



# Lisdowney NS

## Scoil Bhríde

### Newsletter October 2020



**Welcome** Cead míle failte ar ais arís do gach duine I Scoil Bhríde. A very special word of welcome to our ten new Junior Infant students, Cathal, Cillian, Edmond, Ethan, Isabel, Joe, Lilly, Rose, Sally and Sophie. We wish them every success as they begin their journey with us in Scoil Bhríde.



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## Past Pupils

To all our past pupils that were due to sit their Leaving Certificate examination this summer we wish you all the very best of luck as you embark on the next stage of your lives.

Congratulations to the Lisdowney U16 camogie team on winning their county final. Well done to our past pupils Laura Walshe, Áine Kavanagh, Lauryn Foley, Amelia Campion, Roísín Burns, Ava Dooley and Ashleigh Doyle who were all part of the squad.

Well done also to the Senior Lisdowney/Freshford camogie team on reaching the county final. Unfortunately, they were pipped at the post by the very experienced Thomastown team. Great work by all our past pupils that were involved in this team:

A massive congratulations to the Lisdowney Intermediate hurling team on winning this year's Intermediate County Championship. It was an epic performance with top class entertainment from start to finish. Not alone did this game go to extra time it then went to a penalty shoot out. An extremely harsh way to decide a winner. The team showed remarkable resilience throughout. From being three points down in injury time, from five points down in extra time, from two penalties down in the shootout, Lisdowney found a way to come out on top. Well done to past pupils: Vinny Fitzpatrick, James Phelan, Sean Phelan, Pat O'Carroll, Ciaran O'Carroll, Conor O'Carroll, David O'Carroll, Brian Kavanagh, William Kenny, Edward Hickey, Michael Kenny, Marty McEvoy, Aaron Fogarty, Niall Mackey, Darragh Mackey, Luke Moore and Jack McGree,

## Parents Association

We are preparing for the new Committee elections. We would be very grateful if anyone interested in putting their names forward for election to the new committee would send a text to the school mobile 0861445629. You will be receiving an update regarding upcoming activities and events shortly. Thank you.

## COVID-19

We are all navigating through our new way of living in today's society. Living along side Covid19 is challenging for all. I would like to thank our students, staff and parents for their help and diligence in working through and co-operating with school management, the Department of Education and HSE guidelines on ensuring a safe return to school for all. We encourage all involved to continue with this diligence and do all we can to stay safe and well.

The HSE has issued guidance for parents which addresses the following issues:

- Symptoms to look out for and when to contact your GP
- When to keep your child at home and phone your GP
- When it's okay to send your child to school or childcare

You can access this guidance at: [HSE: Covid-19 Advice for Parents](#)

If your child becomes unwell at school and presents with symptoms associated with Covid-19, we will follow the procedure that is set out in Section 8 of our school's Covid-19 Response Plan. This involves bringing you child to a designated area within the school. This area is called an "isolation area" and every school is required to have such an area identified to deal with a potential case of Covid-19.

We will contact you and ask you to collect your child as soon as possible.

Please note that the school is not required to inform anyone that your

child has been removed due to his/her symptoms. This procedure is purely precautionary.

If you have other children in the school, they do not have to be removed from the school at this point.

You are required to contact your GP to discuss concerns and we would ask that you keep the school updated on the advice given by your GP.

The next steps will depend on the advice given to you by your GP.

If you child is referred for a test, all other members of the household that attended the school should remain at home.

If you child is confirmed positive for Covid-19, the HSE will begin the process of contact tracing. This will most likely mean that the school will be contacted to access the Public Health Risk.

***From this point onwards, the process will be led by the Public Health HSE.***

The school can not take any action in relation to exclusion, part closure or full closure, unless the Public Health HSE determine that the action is required.

If any action of this nature is required, the HSE will liaise with the school to provide clear guidance to the school community.

If the school has not been contacted by the Pubic Health HSE in relation to a confirmed case in the school community, then contact with the school has not been deemed necessary.

