Children (documents issued by Community Engagement Office, Kilkenny Garda Station).

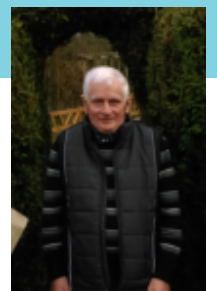
Webwise

Webwise <https://www.webwise.ie/guides-parents/> provides a wide range of useful resources for parents/teachers.



Thank you

On behalf of the BOM, Parents Council, students and staff at Lisdowney NS, Scoil Bhríde we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Michael Brophy our school caretaker since 1999 who retired earlier this month. Michael served us loyally at Scoil Bhríde and was admired by young and old for his commitment to keeping the grounds around Scoil Bhríde always looking well. Michael took great pride in his work. Thank you Michael and we wish you good health and happiness in your retirement. We welcome Pa Mooney who will take up the position of part-time Caretaker in the coming weeks. We are delighted to have him on board.



Emergency Works

Background work continues to be done in confirming details re Emergency Works funding. We are awaiting Department of Education & Skills approval to move forward with the Additional Accommodation project. We will keep you up to date as these projects progress.



Emergency Works

Punctuality



School begins at 9am sharp. We encourage you to make sure your child is in school on or before 9am daily. Being punctual for school means making sure your child is at school and ready to learn before the bell rings. Good punctuality at school is essential for students to achieve their full educational potential. It is also vital for students to form good habits for later life.

Our school doors open at 8:45am and class starts at 9:00am sharp every morning and children are expected to be punctual and in their class with their classmates each morning when the bell rings. It is so important for children to understand the importance of being punctual. Even missing a few minutes each day can add up to many hours over the school year.

In Lisdowney NS, Scoil Bhríde punctuality and attendance are recorded on the school management system Aladdin. All students arriving late or leaving early must be recorded in and out on this system.

We also ask that you are on time picking up your child daily. Small children can become very upset and anxious if they are left waiting when every other child has been collected.

Attendance

One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: going to school every day for the full day. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing his/her academic success.

Benefits of Daily Attendance

Achievement: students who attend school regularly are more likely to do well in reading and maths assessments than students who don't attend school regularly.

Opportunity: being in school every day gives children a chance to learn more about a vast range of things including about secondary school and third level opportunities.

School Community: just by being present at school, your child becomes an important member of our school community, learning valuable social skills, and developing a broader world view.

The Importance of Education: Your commitment to school attendance will also send a message to your child that education is a priority for your family, going to school every day is a critical part of educational success.

By making your child's school attendance a priority, you will be taking an important step in supporting your child's school success, and setting a good example. You will also make your child aware of your understanding of the value of education. Remember every day counts.

Dates for your Diary



- **Thursday 24th February and Friday 25th February 2022 inclusive.** Mid-Term – school will close at 2:40pm on Wednesday 23rd February and re-open on Monday 28th February 2022.
- **Wednesday 16th March** - There will be a no uniform day on 16th March - children can dress up in their Irish/St Patrick's Day colours - Lá glas. We ask that children contribute €2 per child or max of €5 per
- **Thursday 17th March, Friday 18th March and Monday 21st March inclusive. St Patrick's Day** – school will close at 2:40pm on Wednesday 16th March and re-open on Tuesday 22nd March 2022.
- **Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April 2022 inclusive.** Easter Holidays – school will close at 11:45am for infants and siblings and 12 noon for the remainder of the school on Friday 8th April and re-open on Monday 25th April 2022.
- **Monday 2nd May 2022 May Bank Holiday** – school will be closed on Monday 2nd May 2022 and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd May 2022.
- **Monday 6th June 2022 June Bank Holiday** – school will be closed on Monday 6th June 2022 and will re-open on Tuesday 7th June 2022.
- **Thursday 23rd June 2022 Summer Holidays** – school will close at 11:45am for infants and 12 noon for the remainder of school

Nut Allergy

A number of our pupils have nut allergies of varying degrees of severity. Parents of children in the classes are requested to refrain from including nuts/nut by-products/eggs as part of their child's school lunch.

Nut allergies are serious -

Mild to moderate Allergic reaction -swelling of lips, face and eyes, hives or welts, tingling mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting.

Severe Allergic reaction – Anaphylaxis— Difficulty/noisy breathing, Swelling of tongue, Swelling/tightness in throat, Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice, Wheeze or persistent cough, Loss of consciousness and/or collapse, Pale and floppy.

In severe cases use of an Anapen will be necessary—so please abide by the instructions outlined.



Libraries Ireland

Libraries Ireland (supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development) operate public libraries which offer a wide range of services free of charge.

There is strong evidence that reading for pleasure benefits both your physical and mental health, including helping to reduce stress, slow cognitive decline, improve sleep, enhance social skills and improve concentration. Click [here](https://www.librariesireland.ie/news/online-services-during-coronavirus) for more details: <https://www.librariesireland.ie/news/online-services-during-coronavirus>

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