



## SCOIL MOCHUA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

### SCHOOL CLOSURES

**December:** School closed on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**.

**Christmas:** School closes **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** at **12 noon** and re-opens **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Our festive season officially kicks off on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** with our annual Christmas Jumper Day. Children are invited to bring in some money to **donate to St Vincent de Paul**. Class teachers will have buckets available in classrooms for the collection.

### JUNIOR INFANT NATIVITY PLAYS/CAROL SERVICES

The four Junior Infant classes are very busy practising for their **Nativity Plays**. This is always a highlight of the year at the Junior end of the school, and we are very much looking forward to them. Parents will be informed directly by the class teachers regarding dates and time of the plays.

**Carol Services** will take place for all classes in the Small Hall during the final week in school before the holidays. Senior Infants - 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> classes will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. **All children who wish to dress up as a Nativity character are welcome to do so on the day of their Carol Service.** Please note, parents do not attend the Carol Services.

### FUN DAYS

This year sees the return of our beloved Fun Days for all classes. Everyone is invited to wear Christmas jumpers to school on the day of their fun day. As part of the fun days the children will enjoy magic shows, art competitions, talent shows, dancing, quizzes and there might even be a surprise visit from a VIP! All children are asked to pay **3 Euro** for the Fun Day. This covers the cost of prizes, as well as the cost of the entertainer. Please send the €3 in to the class teacher over the coming weeks.

Schedule for Fun Days is as follows:

❖ **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class Fun Day with activities to include a talent show, art activities, Bingo, bottle stall, Wheel of Fortune and more.

❖ **Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class Fun Day. Activities will include quiz, talent show, art competition, magic show and more.

❖ **Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Junior Infants – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Fun Days. Activities will include Magician, sing song, colouring competition and a visit from Santa!

Thanks to our wonderful **Parents' Association** for their invaluable support in organising 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 are invited to an 'Evening of Song' on **Wednesday 13th December, at 8.00p.m in the Big Hall**. All children performing in the concert must wear school uniform and a Santa hat. Children participating in the concert should arrive at the school by 7.40p.m. The concert will **finish at 9.30p.m.** approx. After the show please collect your child from the classroom. Children will not be permitted to leave the school unaccompanied. This is a charity event and all proceeds from the night will be donated to St Vincent De Paul. We are suggesting an admission charge of **€3 per adult, €2 per child**. Best of luck to the children, their teachers and Ms Bradley. We look forward to a wonderful, uplifting evening.

### **CHRISTMAS ANNUALS**

One long-standing tradition that always causes great excitement, is when *Súgradh, Spraoi, Siamsa,* and *Sonas* arrive into the classrooms. Each Folens Christmas Annual is bursting with activities, games, stories, and competitions to entertain and delight this festive period from Junior Infants to 6th Class. **Annuals are €4** each and will be on sale on **Wednesday 6th December**. You will receive a **payment link via Aladdin Connect** when they are available. Please note, stocks are limited and these annuals are always very popular so get your order in fast!

### **BOOK FAIR**

The Book Fair was a huge success last week, 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 **€8,030** worth of books, which means that we now have **credit** to the value of **€4,015** to spend on books for our school. We plan to invest in new sets of class novels, lots more bi-lingual books, 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.**

### **CELBRIDGE TIDY TOWNS**

Thanks to your generosity, the Halloween Costume Day raised a total of €540 for Celbridge Tidy Towns. We are delighted to be able to help a group of volunteers who do such a good job at keeping our town clean and tidy.

### **INTEL MINI SCIENTIST**

Pupils from the **5<sup>th</sup> 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 Brennan 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 "Major Tom - How can we use pressure to launch a rocket?" by **Cian Heaslip and Eoin Lyons in Room 16**. The boys will now go on to represent the school in the regional final which takes place on the 13th December in TUD, Blanchardstown. Best of luck boys!

## **FRENCH**

Well done to our 5th and 6th classes who are engaging so well with the French lessons as part of the **Say Yes to Languages** initiative. Ms Callaghan is singing their praise, in French of course! We have a French performance at the Christmas Coffee Morning to look forward to, as well as a French Cafe in the run up to Christmas. We are delighted that the children are being exposed to the French language and culture. Thanks and well done to Ms Callaghan for her enthusiasm and expertise.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

Our school assemblies are back in full swing this year. All classes attended assemblies on the theme of **"Let's Make a Noise About Bullying"** to mark the start of anti-bullying week. We focused on the character strengths of courage and leadership to tackle unwanted behaviours. The children shared examples of times when they showed these traits, and were applauded by their friends. The assemblies were informative and affirming. Many thanks to Ms Smith for organising them.

The Eco-Committee are running assemblies this week to update the school on **water conservation**. See their update below.