It is a distressing time for families who are dealing with a suspected or confirmed case and all pupils and their families are entitled to confidentiality.

The school can not and will not make the name of a pupil with a suspected or confirmed case known to the public.

Unfortunately, we have no control over exchanges on social media, where information based on hearsay is shared.

We would respectfully request that parents who choose to communicate about this is on social media should consider how these comments could be misinterpreted.

Please refrain from naming pupils and their families on these platforms.

We will continue to implement the measures set out in the school's Covid-19 Response Plan to provide a safe learning environment for our pupils and a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff.

We look forward to and appreciate your continued support.

**THANK YOU:** I would like to thank all the staff at Scoil Bhríde, for their work in preparing for the safe reopening of our school. Thank you also to our Board of Management and Parent's Association for their continued support always.

## Meeting Teachers

We would remind parents wishing to contact teachers, to discuss queries or issues that arise, that they contact the teachers by email at:

[lisdowneyns5thand6thclass@gmail.com](mailto:lisdowneyns5thand6thclass@gmail.com) – Ms Dowling 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class  
[lisdowneyns3rdand4thclass@gmail.com](mailto:lisdowneyns3rdand4thclass@gmail.com) - Ms Murphy 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class  
[lisdowneyns2ndand1stclass@gmail.com](mailto:lisdowneyns2ndand1stclass@gmail.com) - Ms O Donovan 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class  
[lisdowneynsjandsinfantsclass@gmail.com](mailto:lisdowneynsjandsinfantsclass@gmail.com) – Ms Heffernan Junior and Senior Infants  
[lisdowneynsasdunitclass@gmail.com](mailto:lisdowneynsasdunitclass@gmail.com) – Ms Walshe ASD Class  
[lisdowneynsresourceclass@gmail.com](mailto:lisdowneynsresourceclass@gmail.com) – Ms Tynan Resource  
[lisdowneynsresourceclassdm@gmail.com](mailto:lisdowneynsresourceclassdm@gmail.com) – Ms Maher Resource

Or call 056-8833495. Class teachers will reply via email or phone. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Release Time for Principal Teachers

In July 2020 the Department of Education and Skills announced the publication of the *Reopening of our Schools: The Roadmap for the Full Return to School*. One of the supports provided in this roadmap is the provision of funding for 1 release day per week for teaching principals.

Schools were invited to combine their Principal Release Days to form a Cluster of 5 schools which can employ a full-time fixed term teacher to provide one release day per week for each Teaching Principal in the cluster.

Scoil Bhríde NS has formed a Cluster with Scoil Naomh Fiachra NS, Gathabawn NS, Johnswell NS and Johnstown NS for the academic year 2020/2021.

We are delighted to say that Ms Amy Sweeney has been appointed to this fixed-term position. This position will commence on 28<sup>th</sup> September. A weekly schedule will be drawn up between the five schools in the cluster. All principals will work closely with Ms Sweeney to ensure effective and structured continuity of teaching, learning and classroom management in each school. We welcome Ms Sweeney to Scoil Bhríde.

## Mid-Term Break

Mid-term break will run from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October through to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 inclusive. School will re-open on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

## Communicate Re Absences

Please text the school on 0861445629 or email the school at [lisdowneyns@gmail.com](mailto:lisdowneyns@gmail.com) directly with absence reasons.

## Collecting Children from School

It is the responsibility of parents to inform class teachers of any changes in relation to who collects children from school. If teachers are not informed of changes to collecting arrangements they will not release children from their care, and will instead contact parents for clarification. If you have any reason to collect your child early, please inform the teacher to expect you at an approximate time. Please collect your child from outside the main front door.

## Green Schools

We are currently looking at the Green School theme of Global Citizenship and Marine Environment. Ms Sweeney has agreed to co-ordinate Green School work this year. The Green School committee has been formed and they will be informing you of news and events.

## School Calendar

If you do not have a copy of the school calendar please contact the school and we will send home a copy with your child.

