

SCOIL MOCHUA

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022



UPCOMING SCHOOL CLOSURES

February: School closed for midterm **February 21st – 25th**

March: School closed for St Patrick's Weekend **March 17th, 18th and 21st**

April: School closed for Easter Holidays **11th – 22nd April**

For full Calendar see our website <http://www.scoilmochua.com/school-calendar-202122.html>

COVID RESTRICTIONS

We were all very happy to hear of the lifting of many restrictions over the weekend. That news was a long time coming! However, the **DES has advised us that all of the Covid measures in place in school will remain in place for the time being.** The government will review this in February. In the meantime, we will continue as we were. There are many cases of Covid in the school at the moment. In classes where there are active cases, we recommend all parents avail of the free HSE antigen tests, and use them even if their child is asymptomatic. Lots of positive cases have been detected this way.

There is every reason to be very optimistic about the months ahead and we are very much looking forward to a gradual return of all of the much-loved traditions that are part and parcel of school life, such as school tours, the Paul Ryan Cup, sports days, graduations and much more.

SOCIAL PERSONAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE)

The **Stay Safe programme will be taught in Senior Infants, 2nd, 4th and 6th classes** over the coming weeks. We encourage you to speak to your child about the topics discussed when worksheets are sent home to be completed. The programmes will be revised in the other classes. This is in line with our SPHE Policy, and the Department of Education guidelines. Each class will also continue with the **Weaving Wellbeing** programme.

READATHON

Our annual Readathon, five wonderful weeks where the children immerse themselves in books, will start on **Monday January 31st**. Throughout the **5 weeks**, we will be encouraging

lots of reading, both in school and at home. Please join us in this effort and let's send the children off on lots of adventures in the pages of books. Readathon Newsletter to follow.

ST PATRICK'S WEEKEND

The school will be closed on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Monday 21st March. The School Calendar has been updated accordingly. We hope to be able to have our much-loved St Patrick's Day Parade this year. Further details on this and other Seachtain na Gaeilge events to follow.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT REVIEW

We are in the process of conducting our annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement. We welcome your feedback, comments or suggestions on this important policy. All members of school staff, the Parents' Association and the Board of Management will also be involved in the review, as will some of the older classes, in an age-appropriate way.

Please click on the link below to read the Child Safeguarding Statement and submit feedback if you wish. **We will accept feedback via this portal until Friday 4th February.**

<http://www.scoilmochnua.com/child-safeguarding-statement.html>

Once all feedback from the various stakeholders has been considered, the final policy will be brought to the Board of Management for ratification. It will then be published on our website, along with the notification of review by the BOM. A copy will be provided to the Parents' Association and to the Patron.

INTERNET SAFETY

Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday February 8th. All classes will engage in age-appropriate lessons to promote the safe use of the internet, and wristbands will be distributed to all children to highlight the event. We have a very useful page on our website dedicated to Internet Safety, and there you will find a "**Tip of the Month for Parents**" every month. Check this out here <http://www.scoilmochnua.com/internet-safety1.html>

We have organised **Zeeko** to come in and give a talk to our **4th, 5th and 6th classes on the 4th and 5th April.** Further information will issue to the relevant parents.

SACRAMENTS

We are awaiting a decision from the Parish office about **First Holy Communion** this year. Once we have the details we will inform the relevant classes. We are very much looking forward to celebrating this wonderful occasion with the children in the coming months and

class preparations are underway. **Confirmation** details have been shared with the 6th class parents.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Thanks to your generosity and that of the children, we donated **€1,575 to St. Vincent De Paul and €500 to Care for the Aged**, just in time for Christmas. These were the proceeds of our Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you for your wonderful generosity.

SOCIAL MEDIA

To keep up to date with our busy school life, please visit our website regularly www.scoilmochnua.com. Follow us on **Twitter @ScoilMochua** and we have a brand new **Instagram** account **Scoil_Mochua_Celbridge**.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

A huge thanks to our wonderful PA who support us in all our endeavours. The close partnership we have ensures that the children enjoy the best possible experience here in Scoil Mochua. The PA bring an element of fun to the school. Their hard work, commitment and generosity in funding many events for the children is much appreciated.