



HALLOWEEN NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well as Covid-19 continues to present many challenges for our community and indeed the whole world. The Board of Management, Staff and I would like to thank you for your support and co-operation in implementing the re-opening plan for Scoil Naomh Bríd. We are delighted with the continued success of our plan and we look forward to welcoming the children back again after the Halloween break.

We are so proud of all our girls and how well they have adapted to life in Pods (indoors) and staying in their class bubbles when out in the yard. Sanitising and social distancing is now a part of their daily routine. They have settled back into school life and are making good progress. The school is decorated with beautiful art work and it is wonderful to hear the shrieks of laughter as the children play in the yard once more. Our classrooms which lay empty and quiet since the 12th March are now hives of activity and learning.

I want to thank the school staff, (teachers, SNA's, Secretaries and Caretakers) for all their hard work and commitment, staggered opening times, lunch break and dismissal times has meant additional supervision duties for every member of staff but we are happy to do this so that school can remain open and safe for everyone. The children are at the heart of everything we do and to see all the happy, smiling faces around the school each day is so rewarding.

We would like to express our thanks to Joe Butler who was our caretaker for the last number of years and we wish him every happiness in the next chapter of his life. We are so grateful to Pat Grant who volunteered as a caretaker while we went through the process of advertising and appointing a new caretaker. Pat did wonderful work around the school making sure everything was in good order. Our thanks also to Joseph Elliott who did up the beds at the entrance of the school and pruned the trees around the yard and to Ms. Gillespie who planted up all the flower pots around the school before we opened on the 1st September 2020. We would like to welcome Barry O'Hara who started as our new caretaker last week and we look forward to working with him.

With the virus so widespread in the community at present it is more important than ever that we follow all the HSE/Government Guidelines as regards to social distancing, wearing masks, sanitising and good sneeze and cough etiquette. Schools are a controlled environment – due to the level of detail and planning in our re-opening plan. Children have remained in their pods since September. Pods do not mix apart from when outside but even then they stay confined to their bubble (class group).

The actions of each one of us will impact on the rest of us. We can no longer think as an 'I' or 'me' but as 'us' and 'we'. Therefore we are pleading with all our families to keep your social bubble small, to avoid gatherings and Halloween parties so that schools will be able to re-open safely on 2nd November 2020.

We request that Parents wear masks/face covering when coming to the school and please try to maintain the 2m distance while waiting at the gate or in the school yard at collection time (Infant parents).

To date we have not received any guidance/information from the Department of Education and Skills regarding Parent/Teacher meeting. We have decided to postpone the P/T meeting which would normally take place in November to a later date in the school year.

HEALTHY LUNCHES:

We look forward to your support in promoting the schools healthy lunch policy (This information is available in the children's school journals for First-Sixth class and the key points are listed below for the parents/guardians of the infants who do not use a school journal.

- Children are not allowed crisps, chewing gum, peanuts, fizzy drinks or glass bottles in school.
- We encourage healthy lunches i.e. sandwiches, fruit etc., and we ask parents to support this policy, the responsibility lies with parents/guardians to provide a healthy lunch for their child.
- Milk can be bought through the school.
- All lunch and drink leftovers and wrappings must be brought home.
- Children have five minutes before morning break for a small snack.
- Children have 15 minutes eating time for lunch time before going out to the yard.

DOGS:

Please do not bring dogs in past the black gates at drop off or collection times. While many of our school community are dog lovers, there are a number of adults and children from whom they are a cause of anxiety.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL:

Team Hope have asked us to pass on the following information:

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal has gone online this year. www.TeamHope.ie. Families who wish to contribute to the shoebox appeal can now "Build Your Own Shoebox" on Team Hope's website, choosing the items to send. Team Hope's partners in Africa and Eastern Europe will then purchase the items locally, which will be packaged and delivered directly into the hands of children. Each €20 donation will provide a shoebox for a child.

ONLINE BOOK FAIR:

Each year in November, we hold a book fair in the school. As well as introducing the children to lots of lovely books, this also benefits the school. The school receives a percentage of the sales in the form of books for our class libraries. This year the book fair will be a virtual one and more details about this will follow after Halloween.

FIRST YEAR ENROLMENT 2020/2021

St. Wolstans' closing date is Friday 23rd October 2020 at 12 noon.

The deadline for application to Celbridge Community College is 12 noon on Friday 13th November.

SNB CLASSROOM NEWS

Junior Infants:

Well done to our Junior Infants who have settled in really well to our new class and class routines. We have adapted very well to our new normal in school. The girls are really good at lining up in the yard in the mornings and coming in to room 9 with Ms. Meleady. It is really important that all the children are in the yard for the line in the mornings (as close to 9 am as possible) as it is much easier for the girls to walk in together and then settle in to the days' work. It is harder on the children if they arrive after the allocated time (9.10) and arrive in to the classroom when all the other girls are settled. We have four pods in our classroom and the girls are extremely good at staying in their pods. Pods can mix when we go outside to play but the girls always stay within their own class bubble when outside. We sanitise a lot during the day and the girls even remind teacher when it is hand sanitising time! The girls have made lots of friends and are having great fun playing and learning. We are learning our letter names and sounds, rhyming, poems, lots of gaeilge and maths. We are also looking all around to see signs of Autumn. We are learning about Hallowe'en traditions. We love P.E and are looking forward to having Playball on Tuesdays. Our teacher is very proud of the work we are doing and is looking forward to the great year ahead.

