

1. Nuachtlitir

02/09/2024

A Thuismitheoirí, a chairde,

Fáilte ar ais! Welcome back!

Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais ar scoil! Welcome back everyone! A very special welcome to our 42 Junior Infants, the pupils who joined other classes and all the new parents. Welcome back also to our staff members Fiona Hoare (Rang II), Maria Barr (Rang I), Kate Kearney (SI), Caitriona Howard (JI) and Laura Moss, Elizabeth Leahy and Elaine Deeney who will be joining the support team (SET), Ciara White (SNA), Helen Wolfe (SNA) and Mary Hanrahan (SNA). We also welcome Colin Campbell as a part-time caretaker.

Fáilte is fiche romhaibh go léir!

Retirement of Helen McGrath (SNA)

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Helen McGrath who retired from her position as an SNA in Scoil Bhríde last week. Helen started working as an SNA in Scoil Bhríde in 2001 and during the past 23 years she has made a significant difference in the lives of countless students and staff members. Helen had a wonderful way with the children, always caring, kind and gentle. She played a vital role in creating a positive and supportive environment for all. Her kindness, professionalism, commitment and dedication to our school community is very much appreciated and has made a lasting impact. While we will all miss Helen from Scoil Bhríde, we congratulate her on her retirement and we wish her joy and happiness in the years ahead.

Child Safeguarding

The Board has adopted and fully implements without modification, the Department of Education “Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023”, in relation to Child Safeguarding as per the terms of Circular 0081/2017. Consequently, we are obliged to report any matters of concern in relation to the abuse of children to Tusla (The Child & Family Agency) and/or An Garda Síochána. The Designated Liaison person (DLP) in the school is the principal (Margaret Howard) and the Deputy DLP is the deputy principal (Elaine Dorgan).

School Website

School policies and other general information are published on the school website <http://www.sbrathcormac.ie> The teachers will regularly update their class section and the “School Life” tab gives a wonderful insight into many of the teaching and learning activities in the school.

School Rules and Expectations

As we begin another year, we ask parents to review the school's Code of Behaviour (available on our school website) and the school rules. School rules are printed in the homework journal (Rang 1 - Rang 6).

Our Golden Rules are:

Be kind to yourself and others.

Be respectful.

Be honest.

Do your best.

Look after our environment.

Birthday invitations

Celebrating birthdays is very important in Scoil Bhríde and we acknowledge the birthdays on the day and at our weekly assemblies. To avoid causing upset to any child we ask parents not to send in birthday party invitations, goodie bags, cakes/treats for distribution in school. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Board of Management

The BOM is responsible for the management of the school on behalf of the Department of Education and the school Patron, Bishop William Crean. The members of the board give generously of their time and expertise and their work is completely voluntary. The term of office is normally 4 years and the next board will be elected in October 2027.

The members of the current Board of Management are as follows:

Mary Barry	Patron's nominee /Chairperson
Fr Joe O'Keeffe	Patron's nominee
Josephine Collins	Parent nominee
Michael Guilfoyle	Parent nominee
Eileen Barry	Community nominee
Frank Buckley	Community nominee / treasurer
David O'Sullivan	Teacher nominee
Margaret Howard	Principal / Secretary to BOM

Contact details

It is vital that we have your correct contact details. Please review your details via Aladdin Connect. You can submit changes to personal contact information and emergency contact information on Aladdin. Emergency contacts are phoned only if we can't get through to parent/s initially. Changes in medical information can only be made by contacting the office. In line with GDPR

requirements Aladdin has restricted parental viewing of family information within the family circle. Parents will only have access to view and edit their own personal contact information, for example Dad can only see his details and Mam can only see her details. More information can be found on https://www.aladdin.ie/connect_app_faqs.html

Communication

It is important that you check your email and notice board on Aladdin Connect for messages as these will be our main way of communicating with parents. Permissions are also collected through Aladdin. If you wish to meet with the class/support teacher please contact the secretary to make an appointment.

Traffic System

Parents/Childminders should approach the school from the Garda station junction and exit at the junction near Marion's Hair Salon. To reduce the amount of traffic in and around the school in the morning and at home time and as part of our Green School initiative, we encourage as many as possible to walk/cycle to school. Parents who have to travel in cars might also consider "park and stride" (parking in another area and walking to the school).

"Drop and Go" System

Parents dropping children to school in cars must adhere to a very strict "Drop and Go" system. Please ensure that coats are on, bags are easily accessed, and "Goodbye" routines (hugs and kisses) are completed before leaving home. Children are expected to walk straight to the entrance door and go immediately to the classroom (halla for Rang IV and Rang VI).

They are supervised in their classroom by the teachers on duty until 9.20 a.m., when the class teacher starts formal instruction.

Parents accompanying children walking to school are asked to remain outside the pedestrian gate. Doors will open at 9.05 a.m. All classes will commence at 9.20 a.m. sharp so please ensure your child is in school **by 9.17 a.m. at the latest** to ensure that he/she is settled into class for 9.20 a.m. start.

Parking

No parking inside the school gates at any time except for parents dropping/collecting children with a physical/movement disability.

