



## SCOIL MOCHUA - AGHARDS

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & HEPA FILTER UPDATE

#### DECEMBER 2021

The diary for December is filling up fast as we intend to fully embrace the festivities this year. Here are a few dates to note.

#### 1. SCHOOL CLOSURES

**December:** School closed at 12 noon on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, to facilitate whole staff training for the Primary Language Curriculum.

**Christmas:** School closes on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** at **12 noon** and re-opens on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

For the full School Calendar, please [CLICK HERE](#).

#### 2. CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Our festive season officially kicks off on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December** with our annual Christmas Jumper Day. This will coincide with a fabulous festive surprise in the foyer, thanks to our PA – keep an eye on our website and Twitter for pictures! Children are invited to bring in some money to **donate to Care for the Aged and St Vincent de Paul**. Class teachers will have buckets available in classrooms for the collection.

#### 3. FUN DAYS

Class fun days will be held during the week of **December 13<sup>th</sup>** and 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 **Art Competitions, Talent Shows**, dancing and of course, the big hit again this year, the **Helix Panto**. Thankfully the safety measures we have in place do not prevent us from having lots of fun in our classrooms! Thanks to our wonderful **Parents' Association** for supplying prizes for the various competitions, and for funding the Panto – a highlight of the Fun Days this year.

The PA have also organised the novelty **Door Decorating** competition again this year. Each class is now working together to come up with a design for their classroom door (all top secret of course!). If last year is anything to go by, we're in for a real treat and a very tough judging task for the PA!

We have also heard a rumour that we are on the list for a very special visit from the **North Pole** during fun week.... The elves are just organising the exact details around Santa's hectic schedule and have promised to be in touch VERY soon. Excitement levels will be at fever pitch by the time we send the children home for the holidays! Follow us on **Twitter @ScoilMochua** for a taste of the festive fun.



#### 4. COMMUNION PARTIES

On **December 10th** we will finally get to celebrate with our 3rd and 4th class children as they are invited to dress up in **Communion clothes** (or outfits of their own choosing for those who have outgrown their gear). Each class will have a **party** and a **class photo** will be taken for the wall in school – a tradition we just could not let slide! Bernie Morrow Photography will take the photos on the day and they will be available to purchase afterwards. The party and dress up day will be for **all children** in the classes, including those who did not make their Communion. Huge thanks to the Parents' Association for organising all the treats for the class parties.

#### 5. CHRISTMAS CARDS

Most of the orders are now in for the fabulous Christmas Cards, but we know that some of you who are **restricting movement** at home also want to order your cards in time for Christmas. Don't worry - we have not forgotten any of you! If you are at home, but need to order your cards, please **email your order** to the Parents' Association at [pa@scoilmochnua.com](mailto:pa@scoilmochnua.com). Make sure to include your Name, Room number, and the number of packs that you want. Your cards will be ready for you when you come back to school. Parents can send in payment when your child returns to school.

#### 6. ENROLMENT 2022

Enrolment for incoming Junior Infants 2022 will take place during the 3 weeks from **January 10<sup>th</sup> January 28th 2022**. All information is available on our school website. [Click here](#).

#### IMPORTANT SCHOOL UPDATE: HEPA FILTERS

In recent days, we have been in discussions with some companies who supply **HEPA filters** to schools. Given the lack of support, financial or otherwise, from the Department of Education in relation to acquiring these for our school, we have made the decision to go ahead and order them ourselves.

In order to help fund these filters, we are inviting each family to make a **voluntary contribution** of €10. This payment can be made through the Databiz online payment system. While we will be very happy with a donation of €10, we will welcome all donations of **any amount** so if you are in a position to donate more, you most definitely can – simply change the amount in the Databiz payment system. The Board of Management will make up the difference. Should the DES decide at some stage to do the right thing and supply these, we will recoup the money and use your donations for the filter changes that will be required periodically. The total amount for the HEPA filters is €8,500 for all 25 classrooms.

Although we know that these filters aren't the ultimate solution to eradicating Covid from our classrooms, they are an **additional layer of protection** for our children and staff – something we firmly believe they are entitled to. We hope to have these in place in the coming weeks, just in time for the coldest winter months, when it isn't possible to leave windows and doors open all day.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and cooperation as we navigate our way through this as best we can.