Senior Infants:

Senior Infants have been very busy since coming back to school in September. The girls have settled back very well and have taken the new school routines of hand sanitising regularly, keeping with their pods indoors and playing in their class bubbles on yard each day in their stride. They have been working hard with their reading Gaeilge and writing, learning lots of new tricky words and enjoying the literacy activities. The girls have especially enjoyed Maths week participating in fun Maths activities and going on the Maths eyes walk out in our school yard. They have had great fun with Aistear learning through play, exploring themes such as Autumn and The Farm. This week the girls have been getting into the Halloween spirit as they have started their Halloween art and have experimented with some pumpkins. They are also looking forward to starting Playball in the coming weeks. Wishing everyone a happy Halloween break!

First Class:

The girls in first class love being back in school! We've been working so hard that we don't even notice the extra hour in school this year. We have been busy putting food out for the birds and enjoy watching a variety of birds feeding from our bird feeders. Some girls brought in acorns and horse chestnuts. We planted a few of these as a class experiment and patiently await the springtime to see if any of them start to grow.

We have also enjoyed learning to sketch different animals. Our hedgehogs are displayed outside our classroom, and they look great! We are very excited that Playball with Wendy is back. It is so much fun. We wish you all a very Happy Halloween! Stay Safe. Ms. McKeown and all the girls in room 2.

Second Class:

Here in rooms 21 and 22 we are delighted to be back in school. Seeing our friends and teachers again has been so wonderful. We have been having lots of fun in class, learning new things and catching up with friends, all while adapting really well to new Covid-19 procedures and rules.

Some of our highlights include learning about Arthur Guinness, celebrating Roald Dahl, improving our Irish, celebrating Maths Week and catching up with our literacy and maths. We have really enjoyed Art and PE activities too. Winnie the witch recently visited and decorated our rooms - it was a really lovely surprise. We are really excited to see if she has an even bigger surprise for us before our Halloween break. We are also planning on surprising our teachers by dressing up for Halloween. We wonder will they be spooked? We hope so! Happy Halloween everyone

Third Class: Room 5 and 6

We have been very busy since school started back in September. We are all very happy to be back in the swing of things. Since September, we all belong to a pod. In Ms. Downey's class, we are in pods of dolphins and in Mrs. Cooney's class we are in pods of birds. Hand sanitising and hand washing has become a part of everyday life in school and it is keeping us all safe. Keep up the great work girls! This term, in Maths, we have done lots of revision and are looking forward to beginning multiplication and division next term. Both classes have read "The Salmon of Knowledge" and enjoyed learning about Myths and Legends. In art, we painted Autumn trees and are enjoying doing lots of fun Halloween Art. Happy Halloween to everyone and Stay Safe.

Fourth Class: Room 7 and 8

Room 7 & 8 have been busy since returning to school. We've studied Ancient Greece and Irish Legends (The Children of Lir and The Tuatha Dé Danann). We have also learned about Irish mammals in our environmental studies. During art class we have practiced the skill of Pointillism and have looked at examples of this work by Georges Seurat and Paul Signac. We have also created wonderful Autumn and Halloween themed art work. We wrote stories and worked on projects about famous people who show resilience. Resilience and putting things into perspective are two valuable skills that we have been practicing as part of our Wellbeing Programme. We have begun to look at the genre of procedural writing and are preparing to follow instructions on how to make a Halloween Surprise. After a great start to the year we are really looking forward to the next part of the term. Happy Halloween from room 7 & 8.

Fifth Class: Room 3, 13 and 16

Over the last couple of weeks we had so much fun and learned lots. In Maths, we did Long Multiplication, 2D Shape and Long Division. In History we are learning about the Normans and in Geography we are studying the Mountains and Rivers of Ireland. In Religion we are learning lots about the Ten Commandments and how we should be grateful for what we have and not want things just because others have them. In English we are reading lots of funny and interesting stories. We have also done a lot of Art like Autumn leaves, stained-glass kites and Halloween pictures. In P.E. we are playing lots of games like Bulldog, Tag, Ship, Sea, Shore and many others. We are having a great time in Fifth Class We love it and our teachers.

Sixth Class: Room 11,14,and 15

We are delighted to be back in school! Sixth class have been very busy this term. We have started doing the daily mile to keep fit and are having great fun playing different games in PE. We are enjoying reading Wonder at the moment. We have made ooblek (a mixture of water and cornflour which can be a liquid or a solid) in science and some girls have tried out the shrinking crisp bag experiment at home. We have completed some wonderful pieces of art this term which we have proudly displayed around the classroom and corridors. We studied China and designed our own willow pattern plates. We also did some lovely Chinese paintings. We are looking forward to dressing up for Halloween next Friday and watching a Halloween movie. We might even have a go at writing some spooky stories, potion recipes and poems. We will also be carving a pumpkin! We hope everyone has a happy and safe Halloween.