From 2.45 p.m. - 3.05 p.m. no cars will be allowed inside school grounds or on the roadway outside the school grounds. Please do not park in the bus parking bay.

Parking is available in the community field at home time. Children may be collected at the back gate.

Playing in tennis court before or after school time

I wish to inform parents that children playing in the tennis court before or after school, are not supervised by school staff and the school is not responsible for accidents or behaviour etc.

Insurance Matters as advised by our insurance company (Allianz)

The school will open to receive pupils at 9.05 a.m. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9.20 a.m. and finish at 3 p.m. (2 p.m. for infants). Parents should make their own arrangements to have children met at the school gate and the person to escort them should be at the school not later than 3 p.m. as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance

The premium for 24 hour cover has been paid to Allianz. Please check out <https://www.allianz.ie/products/schools/pupil-personal-accident/Policy-Benefits.html> for details of this insurance scheme.

Daily Dismissal

Infants 2.00 p.m.

Junior infants: (from September 12th) Parents come to a designated area in front of the main door. Children will line up in the designated area with the class teacher and will be released to parent/childminder.

Senior infants: Parents come to a designated area in front of the staff door. Children will line up in the designated area with the class teacher and will be released to parent/childminder.

On very wet days parents will be allowed to come into the school building to collect infant pupils.

Rang 1- Rang 6 - all classes will finish at 3 p.m.

Children travelling on the school bus will leave at 2.55 p.m.

NB. Rang 1; For the first two weeks, children from Rang 1 will be allowed to leave school at 2.57 p.m. Parents of children in Rang 1 should arrange to meet them outside the lower pedestrian gate. Class teachers will walk with them to the gate. From September 15th children will leave school at normal time 3 p.m. as at this stage they will be used to meeting parent/childminders outside the gate.

Attendance

Parents/guardians are encouraged to limit pupil absences as much as possible. Regular school attendance is a critical factor in your child's emotional, social and educational development. Every day counts! (Tusla)

Attendance and punctuality levels are recorded electronically on Aladdin daily by class teacher/secretary and any concern regarding an individual's attendance/punctuality is reported to the Principal/Deputy.

Roll call will take place at 10.20 a.m. each morning for all classes. Pupils who are not present for the Roll Call at 10.20 a.m. will be marked absent (Rules for National Schools).

We ask parents to organize holidays outside of school term.

The school is obliged by law to inform Tusla when a pupil is absent for 20 days or more (for any reason).

Extracurricular activities

We will be resuming gymnastic lessons and swimming lessons this year. Further details later.

Green School / Scoil Ghlas

We currently have 7 Green Flags and we will continue to actively promote our Green School initiatives which include:

- Reducing, Reusing, Recycling
- Water conservation
- Energy conservation
- Sustainable travel
- Biodiversity
- Global citizenship - Litter & Waste awareness
- Global Citizenship - Energy

More details throughout the year.

Healthy Eating

In line with our healthy eating policy, we respectfully ask that children do not bring any treats (biscuits, sweets, cakes, buns, cereal bars, pastries, dessert type yogurts etc.) in lunch boxes. We encourage them to bring more fruit and vegetables instead. On Fridays only, parents, should they wish, may include ONE small item from the top shelf of the Food Pyramid in their child's lunch box. Please see the school website for more details on healthy eating and the new food pyramid. We thank you for your support and cooperation with our efforts to promote healthy eating in school.

Scoil Bhríde is a "Nut Free" school

As we have a number of students who have serious nut allergies I wish to remind parents/guardians that nuts or nut spreads (Nutella) are not allowed in Scoil Bhríde.

Grapes

Grapes should be cut if included in the lunch box, as whole grapes may be a choking hazard.

Wellbeing at Scoil Bhríde

In May, we carried out a review of wellbeing in our school involving surveys for teachers and parents/guardians, and focus groups with pupils. Following this review, we identified an improvement in the pupils' understanding of what wellbeing is and a positive response to our school wellbeing initiatives.

We will kickstart our whole school wellbeing activities this week! This year, we will focus on one of the five ways to well-being each month (Be Active, Take Notice, Give, Keep Learning, Connect) Each Monday, the pupils will participate in a whole school activity. For September we will focus on being active.

Have a look at Mental Health Ireland's short video explaining the Five Ways to Wellbeing - <https://www.mentalhealthireland.ie/five-ways-to-wellbeing/>

We will also continue our wellbeing homework initiative, but this year we will change the day to Thursday. On Thursdays, pupils are asked to choose something to support their wellbeing in place of written homework. Learning homework and reading should still be completed. There are lots of ideas for wellbeing activities on our school website - <http://www.sbrathcormac.ie/wellbeing.html>

Thank you for your support in promoting wellbeing across our school community!

Hand towels

Please ensure that your child has a small towel (face cloth) in school every day for hand drying. This towel should be changed daily if necessary.

Finally, our school motto is “Ní neart go cur le chéile” - “Together we are stronger” and we look forward to working closely in partnership with you during the new school year for the benefit of the children.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Mairéad Uí Íomhair.