## Board of Management

The next Board of Management meeting of this new academic year will take place on October 20th 2020.

## Allergies

Again we wish to bring to your attention that there are children in the school that have **serious to chronic nut allergies**. In the interest of health and safety of the children with allergies we request that you do not give your child products containing nuts for lunch. We are a nut free school. We once again appreciate your co-operation in this regard. Also, if your child is diagnosed with any health condition that has not already been stated on the enrolment form please inform the school immediately. Please give details of the condition and information regarding medication if it is required

## Tetrapak Tree Day

Tetrapak Tree day took place on 1st October. This year's theme is Be a Force For Nature! ("Bí I do fóras nádúir) which focuses on the things we can do in our everyday lives to help nature and our environment. Some ideas....plant wild flowers in your garden, cut down on food waste! Become the recycling hero of your family—show how to recycle properly. Walk or cycle when you can. Plant a tree. We are celebrating the Irish native Scots Pine An Giúis. Niamh in 6th class planted the tree in a pot. The permanent location of the tree has yet to be decided.

## First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our students that made their First Holy Communion on 3rd October Aylee, Ben, Charlie, Ciara, Ella, Georgie, Grace, Harry, Jamie, Julian, Odhran, Robert Mc, Robert T, Seamus and Sean. Thank you to Mrs O Donovan for preparing the children all last year and thanks also to Ms Murphy



## Homework

Homework will be part of your child's day. Please encourage your child to have a positive attitude and support them daily throughout the year. Homework is given four nights a week (Monday to Thursday inclusive) to all classes unless otherwise stated. It is crucial that you check daily that all your child's homework (reading, written work, tables, spellings, oral language) is completed properly. Please sign your child's homework diary each day and also sign test copies each week. Please ensure your child's homework is their best effort. Encourage your child to always do their best and seek help or assistance if needed. Please ensure that they complete all homework and present their work neatly. Praise their hard work.

## School Collection

Please complete the collection permission form if you have not already done so, if somebody other than usual is collecting your child. Please text permission to the school mobile: 0861445629. If your child is going to a friend's house etc, please send in a note or text to give permission. Your child's safety is our priority.

## DEAR Reading Strategy

The school will, once again, take part in Drop Everything And Read each Friday for 15 minutes to encourage interest and enjoyment in reading. We encourage children to bring in appropriate reading material on Fridays.

## Book Bills

Book bills have been issued. Please note all payments re school activities/books etc will be through the e-payments facility on Aladdin. We will send text reminders regarding e-payments. If you have difficulty paying your bill please inform the school. The school will exercise confidentiality at all times. When you make a payment you will receive a receipt. Please advise the school if you do not receive one.

## Car Free Day

Car Free Day took place on Tuesday September 22nd. We encourage parents/guardians to allow children to walk from the village to school on the footpath. The children can avail of the High Visibility Jackets from the school.

## Contact Details for the School

School land line: 056-8833495                      School mobile: 086-1445629  
 School email: lisdowneyns@gmail.com        website: www.scoilbhridenslisdowney@weebly.com

## Class Allocation

Class allocation for this year is as follows: Junior and Senior Infants—Ms Elizabeth Henderson/Ms Lisa Heffernan, 1st and 2nd Class—Mrs Niamh O'Donovan, 3rd and 4th Class—Ms Catherine Murphy, 5th and 6th Class—Ms Mairead Dowling, ASD Class—Ms Johanna Walshe, SEN Team Ms Ger Tynan and Ms Dymphna Maher (shared with Johnswell N.S.). Principal Release Days will be covered by Ms Amy Sweeney.

## Maths Week

Maths week will take place from October 10th to 18th. Check out <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2019/event/maths-week-2020> for more information, games and challenges.

## Sale of Work

Unfortunately, the annual Sale of Work will not take place this year. However, children can dress up on Friday October 23rd as usual. The children will be able to participate in a raffle, Halloween bingo and receive some treats on the day. We ask that you make a donation of €5— €10 per family to fund this event. This money can be placed in a sealed envelope and placed in a box at the entrance door.

