



SCOIL MOCHUA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Christmas: School closes **Friday 20th December** at **12 noon** and re-opens **Monday 6th January 2025**.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on **Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd January 2025**. These will be face-to-face meetings, in the classrooms. Children will go home at 2.15pm on each of these days. Links to book time slots will issue via the Aladdin App on our return to school after the holidays.

ENROLMENT

Our enrolment process for incoming Junior Infants will take place during the 3 weeks from Monday **January 6th – Sunday January 28th 2025**. Further details available [here on our website](#).

SOCIAL, PERSONAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE)

The [Stay Safe programme](#) will be taught in **Senior Infants, 2nd, 4th and 6th classes** in January. We encourage you to speak to your child about the important topics discussed when worksheets are sent home to be completed. The programme will be revised in the other classes. This is in line with our SPHE Policy and the Department of Education guidelines. Each class will also continue with the Weaving Wellbeing programme.

JUNIOR INFANT NATIVITY PLAYS/CAROL SERVICES

The four Junior Infant classes performed their **Nativity Plays** in their classrooms last week. This is always a highlight of the year at the Junior end of the school, and we all thoroughly enjoyed them – we hope you did too! Well done to the class teachers for their guidance, encouragement and energy! And well done to the children for their enthusiasm and sense of fun.

Carol Services took place for all classes in the Small Hall this week. The children acted out the story of the first Christmas and sang a mix of carols and Christmas hits. They also spoke about all of the things they have to be grateful for. It was a lovely end to the school term and the calendar year.

FUN DAYS

Our **Annual Fun Days** took place during the final 2 weeks of school. Everyone wore their Christmas jumpers to school on the day of their fun day. As part of the fun days the children enjoyed magic shows, art competitions, talent shows, dancing, quizzes and there was even be a surprise visit from a VIP directly from the North Pole! All children were asked to pay **2 Euro** for the Fun Day. This covers the cost of prizes, as well as the cost of the magician (Infants – First) and the renowned storyteller Niall de Burca (3rd – 6th classes). If you have forgotten, the €2 can still be sent to the class teacher.



Thanks to our wonderful **Parents' Association** for their invaluable support in organising and helping out with the Fun Days. Excitement levels will be at fever pitch by the time we send the children home for the holidays! Follow us on **Instagram @scoil_mochua_celbridge** for a glimpse into the magical world of a primary school at Christmas time.

EVENING OF SONG

Parents of children in 4th Classes were invited to an 'Evening of Song' on **Wednesday 11th December**. This tradition is another one of the highlights of our school year and really gets us all in the Christmas Spirit. Huge congratulations to Ms Bradley, musical director, and to all the 4th class children on an incredible night of magical entertainment. Thanks and well done to the 4th class teachers Ms Callaghan and Ms Douglas and their support teacher, Ms Ryan. We took in €800 at the door and donated €600 to Vincent de Paul and €200 to Care for the Aged (now called Meals on Wheels). We are delighted to be able to support such worthwhile causes.

A group of these 4th class children travelled by bus to **Elm Hall Nursing Home** on Wednesday 18th December to entertain the residents with some of the Christmas hits from the show. We are very proud of them for spreading some Christmas cheer in our local community. They were accompanied by Ms Bradley, Mr O'Grady and Ms Corr who supported and guided the festivities.

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair was a huge success in November, both in terms of rekindling the children's passion for reading and for raising funds to reinvest in books for the school. You purchased a total of **€7,840** worth of books, which means that we now have **credit** to the value of **€3,920** to spend on books for our school. We plan to invest in new sets of class novels, lots more bi-lingual, non-fiction and reference books, and to replenish our class libraries. Thank you so much for your incredible support. **Thanks also to our PA members and teachers who gave up their time to help out during the week.**

INTEL MINI SCIENTIST

Pupils from the **5th classes** displayed their very **informative and creative Science Projects** recently. All exhibits were wonderfully presented and sincere thanks to **all parents and teachers** Mr Hannan, Ms Connolly and Ms McCarthy for encouraging and assisting the children in their efforts. Many thanks also to INTEL and to the judges who came out and spent the day with our students. Congratulations to the **winning entry "Magnetic Slime Robot" by Emma Shonbichler, Ella Mullen, Casey Kinsella and Ailbhe Keenan**. The girls will now go on to represent the school in the regional final. Best of luck girls!

