



SCOIL MOCHUA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

1. SCHOOL CLOSURES

December: School closed at **12 noon on Friday 9th December 2022**, to facilitate staff in-service.

Christmas: School closes on **Wednesday 21st December** at **12 noon** and re-opens on **Thursday 5th January 2023**.

2. CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Our festive season officially kicks off on **Friday 9th December** with our annual Christmas Jumper Day. Children are invited to bring in a contribution, large or small, to **donate to St Vincent de Paul**. Class teachers will have buckets available in classrooms for the collection. Please note that our Parents' Association are running a **Christmas Jumper Swap Shop** this year. This is a wonderful initiative to help us all be more sustainable this Christmas. We encourage everyone to drop off your old jumpers and swap them for new ones! More information on this can be found [here](#).

3. FUN DAYS

This year sees the return of our beloved Fun Days for all classes. 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** which will be broadcast in every classroom in the school.

We ask each child to bring in €3 to cover the cost of prizes and entertainment on or before Tuesday 13th December.

The schedule for Fun Days is as follows:

❖ **Thursday 15th**

3rd and 4th Class Fun Day with activities to include a Talent Competition, Quiz, Art Activities and more.

❖ **Friday 16th**

5th and 6th Class Fun Day. Activities will include Quiz, Talent Competition, Bingo, Bottle Stall, Wheel of Fortune, Art Competition and more

❖ **Monday 19th**

Junior Infants – 2nd Class Fun Days. Activities will include Magician, Sing Song, Colouring Competition and a visit from Santa!

Thanks to our wonderful **Parents' Association** for their invaluable support in organising the Fun Days.

Excitement levels will be at fever pitch by the time we send the children home for the holidays! Follow us on **Instagram @scoil_mochua_celbridge** for a glimpse into the magical world of a primary school at Christmas time.



4. EVENING OF SONG

Parents of children in 4th Classes are invited to an 'Evening of Song' on **Wednesday 14th December, at 8.00p.m in the Big Hall**. All children performing in the concert must wear school uniform (or PE t-shirt and bottoms) and a Santa hat. Children participating in the concert should arrive at the school by 7.40p.m. The concert will **finish at 9.30p.m.** approx. After the show please collect your child from the classroom. Children will not be permitted to leave the school unaccompanied. This is a charity event and all proceeds from the night will be donated to St Vincent De Paul and Care for the Aged. We are suggesting an admission charge of **€3 per adult, €2 per child**. Best of luck to the children, their teachers and Ms Bradley. We look forward to a wonderful, uplifting evening.

5. CHRISTMAS ANNUALS

One long-standing tradition that always causes great excitement is when *Súgradh, Spraoi, Siamsa,* and *Sonas* arrive into the classrooms. Each Folems Christmas Annual is bursting with activities, games, stories, and competitions to entertain and delight this festive period from Junior Infants to 6th Class. **Annuals are €4** each and will be on sale from **12 noon on Monday, 5th December**. You will receive a **payment link via Databiz** when they are available. Please note, stocks are limited and these annuals are always very popular so get your order in fast!

6. BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair was a huge success last week, both in terms of rekindling the children's passion for reading and for raising funds to reinvest in books for the school. You purchased a total of **€8,900** worth of books, which means that we now have **credit** to the value of **€4,450** to spend on books for our school. We plan to invest in new sets of class novels, and replenish our class libraries. Thank you so much for your incredible support. Thanks also to our PA members and teachers who gave up their time to help out during the week.

7. INTEL MINI SCIENTIST

Pupils from the **5th classes** displayed their very **informative and creative Science Projects** recently. All exhibits were wonderfully presented and sincere thanks to **all parents and teachers** Mr. Costello, Ms. Callaghan and Ms. Brennan for encouraging and assisting the children in their efforts. Many thanks also to INTEL and to the three judges who came out and spent the day with our students.

