

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTER- EST:

- **New website**
- **Halloween Party**
- **Green Schools**
- **Literacy Liff**
- **School Self Evaluation**
- **Togher Link Up**
- **Christmas Concert**

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas

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.

Time seems to be flying by for all of us and Christmas has landed on our doorsteps once again. I say this every year but I believe it has to be said, we are indebted to the staff here at Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh for all that they do for the boys of our school. I see it first hand every day, the commitment to education in this school is second to none.

We are fortunate too, when one considers the quality of boy that comes to our school. The boys here are a credit to their families and really are very fortunate to come from the homes that they come from. We recognize that fact here and when added to the high standards expected here, we believe that a Spioraid Naoimh boy has a better chance than most of being the best that he can be.

I would like to put on record my thanks to 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. I especially thank all of the parents who helped to organize what was a wonderful day, when we hosted a Halloween party on the day of the midterm break. Well done and thank you.

Finally, to the boys of the school I say well done for all your hard work. We are very proud of you here in your school and we know that you are very proud of the school that you belong to.

Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Brian Cuthbert

School Concert

This year's school concert is to take place on the 18th, 19th and 20th of December.

Following last year's successful event, it has again been decided that all the children in the school will take part at Christmas.

For the past number of weeks the school has been a hive of activity as the various

classes rehearse for this major day in the school year.

Choirs, dramas, recitations, whistles, pop groups and the school band will all take part in this year's event.

Christmas would not be the same without our annual concert. Tickets are on sale in the school.





UNICEF Visit

International rugby star, and past pupil, Donncha O Callaghan, visited the school this term, in his role as ambassador with UNICEF. Donncha spent a very enjoyable hour with the boys as he outlined his work with UNICEF. Children's lives and experiences were discussed, and the different experiences of children around the world.

Some of the boys may have had more of an interest in Donnchas's other career, and

Donncha was glad to share some of his rugby experiences with the school before he left for training (he was playing for Ireland the next morning).



Togher Link Up Project

As part of our SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) programme, the boys in sixth class had a series of workshops on the dangers of drugs. This successful programme is run by the Togher Link Up project. Co-ordinator Kieran O Connell has been visiting the school for a number of years now, and he has been highly impressed by the boys in sixth. He praised their participation in the programme, and their awareness of the dangers of drugs in the modern world. Discussion, debate, story, and DVD lessons were used in this very successful module.

School Self Evaluation

Among the many changes to the education system in recent times has been the concept of school self evaluation.

Each school is expected to analyse its strengths, its challenges, its targets and prepare a plan for the successful implementation of the outlined aims of the school.

Here in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, parents have been con-

sulted, and the staff has met to put a plan in place. A Maths subcommittee has been formed to further enhance the mathematical skills of the boys.

The staff has also discussed the areas of literacy development, with a particular emphasis on higher order comprehension skills.

The staff will meet on a regular basis throughout the year to

implement, review and adapt the literacy and numeracy programmes.

Mr Cuthbert and Mr O Callaghan have attended in-service professional development courses and will lead this process of self-evaluation and development.

You will be able to find out more on our new website, www.bishopstownboysschool.ie

New Website

Our school has developed a new website with the domain name of www.bishopstownboysschool.ie. We have decided to develop this new website because we want the school and what happens within it to be more accessible to you the parent body.

Our new website should be much more easy to navigate and there is a

huge amount of important information on it, including school calendar, application forms, prospectus, policy documents, class pages and much more.

We feel that this website will act as a major conduit for information between our school and the outside world. Hopefully you will find it beneficial.





Fundraising

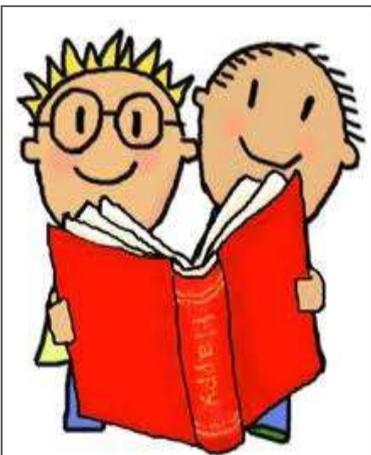


Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continuing financial support for our school. I know it is not easy for anyone in the present climate but we do really appreciate your help in terms of paying school expenses, the voluntary contribution and the other expenses that arise throughout the year.

This year, we will be holding cake sales, a toy fair (old toys from your home that you no longer want to keep) and other small events in the 2nd term. We will hold our annual 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.

We are trialing the use of an ipad in Miss Holden's room. So far so good.

Literacy Liftoff



For a number of years now , we have been using literacy lift-off as one of our major methodological strategies towards the development of literacy with our younger pupils. It is implemented in blocks of 6/8weeks from Juniors to first class. Diverse activities are essential for extending literacy processing power. Hence, the pupils work in 'stations' to carry out a number of activities in reading and writing, under the guidance of teachers and Special Needs Assistants. The programme uses specially graded "PM+" readers. Pupils are assessed and grouped according to their reading ability prior to the commencement of the programme. Stations include familiar reading, word work, writing, new reading and listening. Standardised test results show that this approach is certainly working.

Green Schools Team

The Green Schools Committee, under the guidance of Mrs. Egan has had another very successful term.

The boys meet on a weekly basis, recycling is emphasized, and each room is checked by the committee. Lights are turned off when not needed, bins are emptied, and recycling

and reusing is encouraged at all times.

This year the Green Schools Committee is particularly concerned with water conservation. An awareness campaign has been instigated, posters placed prominently around the school, and each class has had boys from the Green team talk

to them.

The school has been recently inspected by the Green Schools National Body and the boys, and Mrs. Egan, have been praised for their work, their knowledge, and their commitment to their work.





4th class at the C.I.T. art exhibition.

Mrs Egan's 4th class have recently completed an art project with the help of their teacher and Miss Leonard who is currently on a career break. The theme of the project was Antarctica and the expeditions of Shackleton, Crean and Scott.

The boys certainly enjoyed the project immensely and learnt a huge amount of the art process as well as the history and geography of the lands of the Antarctic.

We are indeed indebted to Miss Leonard for taking time out from her studies to lead this project. At the time of writing, Miss Leonard is actually in Antarctica and on her return she will relate her journey to the boys of Mrs Egan's class.

As part of the project, the boys also visited the CIT to see an art exhibition by Rory Mullen entitled The Cardboard House. They certainly enjoyed it.



Hallowe'en Party

A very successful Hallowe'en



party was organized by the Parents' Association just prior to the mid-term break. For days the excitement had been mounting as the hall was transformed into a Hallowe'en wonderland.

Each class from infants to second was brought along on the Friday morning for their party.



The Student Council

At the time of going to print the Student Council elections were well under way.

Following the success of the student council last year, it was felt that it should be continued again in 2013. Ten boys will be elected to the council, six from sixth and four from fifth class.

It is envisaged that the council will meet on a monthly basis, under the supervision of Mr. Cuthbert.

There is no doubt that the council last year was a valuable addition to the community of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh.

STUDENT
COUNCIL



Can you identify when and where these pictures were taken. The clue is that they all involve Bishopstown. Answers will be on our website shortly. If you have any pictures of Bishopstown in the past, we would be delighted to copy them and use them here for our local history lessons.

