

Autumn Newsletter

Welcome!

Mrs. Murray and all the staff of Holy Spirit Senior Primary School would like to extend a hearty welcome all the new boys and girls who joined the school in September this year. By now they have all settled in very well.

School Sports

We have had a very busy time already over the past seven weeks since our return to school after the summer holidays. All pupils will have the opportunity to participate in swimming classes in Templeogue College on either Mondays or Wednesdays. Each class attends these lessons over a six week period. Swimming is an invaluable life skill.



All pupils also have regular gymnastic classes with Skye. Third and fourth classes have gymnastics on Tuesdays while the senior classes have their sessions on Thursdays. Thank you to Ms. Daly for organising these busy timetables and the Parents' Association for their generous contribution towards funding gymnastics.



Our girls' Gaelic football team got off to a flying start in this year's competition with three great wins against Scoil Aonghusa, Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcain and Scoil Martin De Porres. This resulted in a home quarter final against Scoil Oilibheir from Clonsilla. It was a very tough game from the outset and our girls led at half time. Unfortunately the result didn't go our way in the second half but the girls showed great teamwork, determination and skill.



Our boys' Gaelic football team also had a great run in Cumann na mBunscoil this year. For the first time, they also reached the quarter final stage. This was a huge achievement! Throughout every game their attitude was so impressive. They worked hard and played some great football while constantly supporting each other. Well done boys! We hope these successes will encourage more girls and boys from the school to join the school teams. The Parents' Association provide greatly appreciated funding for transport to and from our 'away' games. Indeed, thank you to all parents for their help and support throughout the competitions. Míle buíochas to all the teachers involved – Ms. Daly, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Fanning and Ms. Bookey. Holy Spirit Abú!

GAA coaching recommenced with classes on Friday 5th October with Gavin, a coach from Robert Emmett's our local GAA Club. Coaching takes place outdoors when weather permits. We strongly encourage the children to join our local club Robert Emmet's or a club close to where they live. Playing football is not only great exercise but a wonderful opportunity to make friends and acquire life-long skills such as teamwork and commitment.

Debating

Our three sixth classes have commenced their debating season. The first inter-class debate took place on Friday 12th October. Twelve pupils from all three classes demonstrated exemplary debating skills. There followed enthusiastic contributions from the audience. These debates will continue throughout the course of the school year.

Maths Week

At present the whole school community is buzzing with Maths activities. Maths Week Ireland 2018 takes place this week from Monday 15th to Friday 19th October. All classes are currently using their Maths Eyes this week in exploring their classrooms, school grounds and home environment. Developing "Maths Eyes" allows the children to see the different types of maths that they are doing every day. Having "Maths Eyes" also helps them to understand that mathematics is more than the skills they might associate with their school experience. The children are exploring various Maths strands, e.g. 'Lines and Angles', 'Shape and Space', 'Measures'. They are using school IPADs this week capturing digital images of Maths in their environment. A selection of these images will be used in posters the children create and entered into the Maths Eyes Ireland Competition.

All classes are also busily engaged in solving Maths trails and Maths teasers and puzzles. These type of activities may also be undertaken at home and would be hugely beneficial for the children.

For more information, we advise you to visit www.mathsweek.ie/2018/.

School Transport



There are ten places available on Tony Moloney's school bus if anyone interested in taking up a place. All enquiries should be directed to Marielle Phillips. For more information, please contact the school secretary on 01-4506019.

Punctuality and Attendance

The school day commences at 9.00 am every morning. All pupils must be on time for school. If a child is frequently arriving late they are missing out on important learning time. This year we are continuing to focus on improving regular school attendance. Regular attendance is crucial to the personal, social and academic development of our children. Mrs. Murray acknowledges, praises and rewards the classes with the highest attendance every term. Remember if your child is absent, please inform the class teacher in writing, using the notes at the back of the homework journal.

Uniforms

We compliment parents/ guardians on how well turned out the pupils are each day. Please remember that the tracksuit is only to be worn on P.E days. Girls should always tie up long hair for health and safety reasons. Nail varnish is not allowed.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings will be held on both Mondays 12th and 19th November. Further information will be forthcoming regarding appointment times.

Acceptable Use Policy

We would like to draw your attention to our recently reviewed Acceptable Use Policy concerning appropriate use of I.T. in school. Each child will bring home a copy of this policy. We request that you read it carefully and discuss it with your child, before signing it and returning it to the class teacher.

School Lunches

The school lunch initiative will continue again this year. Menu choices must be submitted by 6.00pm every Thursday. Try to encourage your child to vary their menu choice from time to time to try out new foods.

Home School Community Links

Our Home School Community Liaison Officer is Elma Holden. The underlying objective of the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

Scheme seeks to promote partnership between parents and teachers. The purpose of this partnership is to enhance pupils' learning opportunities and to promote their retention in the education system. In addition, the HSCL Scheme places great emphasis on collaboration with the local community. The HSCL Scheme is the pioneer in involving the school in the life of the community and involving the community and its agencies in the life of the school. Courses currently running for parents are Bootcamp Fitness on Monday mornings and Irish Level 3 QQI on Thursday mornings. New courses and groups will be released after October midterm break. Ms Holden is available to speak to parents if you are seeking support or advice re your child and to help you access agency and community links for yourself and your child. For more information, please contact Ms Holden through the school office at 01-4506019.

Health and Safety

Please refrain from driving into the school grounds. The safety of our pupils is of paramount importance to us. At the end of the school day the class teachers escort their classes out to the school gate. You

may collect your child/children from this point. All pupils must walk their bicycles or scooters to and from the school gate each day. Cycle helmets should be worn as cycling without a helmet leaves an individual very vulnerable to head injury.

We would also discourage children from visiting the local shop in the morning before school. We ask you to ensure your children does not leave the school grounds as they are unsupervised and are far safer amongst their friends on the school grounds.

School Website Reminder

The web address is www.holyspiritsps.ie. We encourage you to check the website from time to time to keep yourselves informed of what is going on in the

school.



The word Halloween dates to about 1745 and is of Christian origin. The word "Hallowe'en" means "hallowed evening" or "holy evening". It refers to the evening before 'All Souls' Day' (All Hallows Day), when souls were free to walk the earth once a year and cause some mischief. Scary masks were worn to scare these souls away!

We ask our pupils to be very careful around the Hallowe'en traditions of fireworks and bonfires. We wish all our students and their families a happy and safe Hallowe'en.

The School closes for Midterm Break on Thursday 25th October. The building will be used on Friday 26th for the Presidential Elections and Referendum.

The School reopens on Monday 5th November 2018.