Congratulations to the winning entry "Optical Illusions and Tricks of the Eye" by **Ali Dempsey, Anna Curnyn, Amy O'Brien, Evelyn Curry in Room 16**. The girls will now go on to represent the school in the regional final which takes place on the 13th of December in Technical University Blanchardstown. Good luck girls! The standard on the day was so high that an additional two groups were Highly Commended: Dylan Browne, Blake Carey, Adam Mullen for their project on Musical Fruits; Anna Walker, Ellie Farrelly, Emma O'Leary for their project on Why do Bath Bombs Fizz. Well done to all involved!

8. GIRLS FOOTBALL

Huge congratulations to our Girls Football Team who won the **Cumann na mBunscoil Final** on 19th October. The girls involved were: Zara Russel, Anna Curnyn, Saoirse Dunne, Mairead Gilchrist, Lucy Brady, Emma Kenny, Jenny Mooney, Clodagh McKenna, Saoirse Griffin, Zoey Higgins, Lucy Lanigan, Cliona Costigan, Lily Thompson, Alison Dwyer, Hannah Gardiner, Lucy Hickey, Kinley Grimes Carrick, Alicia



Gilmartin, Lily Diffney, Ellie Farrelly, Leah Hanniball, Amy O'Brien, Aimee Fleming, Anna Walker, Aliyah Obatoyinbo, Chloe Smith, Molly Carey, Amelia Turley. Thank you and well done to their coaches Ms Brady and Ms Keoghegan for their skill, dedication and encouragement throughout.

9. PE INITIATIVE

We are delighted to be taking part in a new initiative with a vision to improve fundamental movement skills and physical literacy in children. Thanks to Mr Hannan for introducing the [FitCrew](#) programme to us.

10. INTERNET SAFETY

December is always an important time to increase our awareness around internet safety, especially with many new devices being introduced to children for the first time at Christmas. Our website has a dedicated page for parents with tips on internet safety. You can find them [here](#)

12. 4th CLASS TRIP TO TEA LANE

Our three 4th classes enjoyed a wonderful tour of Tea Lane church and graveyard, facilitated by Breda Konstantin. We are lucky to live in an area which is steeped in history, and we certainly avail of it throughout the school. We have copies of Tony Doohan's beautiful book **A History of Celbridge** available in the school. Please contact the office if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

13. PARENTS ASSOCIATION & COFFEE MORNING REMINDER

Thanks to our wonderful Parents' Association who, as always, have gone above and beyond to make this Christmas extra special in school. The current display in the foyer is a joy to behold and everyone should try to get in to see it over the coming weeks.

If you are in a position to join our PA, please contact our Chairperson, Aisling by email: pa@scoilmochnua.com, via Instagram (@scoilmochnua_parent_association), or on Facebook (Scoil Mochua Parents Association). The PA is a wonderful way for you to get a glimpse into your children's lives here in Scoil Mochua. Many of the wonderful events and occasions in our school, simply would not happen without the PA. Is your child's class represented on the PA? If not, join today and fill in the missing link! Meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the small hall.

14. CYCLE SAFETY AND REMINDERS

- eScooters and electric bikes are **not permitted** in school due to health & safety and security risks.
- It is great to see so many children cycling and scooting to school. Please remember that everyone cycling or scooting should be wearing **a helmet** and brightly coloured clothes / **High-Vis** accessories, especially coming into the darker winter days.
- Reminder for parents: If you use our car park at the front of the bike racks in the morning time, please remember to **turn your engine off while you wait**. There are often children queuing to get in to the bike rack area, who are directly behind your car, and are exposed to the exhaust fumes. Thank you.

15. PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on **Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th January 2023**. These will be face-to-face meetings, in the classrooms. Children will go home at 2.15 each day. Teachers will be in touch soon to arrange meeting times.



16. ENROLMENT

This year our enrolment process will take place during the 3 weeks from January 9th 2023 – January 27th 2023. Further details available [here on our website](#).

The BOM would like to thank the staff in Scoil Mochua for their hard work, their positive attitude, and their dedication to our school this year.

The BOM wishes all the staff, our children, our parents and the whole school community a safe, restful and happy Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school in January 2023.

