

## Scoil Mochua Newsletter October 2022



### Retirement

We would like to formally acknowledge the retirement of our much loved secretary, Eileen. Eileen has been the consistent, professional, warm and friendly face of the school for many, many years. She has been an incredible support to all of us in the school, and to all of you at home. Her calm and patient nature helped to reassure and resolve many a woe over the years. Her organisational skills were exceptional. Eileen Devine was a treasured member of staff. On behalf of the Board of Management and all of the staff in Scoil Mochua, we would like to thank her for her long-standing dedication and commitment to the school. We wish her every health and happiness in her retirement.

We are fortunate to have had Siobhán Owens working alongside Eileen in the office for many years. We are delighted that Siobhán is now moving to a full-time role with us. We are confident that the school office is in very good hands! Congratulations to Siobhán.

### Parking

As most of you know by now, Kildare County Council have installed bike lanes along the length of Aghards Road. As a result, there is no parking, or drop down area for the school along that road. We have a small car park at the front of the bike rack which has 7 car spaces. We ask that this is used for prompt drop off and pick up on school days. We are happy for the community to use it outside of school hours.

While we encourage children to walk or cycle to school, we fully understand that this is not always possible. A solution would be for KCC to install a car park for the playground which could be used by the school, or at least a drop off area. We have communicated this to our local Councillor and we suggest that you do the same. Please be mindful of local residents and safety issues when parking to collect children.

### Pupil Insurance

All children in the school are covered by 24-hour insurance through the school charges. This covers your child's medical and dental expenses if they have an accident in school, or in the evenings in activities not related to the school. Please contact the office if you need to claim through this insurance. Further details are available here <https://tinyurl.com/28fkrn35>

### Climate Action Week

Next Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, marks the beginning of Climate Action Week. We have a number of activities organised:

Dale Treadwell from Heritage Schools Ireland is coming in to do **biodiversity workshops with the 3rd classes**. A facilitator from The Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland is doing **energy workshops with 1st and 6th classes**. A facilitator from The Rediscovery Science Centre is doing "**Climate Heroes**" **workshops with the 4th classes**.

### **Eco Committee**

Our **Eco Committee** is back up and running, with new members joining this year. The committed and hard working members will be mobilised around the school on "**Eco Patrol**" during lunch breaks to make sure lights and white boards are switched off. Thanks for their hard work and dedication and thanks to the teachers for their support and guidance with the committee.

### **Internet Safety**

Please see **Parent Tip of the Month** on [www.scoilmochnua.com](http://www.scoilmochnua.com) regarding online safety. Barnardos is hosting a free webinar for parents on this topic on Wednesday 12th October at 7:30pm. More details and how register here: <http://www.scoilmochnua.com/internet-safety.html>

### **Mobile Phone and Smart Watches**

As per our Acceptable Use Policy and our Code of Behaviour, the use of mobile phones and smart watches which have cameras or internet access are not permitted in school. If children need to be able to contact parents after school, phones / watches can be kept in school bags, switched off, until after school.

### **Football, Hurling and Athletics**

Many thanks to all our sporty teachers who are back training our young athletes. It is wonderful to see the children representing the school in various leagues and blitzes around the county. We are very proud of the children's commitment, effort and attitude - and their results have been impressive too!

### **After-School Activities**

Lots of After-School Activities have started back up in the school, with more in the pipeline. Please check out our dedicated webpage for updates <http://www.scoilmochnua.com/after-school-activities.html>

### **Parents' Association**

Thanks to our outgoing PA Chairperson Sara El Hashim. She has completed her term in this important role, a role she carried out with enthusiasm and professionalism. We enjoyed a close working relationship with her and would like to thank her for her contribution to the school. She is handing over the reins to Aisling Whelan. Many thanks to Aisling for taking this on – we look forward to working with you.

Thanks to the whole team on the PA who do so much to enhance the children's experience in Scoil Mochua. We can't wait to see what our foyer looks like in the run up to Halloween! Thanks also to all of the parents who attended the AGM last week. We look forward to working with the new members over the course of the year. If you are interested in joining, or just want to find out more, please contact them at [pa@scoilmochnua.com](mailto:pa@scoilmochnua.com). Follow them on Instagram @scoil\_mochua\_celbridge and on Facebook, Scoil Mochua Parents Association.

