

# SCOIL MOCHUA - AGHARDS.

## N E W S L E T T E R.

October 2008

### 1. SCHOOL CLOSING – REMINDER.

Halloween : School closes on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October** and re-opens on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**

### 2. EDUCATION CUTS.

In the Budget the Minister for Finance announced **cuts** which will seriously affect education and **all** the pupils in Scoil Mochua. Some of the **most serious** cuts are outlined below.

(i) **Class size to be increased where decrease was promised in 2002 and 2007.**

(ii) From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 **no substitute** cover for uncertified sick leave.

(iii) Ceiling of **two** English Language Support Teachers to every school.

(iv) **Early retirement** strands suspended. These apply to teachers who are unwell and are no longer able to work effectively.

(v) **All Resource Grants** to be abolished. These are grants towards equipment for children in special needs.

(vi) **Cut of €7.5 million** in book grant for disadvantaged children.

These cuts will have a **serious impact** on the standard of education in our primary schools in the parish. They are totally unacceptable and a most regressive step in Irish Education. **We ask all parents to contact their local representatives** and especially those who represent the Fianna Fail and Green Party. The following is a list of contacts

	minister__okeefe@oireachtas.ie	
aine.brady@oireachtas.ie		michael.fitzpatrick@ oireachtas.ie
emmet.stagg@oireachtas.ie		bernard.durkan@oireachtas.ie
ruairi.quinn@oireachtas.ie		brian.hayes@finegael.ie

Local representatives details are in Celbridge Directory. Further details on future action to follow.

### 3. PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS.

The Parent-Teacher meetings will take place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November** and **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December** from **2.40 p.m. to 5.10 p.m.** School will close on those days at **2.15 p.m.** Appointment times and further details later.

### 4. COFFEE MORNING.

The Parents Association would like to invite you to the School Hall for refreshments on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** from **9.00 – 10.15 a.m.** All are welcome to come along and celebrate Halloween.

### REMINDERS.

- We ask parents not to allow dogs near the school grounds as children can easily become frightened.
- Please ensure your children arrive in time for school each morning, but not too early. A few minutes before assembly time at 9.00 a.m. is ideal. Children who arrive too early to school are not supervised.
- As we have some students with nut allergies we ask you not to include any nut products in your child's lunch.
- Please ensure your child wears full school uniform each day and tracksuit on PE days.
- Only stud earrings allowed. Make up is not allowed.
- It has come to our attention that children may have access to inappropriate websites at home. Please be vigilant about internet usage at all times.
- Some children are buying hot rolls on their way to school. In general these rolls are not being eaten for a few hours, at which point they have gone cold and may present a health risk. Other options are available and we encourage you to consider them.
- Thank you for your co-operation in all of the above.