

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTER- EST:

- Mr Fennell is retiring
- Visit of the Army Band
- After School Activities
- Sam comes to visit
- New staff members
- Juniors go on their first trip
- Green schools report

Wishing you and yours a peaceful Christmas

Christmas is almost upon us already. I don't know where the time goes. It feels like only a few weeks ago when I was writing my address for the September newsletter!

On behalf of the Board of Management and all of the staff of our school, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all your family a happy and peaceful Christmas. It is a wonderful time of the year, especially for our children. We are very fortunate here in the school to witness firsthand the excitement and the wonderful innocence of childhood as the build up to the Christmas holidays com-

mences.

It would be remiss of me if I did not take this opportunity to thank all the staff members for their wonderful dedication since the start of term. I am very proud of our team here in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh and I think our children are very fortunate to have such skilled and committed people guiding their education.

I would also like to thank the Parents Association for their efforts since the start of the year. The committee do a wonderful job and are never found wanting in terms of supporting the school.



Finally, I firmly believe that the pupils of our school are extremely fortunate to have the support and guidance that they receive in their homes. All I can say is mile buíochas and well done. Again, Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Brian Cuthbert
School Principal

Thank You Mr Fennell

As many of you are probably aware already, Mr Fennell is retiring from the teaching profession on the 31st of December. As principal of our school, I will be very sad to see him leave us.

He has been a wonderful teaching colleague but more importantly, he has devoted himself totally to the school and your children for almost forty

years now. Mr Fennell has been an institution in this school for as long as I can remember. I have never met somebody as conscientious about his work or the pupils in his care.

Words of mine are not going to do this man justice here. All I can say is that it was a privilege to work alongside the man and on behalf of the whole school community I want to sincerely

thank him for what he has given this school and parish throughout his teaching career. Ní bheidh a leitheid ann arís.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Fennell the very best in his retirement. I hope it is a happy and healthy one. The tyres of his bicycle better watch out—I would think they will need changing very shortly.

Junior Infants Visit to Bishopstown Library

Miss Dodd's and Miss O Donovan's classes both went on their very first school outing recently. They were invited to attend a special orientation day at the Bishopstown Library.

They were all given membership and a free pack which contained some age related books and activities. We were delighted with the invitation to the library and we were very

pleased to see many of our juniors familiar with the surroundings down there.

However I must add, on their return to school and when asked about the best part of the day, the unanimous answer from our infants was the spin in the big bus!!! Well done boys! A great day had by all. Our thanks to the library staff, very much appreciated.



After School Activities

Tennis

Over 30 boys have been participating in our tennis programme on Thursdays in the school hall. 30 more boys from 1st to 4th class are on a waiting list and will commence tennis coaching after Christmas. The boys have had brilliant fun in these lessons and certainly the school feels that this programme is very beneficial to all boys regardless of their sporting ability.

Basketball

27 first and second class boys are currently participating in our basketball programme on Tuesdays in the hall. Miss O Callaghan has taken on this programme and she is delighted with the response it has received from our younger students. These classes are full of energy and are a great tool in developing sporting and social skills. 3rd and 4th class boys will be given the opportunity to participate after Christmas.

Band

Our school band is after many years still a real asset for our school. Mr Fennell up until his retirement will teach the accordion while Mr Foley's class will learn the tin whistle. It is hoped that the band will continue after Christmas when the conductor's baton will be handed over to a new member of staff.

Sam Came to Visit

We were thrilled in late September when Sam Maguire came to visit us. Past pupils Jamie O Sullivan and Ken O Halloran along with Aidan Walsh and Michael Shields delighted all of the boys with their presence. It was the first visit of Sam to the school since 1990, hopefully we will not have to wait as long for his return. The boys were especially delighted when Jamie gave them the traditional homework off reward.



Text a Parent



We rolled out our text a parent service very recently and it has been very well received by parents as far as I am aware. We think it is an excellent service and

it certainly saves on time and resources in comparison to sending home notes. If you have been receiving the two text messages we sent to date, please contact your son's teacher and forward on your details. Also, if you change your number, please inform the school.

Visit of the Army Band



The Army Band came to our school for the very first time in October. It was organised through the Cork Jazz Festival Committee. The boys got the opportunity to recognise the various instruments of the band and certainly had a very enjoyable morning listening to such wonderful musicians. A fabulous morning I must say.



Red Day



The school had a very successful red day prior to Cork's involvement in the Senior and Minor All

Ireland Football finals. The children and even some of the staff pulled out all the stops for the day and the school was awash with red and white. There certainly was a wonderful festive atmosphere and everybody really enjoyed themselves. The school received a lot positive coverage in our local media and we would like to put on record our thanks to one of our parents, Denis Minihane with regard to this.



Halloween in our School



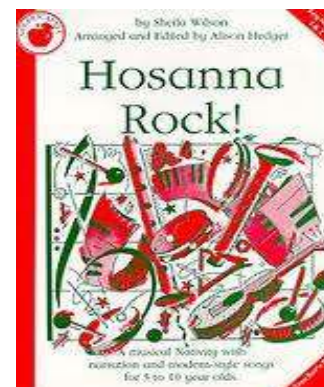
Halloween was celebrated in style in school before the mid term break. Many of our teachers got a big fright when they saw the junior and senior infants dressed up in their outfits. There was lots of fun and even some of the staff got in on the act. After parading around the school, the boys returned to their classes for some nice Halloween treats.



Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert this year will involve our junior classes - junior infants to second class. These classes, under the stewardship of our speech and drama teacher Mrs Daly, are combining together to produce one show entitled 'Hosanna Rock'. It promises to be a special occasion and certainly one that I am really looking forward to seeing. The storyline is based on the Christmas story and I am sure that the boys will be filling you in on the goings on over the next couple of weeks.

There will be two day time shows on Tuesday and Wednesday the 14th and 15th of December and an evening show on the Wednesday night. Tickets for all of these shows will go on sale in the school very shortly.



Christmas Food Appeal

This Christmas we will be organising a shoe box appeal. By this we mean we will attempt to get every boy in the school to

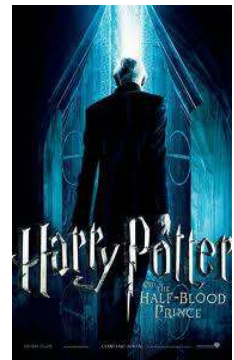
Fundraising



Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continuing financial support for our school. I know it is not easy for anyone in the present climate but we do really appreciate your help in terms of paying school expenses, the voluntary contribution and the other expenses that arise throughout the year.

From here on in, we will have to run 2 or 3 events a year to gather funding so as to maintain the school to the standards that we are all accustomed to. This year, we will hold a readathon in the 2nd term and a sponsored walk in the last term. The dates will be confirmed in the coming months. These events will be vital towards gathering finance necessary in terms of meeting our day to day running costs.

These days will have a real fun element and are not intended to put pressure on anyone. However, we expect that the boys will make a genuine effort to gather sponsorship and we really appeal to you to help in whatever way you can.



Art classes to commence after Christmas - sign up early to avoid disappointment

Art Classes



Art classes are due to commence after Christmas for boys from 3rd to 6th class. These classes will take place after school on a Monday from 2.30 to 3.30. The lessons will have a fun element and will be delivered by Miss Desmond and Miss Kelly.

There will be a text sent very shortly asking for participants from the above classes. Classes will run from the first Monday on our return to school after the Christmas break, up until the last Monday in May. There will be a charge of €20 for these 5 months of classes. This cost is to cover the purchase of many of the materials that will be used in the class. The class will be limited to the first 25 pupils who sign up to it

Thank You Bean Uí Rinn

On the 26th of September last, Mrs Julie Ryng retired from the staff of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh (B). Julie had spent almost 10 years working in our school and had spent many more working in the parish, in the girl's school and Scoil Therese in Murphy's Farm.

Throughout her time with us, Julie has been a very popular teacher, both with the staff and the parent body. We send her every good wish with her retirement and we sincerely thank Julie for all that she has given the school. She was a model of professionalism and had a brilliant grasp of the

needs of all her pupils. We had a lovely celebration of Julie's time with us at the end of September when the staff made a presentation to her to mark her retirement. On behalf of the whole school community I wish Julie a long and happy retirement.

Class Trip to Thomond Park



In May last year, a fourth class pupil, John Casey, won a trip to Thomond Park for all the boys in fourth class. Unfortunately, when it came to travelling to Limerick, John had an accident and was un-

5th class boys on tour in Thomond Park

able to travel. It was decided to postpone the trip until this term when the boys would be in 5th class.

A number of weeks ago, all of our 5th class pupils set out for Limerick. It was a marvelous day for the boys. They were given a full guided tour of the new stadium, the dressing

rooms and the museum. On the way home there was a stop off in Supermacs for the lunch.

On behalf of the boys, I would like to thank John and his family for providing such a memorable day. It was a highlight of the year for a number of pupils. Maybe some day, one of our 5th class pupils could follow in the steps of past pupils Donncha O Callaghan or Ronan O Gara and line out for Munster in this famous stadium

Miss Desmond and Miss Finnegan join our school

New members of Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new permanent members to our teaching staff. Miss Sinead Desmond and Miss Claire Finnegan have begun teaching here since November. We wish them both well and I know that we will all endeavor to welcome them to our school.

Green School Team

The Green School Team are up and running again this term. Under the guidance of Mrs Egan and a number of other staff members, the team meets a number of times a month and decides on a plan of campaign for the weeks ahead. As you may be aware, we received a green flag over 2

years ago, which is not a common occurrence for a large urban school. This flag was achieved because our school attained the criteria in waste management as set out in the Green Schools Programme.

At present, our focus is on energy conservation. The team is surveying our school

and recording our present use of energy. The aim is to reduce our usage of energy throughout the school as the year goes on. This will only be achieved if every pupil and staff member fully buys into what we are trying to achieve, I am sure everyone will.



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After School Activities

Tennis

Basketball

Band

Inside Story Headline



Caption describing picture or graphic.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed

internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thou-

sands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