Reminder: **Uniform Swap Shop** is on the first Wednesday of every month, in the school foyer, from 1.40pm - 2.40pm. Please drop in and take any item of uniform that you need, free of charge.

### **Road Safety Week**

It is great to see so many children cycling and scooting to school. This week is Road Safety Week and, in school, we are discussing with the children the importance of being very careful when cycling, scooting and crossing the road. Please reinforce these messages at home, as we all know how busy our roads are in Celbridge.

Our school is one of 29 schools in County Kildare benefiting from the 'Cycle Right' Safe Cycle Skills programme sponsored by Kildare County Council. Our three 5th classes are currently engaging in this programme. Many thanks to the PA who subsidise the lessons.

### **Outdoor Furniture**

We invested in more outdoor picnic tables and benches over the summer, so at lunch time the children have places to chill out and chat with their friends.

### **School Garden**

Work has started on our school garden, and we are very excited about it. The area at the front of the school, next to the bike rack, will have a wildflower garden, a native Irish mini-forest, and raised beds for the children's gardening lessons with our gardener Tom. A native hedgerow is being planted along the fence, which will attract bees, butterflies and birds. A large seating area will be installed in the school garden for outdoor gardening lessons, next to the upgraded sensory garden. Never has it been more important for children to learn about biodiversity, and this garden will lend itself to that. As this whole area matures, it will be a magical space for children who need some quiet time away from the busy school yard, for classes to engage with the working school garden, for art lessons, outdoor reading etc. We are so fortunate to have such a valuable resource. Keep an eye on our website and our social media platforms for updates and pictures.

### **Weaving Well-being - Positive Psychology**

All of our teachers are now fully trained up on our new Positive Psychology programme, Weaving Well-being, and all classes are engaging with the programme. This is a powerful programme that aims to help us all to be the best we can be, to focus on positive emotions, relationships, and ultimately to be happy. It helps children to understand that negative emotions are ok too, and are a normal part of life. It is evidence-based, concrete and very meaningful to children and adults alike. Further information is available here <https://weavingwellbeing.com/support-for-parents/>

### **Medication / Medical Conditions**

If your child has a medical condition that requires medication to be kept in school and administered by school staff in an emergency situation, please keep us up to date on any changes to their needs or updated medical advice. Please also ensure that we have two sets of in-date medication in school at all times and that you have completed the relevant form which is available from Ms Corr.

### **Social Media**

To keep up to date with our busy school life, please visit our website regularly [www.scoilmochoa.com](http://www.scoilmochoa.com). Follow us on **Twitter @ScoilMochua** and we have a brand new **Instagram** account **Scoil\_Mochua\_Celbridge**.

### **Enrolment**

Enrolment for new Junior Infants for September 2023 will take place during a three-week period from the **9th January - 27th January 2023**. Please keep an eye on our website closer to the time for further information. Please spread the word among family and friends.

### **Sacraments**

Class-based **Communions** will take place on Saturday 13th May 2023. This is a very special occasion for the children and their families, and we look forward to it. Further details, including times, to follow.

**Confirmation** will take place this year for the 6th class children. It will be class-based and is planned for late May 2023. Once the dates have been confirmed with us, we will share that information with our 6th class parents.

### **A Word of Thanks**

As we settle in to a new school year, I would like to thank all of our staff, teachers, SNAs, our office staff and our caretaker, for all their hard work and commitment to the school and to the children. Wonderful work takes place in every classroom around the school - art, drama, projects, presentations, coding, experiments, problem solving games, music and dance - to mention but a few. Our children are engaged, enthusiastic, and curious thanks to the energy and passion of the teachers. They are so well-behaved, and that is thanks to you, their parents and guardians. We are looking forward to a busy year filled with a nice balance of work and fun. Our aim is to help your child to be happy in school and to reach his or her potential. Our parents are our partners in education, so please do not hesitate to contact the school if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's schooling. On behalf of all of the staff, thanks to all our parents and guardians for your ongoing support.