**October Newsletter 2021**

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

I hope you and your family continue to keep safe and well at this time. Thank you for your co-operation and support since the re-opening of the school on August 31st ensuring the health and safety of all in Scoil Mhuire. The school will continue to uphold all health and safety protocols and ask for your continued support with this.

**Covid-19 Response Plan:**

Scoil Mhuire continues to uphold all covid protocols and procedures in the updated covid-19 response plan and risk assessment which were made available to all parents end of August on the school website. I would like to thank the teachers for their continued hard work ensuring the health and safety of all pupils in their class. I would ask all parents to reinforce the good hand hygiene procedures and cough sneeze etiquette with their children each eve. This reinforces all the good procedures teachers maintain each day with the class. **We remind parents that pupils must not attend school if they are ill.** Any parents whose daughter presents with Covid-19 symptoms such as cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste/smell, vomiting, nausea, bad headache, fatigue should not attend school and consult their GP for advice. Please keep the school updated at all times.

**Parent-Teacher Meetings:**

Schools are still awaiting guidance in relation to parent teacher meetings this year. The meetings will be held the week commencing November 15th. All teachers will send parents a meeting date and time after mid-term break as soon as guidance is received from the Department of Education and Skills.

**School Finishing Times:**

In order to avoid large groups congregating in the evening time Scoil Mhuire will maintain the staggered finishing times for 1st-6th class. We have been using this since last September 2020 and it has been working well. 1st&2nd class will be on their lines at the front of the school at 2:50p.m.3rd&4th class will be on their lines at 2:55p.m. and 5th&6th will be on their lines at 3:00p.m. I would encourage 4th,5th and 6th class pupils to use the pedestrian walkway in the evening as much as possible. Pupils are not allowed beyond the end of the pedestrian walkway.

**Parking:**

I would like to remind parents that **parking on the school roundabout area is forbidden** at all times. The roundabout area is to facilitate our drop off/collect and go system only. I would ask parents to depart as soon as they have dropped off/collected their child to avoid any congregation near the school. The safety of the school

community is always the top priority of Scoil Mhuire and I ask you for your continued support with this matter.

**First Communion and Confirmation:**

First holy communion for the girls in 3rd class will take place on Saturday, 20th November at 1p.m. First confession will be held on Wednesday, 3rd November at 6p.m.

The photographer will be taking photos for the first communion girls on Tuesday, 23rd November. Pupils from 3rd class will go home at 12p.m. on this day. Confirmation for last year’s 6th class will take place on Saturday, 6th November at 12p.m.

**School Self Evaluation:**

Scoil Mhuire has completed its school self-evaluation for Maths over the last two years. We will now begin a new cycle of school self-evaluation in the area of literacy. To begin the process we will gather evidence from parent questionnaires, pupil questionnaires, teacher questionnaires and standardised test results. A questionnaire on Reading will be sent to all parents and pupils in the coming weeks. We would appreciate if you could fill this out and return it when it is sent home. We thank you in advance for your help with this.

**Maths Week:**

Scoil Mhuire will celebrate maths week 2021 from the 18th-22nd October where the pupils will engage in lots of fun maths activities with their teachers. Pupils will enjoy exploring different maths problems, entering the maths eyes competition, maths trails,

daily maths intercom quiz and engaging with maths activities on the Mangahigh website. Unfortunately, the problem-solving maths fair in the hall can’t be held this year either due to covid restrictions but classes will be able to share maths problems with other classes on zoom. We hope you will have some fun with maths at home too. Visit the maths week website [www.mathsweek.ie](http://www.mathsweek.ie) for more details.

**Digital Learning:**

The staff will be receiving CPD on digital learning after school in late October with a PDST technology advisor. We hope to build on the strength of our current digital learning plan to use ICT to aid teaching, learning and assessment. Coding has gone from strength to strength since this time last year when the P.A. fundraised for the purchase of Beebots and Legowedo 2.0. We are still fundraising for a class set of tablets which would assist our digital learning plan especially at the junior end of the school. Seesaw has been set up for each pupil by class teachers. This will be used in the event of a school closure and also at various times throughout the year when teachers wish to share class activities/pupil’s work/tasks.

**National Tree Day:**

National tree day is being celebrated on **October 7th** this year. We are very fortunate to have so many beautiful trees on our school grounds. In Scoil Mhuire we will plant a

wild Irish cherry tree at the front of the school to commemorate 130 years of the school and also to remember all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Goal Jersey Day:**

On **Friday, October 8th** pupils are allowed wear a sports jersey to school with their tracksuit. We would ask each pupil to bring in a donation of €2 for jersey day. All proceeds will go to the charity GOAL.

**Primary Language Curriculum half day school closure:**

Teachers will attend a half day in-service on the Primary Language Curriculum on **Friday, 15th October**. On this half day Junior and Senior Infants will go home at 12p.m. 1st&2nd will go home at 12:20p.m., 3rd&4th will go home at 12:25p.m. and 5th&6th will go home at **12:30p.m.**

**Dress Up Day:**

All children are allowed to dress up for Hallowe’en on **Friday, 22nd October** and enjoy some in school Hallowe’en celebrations. Children can come to school dressed up and bring a nut free treat with them to have at their lunch time on this day.

Don’t forget to keep up with the latest school news on the school website [www.scoilmhuiremountsackville.ie](http://www.scoilmhuiremountsackville.ie) or follow us on twitter @scoilmhuiremou1

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Ms. O’ Kelly

Sample text