ASSEMBLIES / WALK FOR WATER

Earlier this month, our **Eco Committee** organised a **Walk for Water** fundraiser. They hosted assemblies to raise awareness on water conservation and the difficulties facing millions of people worldwide who do not have access to clean water.

During the Walk for Water, every child in Scoil Mochua experienced carrying water for a sustained period of time, and all agreed that it is much more difficult than they had anticipated. They developed empathy for others and a



sense of gratitude for living in a place where clean water flows freely. Thanks so much to Ms Smith, Ms Kolodziej and Ms Cullen for guiding and supporting the Eco Committee and helping them to organise this initiative.

We were overwhelmed by your incredible support during the fundraiser. Through your generosity, **our school community raised an amazing €2,700 to help families in Gaza access clean water.** This is enough money to donate emergency water supplies to 500 families in Gaza. Thank you so much for your kindness. Thanks also to Aladdin, our school administration software company, who very generously added €150 to the cause when they heard about it. Keep an eye on our ECO-COMMITTEE updates by visiting our [website here](#).

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Our student council was elected in November by secret ballot with each senior class having two elected representatives - the principal representative and a deputy. Once the members were announced, the meetings began in earnest. The student council members all liaised with their junior classes, and they brought suggestions from both their own class and their buddy class to the meetings. A list of great suggestions was compiled. The Student Council Chairperson, Sarah Walsh, wrote a proposal and has a meeting organised with Mrs. Carragher to communicate the needs and wants of the student body and make a plan for the upcoming year. We look forward to updating the wider school community after this meeting and as the year progresses, so keep an eye on our [Student Council page of the school website](#) for regular updates. We also have a noticeboard near the door at the ramp for Middle Yard and will be updating this regularly for all students. Many thanks to Ms Douglas and Ms Nolan for the wonderful work they do in in facilitating the Student Council.

INTERNET SAFETY

December is always an important time to increase our awareness around internet safety, especially with many new devices being introduced to children for the first time at Christmas. Our website has a dedicated page for parents with **tips on internet safety**. You can find them [here](#). Many thanks to Ms Smith for keeping this page current and relevant.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Thanks to our wonderful Parents' Association who, as always, has gone above and beyond to make this Christmas extra special in school. The **magical display in the foyer** is a winter wonderland. The children's gasps of delight as they pass it are so lovely to hear. **Thanks so much to the creative PA team** who worked on it late into the night. They also organise and judge our fabulous **Christmas Classroom Door competition**. The school has never looked so well with the doors around the place decked out with the children's wonderful creations. We really appreciate the PA's hard work and commitment to the school. These wonderful 'extras' are what make Scoil Mochua so special.

Our much-loved **Christmas Coffee Morning** took place in the small hall on Friday 13th December. The hall was packed with proud parents, grandparents and siblings. It was a wonderful opportunity to soak up some of the fun-filled atmosphere in the school, as well as meeting and greeting other parents. Entertainment was provided by the children. If you are in a position to join our PA, please contact the PA Chairperson, Emma McBreen Brabazon by email: pa@scoilmochnua.com, via Instagram (@scoilmochnua_parent_association), or on Facebook (Scoil Mochua Parents Association). Keep up to date on our PA activities by visiting our [website here](#).



BIODIVERSITY PROJECT AND OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE

A huge thank you and well done to the PA, who applied for and **received funding of €3,500 for biodiversity** and outdoor learning. The money had to be spent on enhancing outdoor learning spaces, so the PA has equipped our school garden with potting kitchens, workstations, demonstration tables and child-friendly gardening tools. They have also provided durable, weather-resistant signs so the children can read all about the nature around them, as well as new blackboards. Well done to all involved. Thanks for bringing our school garden to the next level! It will be well used by our creative and curious little gardeners!

CYCLE SAFETY AND REMINDERS

- eScooters and electric bikes are **not permitted** in school due to health & safety and security risks.
- It is great to see so many children cycling and scooting to school. Please remember that everyone cycling or scooting should be wearing **a helmet** and **high-vis** accessories, especially coming into the darker winter days.
- Reminder for parents: If you use our car park at the front of the bike racks in the morning time, please remember to **turn your engine off while you wait**. There are often children queuing to get into the bike rack area, who are directly behind your car, and are exposed to the exhaust fumes. Thank you.

The BOM would like to thank the staff in Scoil Mochua for their hard work, their positive attitude, and their dedication to our school this year.

The BOM wishes all the staff, our children, our parents and the whole school community a safe, restful and happy Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school in January 2025.