## **ECO-COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Eco Committee is working hard to spread awareness about the importance of **water conservation**. We are trying our best this year to get the Water Flag, which will be our **3rd Green Schools flag!** The children on the Eco committee are busy planning ideas and activities to involve all children, teachers and parents in this initiative, so keep an eye out on the school website [here](#).

## **STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE**

Our student council was elected in October by secret ballot with each senior class having two elected representatives; the principal representative and a deputy. Since then the main representatives have already met three times. They have liaised with their junior classes, taken suggestions from both their own and their buddy classes and a list of great suggestions was compiled. Our chairperson Hannah Gardiner wrote a proposal and met with Mrs. Carragher to communicate the needs and wants of the student body.

This meeting was incredibly successful and although not all suggestions are possible, there are many being put into action as a direct response to the children's requests. Hannah has communicated the outcome of her meeting and the council are now actively working on a number of events and projects. We look forward to updating the wider school community as the year progresses, so keep an eye on our [Student Council page](#) of the school website for regular updates.

Thanks so much to Ms Douglas and Ms Lally for facilitating the Student Council and promoting leadership among the pupils.





## HURLING

Huge congratulations to our Senior Boys Hurling Team who won the Senior Boys Division 3 **Cumann na mBunscol** final on 8th November. They travelled all the way to Moorfield to play against Rathmore. The boys showed great teamwork and determination, a winning combination! The boys involved were Aidan Farrelly, Tristan Eighan, Dylan Browne, Adam Mullen, Leo Nestor, Darragh McKenna, Harry White, Keane Kavanagh, Callum Naughton, Stephen Power, Parker Maxwell Colgan, Cillian White, Dara O'Brien, Jack Donagher, Lukas Lisinskas and Elliott Wong. Thank you and well done to their coaches **Ms Nolan** and **Mr O'Grady** for their skill, dedication and encouragement throughout.

## 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. **Barnardos** are delivering internet safety talks to 5th and 6th class students this month.

There are also free live webinars for parents on Tuesday 5th December at 7pm-register [here](#) and also on Wednesday 13th December at 10am-register [here](#).

Our website has a dedicated page for parents with **tips on internet safety**. You can find them [here](#).

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION & COFFEE MORNING REMINDER

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 and everyone should try to get in to see it over the coming weeks. The children's gasps of delight as they pass it are so lovely to hear. **Thanks so much to the creative PA team**, Aisling, Cathal, Eva, Sue, Sara, Emma and Gillian, who worked on it late into the night. We really appreciate your hard work and commitment to the school. These wonderful 'extras' are what make Scoil Mochua so special.

Our much-loved **Christmas Coffee Morning** will take place in the small hall on Friday 15th December. All parents and guardians - as well as grannies and grandads! - are welcome to attend. It is an opportunity to soak up some of the fun-filled atmosphere in the school, as well as meeting and greeting other parents. Entertainment will be provided by the children.

If you are in a position to join our PA, please contact our Chairperson, Aisling by email: [pa@scoilmochoa.com](mailto:pa@scoilmochoa.com), via Instagram (@scoilmochoa\_parent\_association), or on Facebook (Scoil Mochua Parents Association). The PA is a wonderful way for you to get a glimpse into your children's lives here in Scoil Mochua. Many of the exciting events and occasions in our school simply would not happen without the PA. Is your child's class represented on the PA? If not, join today and fill in the missing link! Meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the small hall.

## GARDENING TEAM

A huge **thanks is due to our Gardening Team**, made up of parents in the school. They spend time in the garden weeding and keeping the place tidy, so that our gardeners Tom and Rachel are free to teach lessons to the 3rd and 4th classes. We really appreciate all that you do. The garden is a magical place,



and so many of our children benefit from it, both in terms of teaching and learning about all things green, as well as enjoying a quiet space surrounded by nature when needed.

New members are always welcome to join the team. There is never any pressure. You will be added to a whatsapp group, and if the team is meeting, and you are free, you can join in. Similarly, at the 2.40 pick-up time you can bring your children into the garden and do some weeding or other work that has been assigned. Getting the children to work in the garden is great for them. If you are interested, please **contact Aisling at 085 7102299** and she will add you to the gardening whatsapp group and you can take it from there.

### **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 brightly coloured clothes / **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.

### **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS**

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on **Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. These will be face-to-face meetings, in the classrooms. Children will go home at 2.15pm on each of these days. Teachers will be in touch soon to arrange times through the Aladdin App.

### **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. For more information on the Stay Safe programme see our website: <http://www.scoilmochnua.com/well-being1.html#staysafe> Each class will also continue with the Weaving Wellbeing programme.

### **ENROLMENT**

This year our enrolment process will take place during the 3 weeks from **January 8th – January 28th 2024**. Further details available [here on our website](#).

*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 2024.*