

## Scoil Mochua Newsletter October 2024



### **Dates for your diary**

Please refer to the School Calendar [here](#) for all school closures.

Coffee Morning on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** after school drop off. All are welcome. Details to follow closer to the time.

Please note the additional closure day on **February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025**. This is to facilitate a staff inservice day for the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

Parent-Teacher Meetings will take place on **21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**. Individual time slots will be organised by teachers closer to the time.

### **Enrolment dates for Junior Infants Sept 2025**

Enrolment for Junior Infants for September 2025 will take place during the three-week period from **January 6th - January 26th 2025**. Further information will be uploaded to the website in due course.

### **Sacrament Dates**

First Holy Communion will take place, in class groups, on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.

Confirmation will be held, also in class groups, on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

### **Arrival at School**

The school gates open at 8.50am and supervision is provided within the school property from that time. Please ensure that children are not dropped to school too early, as they will not gain entry before 8.50am.

The staff car park is for **staff only**. Parents should not drive into the car park.

### **Cycling / Scooting / Walking to School**

We encourage as many children as possible to cycle, scoot or walk to school. The exercise will provide the children with a healthy start to the day, and it will have the added advantage of reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

Our school participates every year in the 'Cycle Right' Safe Cycle Skills programme sponsored by Kildare County Council. Our three 5th classes will engage with the programme in the coming weeks. Many thanks to the PA who subsidise the lessons.

### **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>

### **Punctuality and absenteeism**

It is important that all children are in school on time. Children can arrive to school from 8.50am. **Lessons start in all classrooms at 9.10am sharp, so all children should be seated in class at this time.** Punctuality is an admirable trait that will stand to your child throughout his/her life and we would really appreciate your support in promoting it.

If your child is late for school, he/she should not go to the yard but should enter the school at the main door. We will inform you if your child is regularly late for school.

If your child is absent, there is no need to phone the school. You will get an alert on Aladdin and you will be prompted to enter the reason for the absence.

Please see <http://www.scoilmochua.com/attendance-information.html> for further information on attendance and absences.

### **Mobile Phones**

As the mobile-phone-ban-in-schools story dominates the media, we would like to reassure parents that the use of mobile phones has always been banned in Scoil Mochua. 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.** We note the high number of children in the senior classes that have their phone in their bags – they say they need them for after school. **We advise that all phone and smart devices are left at home during the day** as we cannot guarantee their safety in school, and it removes the temptation to check them during the day. If children need to get a message home to parents, we can contact you from the office.

There may be **exceptional cases** where children need to be able to contact parents after school. In these cases, phones / watches can be kept in school bags, switched off, until after school. This should be the exception, not the norm.

We appeal to all parents not to allow unsupervised access to smart phones, and **particularly to remove phones from bedrooms in the evenings.** This will mean that we will spend less school time dealing with the fall out when social media issues arise. We thank you for your support in this regard.

### **Internet Safety**

Please see the excellent and informative **Parent Tip of the Month** [here](#) regarding online safety. **Many thanks to Ms Leanne Smith** for the fantastic work she does keeping this and all the school website pages current and relevant.

### **After-School Activities**

Please check out our dedicated webpage for updates on After-School Activities <http://www.scoilmochua.com/after-school-activities.html>

### **Say Yes to Languages!**

We are delighted that the school will continue this year with the **Say Yes to Languages** initiative. This is a language learning programme, which is fully funded by the Department of

Education. The 5th and 6th classes will be learning the beautiful French language and all about French culture for ten weeks during the first term. Many thanks to our teacher Ms Louise Callaghan for securing this programme in the school, and for delivering the lessons. Louise has a keen interest in foreign languages, and as they will form part of the new primary curriculum in the coming years, we are delighted to get a head start. We look forward to hearing the children speaking French over the coming weeks.

### **Costume Day - Tidy Towns**

The children (and staff!) are invited to dress up in Halloween costumes on Friday 25th October. To show our appreciation to **Celbridge Tidy Towns**, who do a fantastic job at keeping our village looking so well, we invite a donation of €2 per family. All monies collected will be presented to Celbridge Tidy Towns to support them in their work.

The Parents' Association are holding a **Costume Swap Shop** on Wednesday 16th October in the Small Hall from 1.45pm - 3.00pm. All costumes will be free of charge. Please send in costumes that your children have grown out of in advance of this. Send them in with your child to the class teacher from **1st - 11th October**. Thanks to the PA for organising this super initiative.

### **Parents' Association**

We are fortunate to have a supportive, innovative PA in Scoil Mochua, led by Chairperson Aisling Whelan. They organise fun activities for the children throughout the year, and help out with various school events. To find out more about the PA, why not drop in to their first meeting of the year on **Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> from 8pm – 9pm**, in the school.

If you are interested in joining, have any questions or just want to find out more, please email [pa@scoilmochoa.com](mailto:pa@scoilmochoa.com). Follow them on Instagram @scoil\_mochua\_celbridge and on Facebook, Scoil Mochua Parents Association.

### **Communication Guidelines**

We are delighted to be using Aladdin for the majority of our communication. We hope you find it efficient and effective.

Effective communication is essential in nurturing positive, respectful relationships within the school community. Please see our Communication Guidelines on the homepage of our website for important information relating to school communication <http://www.scoilmochoa.com/communication-guidelines.html>

### **Healthy Eating**

A reminder that we are a nut-free school. Popcorn, crisps, frubes or chewing gum are also not permitted. A small treat is permitted on Fridays only. Where possible, please avoid sending food to school in tinfoil or cling film as these materials cannot be recycled. Please see our healthy eating policy at the link below:

<http://www.scoilmochoa.com/all-policies.html>

### **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 **Instagram Scoil\_Mochua\_Celbridge** and **Twitter @ScoilMochua**.