## Enrolment for September 2021

We will publish our Annual Admissions Notice later in the month. It has been ratified by the school patron and the Board of Management. This will confirm dates from which applications will be accepted as well as the closing date for completed applications.

## Lisdowney Montessori Play and Learn

Thanks for all your support over the last ten years.

Early drop off is available from 8am for the primary school. Unfortunately there is no after school due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Places are available for September 2021. Please ring 087 6978588 for further details.

Thank you Helen Coogan.

## School Newsletters/Notes

Since Lisdowney NS, Scoil Bhríde is a 'Green School' we hope to reduce the amount of paper that we are using in the coming year. Therefore communications will be sent through Aladdin via email and text and all payments will be through the e-payments facility on Aladdin (School Management Software system).

**THANK YOU - *Thank you as always for your continued co-operation, and please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or myself should you have any concerns in the year ahead.***

## Secondary School

Please check that you have completed the relevant admission form for your child for the school(s) of your choice. There is a new Admissions Policy in place in the Dioceses of Ossory for the academic year 2021/2022.

- Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown 056-8831135—Virtual tour available online shortly. <https://colaistemhuirekk.ie/> for more details.
- Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny 056-7765132— Virtual Open Night 22nd October—<https://loretokk.ie/enrolment/admissions-policy/> for more details.
- Heywood Secondary School 057-8733333. <https://heywood.ie/> for more details
- Castlecomer Community School, Kilkenny 056-44414—Information available on Youtube.
- CBS, Kilkenny 056-7721402—Virtual Open night 14th October at 7pm. <http://www.cbskilkenny.ie/> for more details.
- Coláiste Pobail Osraí 065-7764557—Virtual Open night 15th October at 7pm. [www.osrai.ie/](http://www.osrai.ie/) applications for more information

## Lockdown

While we do not want to experience lockdown again we are currently preparing a lockdown plan should this occur. This plan will require daily engagement of all children with school work. During lockdown from March to June 2020 we sent home suggested plans of work. This will not be the case should we enter lockdown again. All children will be expected to participate in and engage with lessons. We will chat to children regarding our plans of work and expectations over the next few weeks. Unfortunately, Covid 19 has not left us so we need to have a plan to allow children to access learning.

Please be aware that students can now access Bua na Cainte on line once they forward a copy of their book list to [edcolearning.ie](http://edcolearning.ie). Students can also access their Mathletics account any stage. Later this month students will be able to access Reading Eggs to assist them with their English work.

**CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL:** Due to Covid –19, this year Team Hope are moving their Shoe Box Appeal to ONLINE! At [www.TeamHope.ie](http://www.TeamHope.ie). We hope that all families will engage in this very worthwhile programme and that children learn the importance of helping those that are less fortunate. You can also donate through the school. Funds collected will then be forwarded to Team Hope who will pack the boxes on your behalf. Please see attached letter. This money can be placed in a sealed envelope marked TEAM HOPE and placed in a box at the entrance door. Thank you.

# Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Dear Parents,

This year our school is supporting Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign where thousands of individuals in Ireland donate shoeboxes filled with gifts to be given to children affected by poverty in Africa or Eastern Europe. It is an opportunity to share a little joy and excitement with children who live in circumstances where these can sometimes be in short supply.

You can read their stories at [www.TeamHope.ie](http://www.TeamHope.ie)

**This year, due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal has gone online.**

Every €20 donated will allow Team Hope's partners in Africa and Eastern Europe to purchase items for shoeboxes locally, which will then be packaged and delivered directly into the hands of children.

You can drop donations into the school office or send an envelope in with your child.

To make a virtual box of your own with your child you can visit [www.TeamHope.ie](http://www.TeamHope.ie) at any time and choose the items you would like to add. You can also upload your colouring page with your donation to personalise your shoebox!

Thank you so much for helping us to support this appeal.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.TeamHope.ie](http://www.TeamHope.ie)