

Scéalta 23

News & Information for St. Mochta's National School Community

27th February 2019

Health and Safety in the Car Park

When leaving school at 2.20pm and 2.30pm, children are asked to stay on the footpaths around the school. Please remember the paths lead onto the car park. We ask all families to please stay on the designated paths and not to walk in the car park areas.

Internet Safety

You may have heard in the media about a Momo App which is highly unsuitable for children and urge you to **monitor at all times** what your child is doing online. Ensure that all internet connected devices are restricted to age suitable content.

Attendance at School

- Punctuality - School starts at 8.50am and all pupils should be in their class on time. Children who arrive after this time are late for school and cause disruption to classes. Please ensure your child arrives in good time. A record of attendance is taken in the morning and your child may be marked absent if he/she does not arrive in time for the roll call.
- Attendance - Full attendance at school is expected. All absences from school must be explained to your class teacher. Even when these absences are explained, you will receive an automatically generated text message from the school at 10 and 15 days. At 20 days, a letter will be posted to you notifying you that the school is obliged to inform Túsla Educational Welfare Services of the absences.
- Our attendance statistics to-date are indicating an overall increase on last year's figures. This is very encouraging. Please keep it up!

Question of Funding Letter

Thank you to the many families who have already made a voluntary contribution to the school. If you have not yet had the opportunity to do so, an email link will be sent home again this afternoon. Many thanks.

Cycle Safety for Children in 5th Class

Our school is staging a course in cycling safety training run by the Cycling Safety and Skills School for 5th Class pupils. The course starts on Thursday 7th March 2019 and will run during school hours. An email was forwarded directly to parents/guardians of children in 5th Class. A payment link for the amount of €15.00 has also been emailed.

Credit Union Quiz Team

The very best of luck to Owen Hughes, Morgan Dunning, Rachel Griffin and Conor McCann as they represent St. Mochta's National School and the Dublin 15 region in the chapter final of the Credit Union Quiz this Sunday. We are very proud of their achievement and wish the team every success this weekend. Good luck! Many thanks to Ms. McGloin and Mr. McAdam for their work in helping prepare the team.

Our Intel Scientists

The very best of luck to Sam Fitzgerald, Caoimhe Quinn, Karl Foley and Ciara Cogan from Ms. Murphy's 6th Class who represent St. Mochta's National School and the region in the Leinster Finals. Their project called 'Saltwater' investigated various methods of desalinating water. Thanks to Ms. Murphy for her guidance and support of the team. We wish them well in the Leinster Finals which takes place next Monday 4th March. Good luck!

Confirmation and Communion Choir Auditions

Auditions for the school choir will be held at lunchtime next week in the library. These auditions are for Fourth Classes only. Auditions will be opened up next year to our current Fifth Classes.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Ms. McNally's class	Mr. Kenny's class	Mr. Mullarkey's class	Ms. Keane's class

Unfortunately, there are only approximately 20 places available at this time. Please respect our very difficult decision.

World Book Day

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March and all children are invited to dress up as their favourite character or author on the day. Please don't go to any expense and if a child does not want to dress up, they can wear their uniform.

Book Week 2019

Celtic Travelling Book Fair is coming to our school hall, from Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March 2019 to celebrate Book Week. The commission from sales at our fair allows us to buy new books for our classrooms. Every book you buy helps us get new books for our school. We look forward to your support again this year. If any parent has the time to help with this event, please contact the PA at parentsassociation@stmochtas.ie and please specify day/times that would suit you between 9.00am and 2.30pm Monday & Tuesday and from 9.00am – 3.30pm on Wednesday. Please see attached timetable. Thanking you in advance for your support.

- Children will be attending the Book Fair with their own class and can purchase a book directly at their appointed time. A copy of the timetable will be emailed to you tomorrow.
- Advice for parents of Junior Infants
As this is your child's first time to visit the Book Fair, please take some time to go through the Book Fair leaflet or perhaps visit www.celtictravellingbooks.com. It can be helpful to give your child an indication of suitable choices for their age.

- Should you wish to attend the Book Fair with your child, parents of Junior and Senior Infants are invited to the library at 1.30pm on Wednesday, followed by parents and pupils from 1st to 6th Classes at 2.30pm. The Fair will close to parents at 3.00pm.
- We will also be sending home book tokens, which they can use to purchase a choice of books selected for Book Week or put towards another book of their own choice. Unfortunately, these tokens cannot be used at the Book Fair in the school.

Thank you to Ms. McNally and the PA for all their help in co-ordinating Book Week.

Magic Show – 3rd Class

Many thanks to Fingal County Council and Local Agenda 21 Partnership who jointly funded a 'Recycle Magic' show at our school last Monday. 3rd Class students were treated to a live magic show encouraging recycling and care of our environment in a fun, educational way. The performance featured magic tricks and puppets. We hoped all our boys and girls in 3rd classes enjoyed the show.

County Photos

The photos have arrived and were distributed to all classes yesterday. If you have any queries, please contact County Photos (090) 662 7444 directly.

Trocaire Boxes

Again this year, the school is participating in the Trócaire Lenten Campaign which provides a way for people in Ireland to donate to development and emergency relief overseas. The boxes will be distributed shortly and one box will be sent home with the eldest child in the family. Please keep the boxes until after Easter and we will organise collecting them at that stage. For further information on Trocaire, please click on the following link <https://www.trocaire.org/about>

Fundraising Committee

Our School Fundraising Committee is looking for new members. If you have ideas or an interest in helping, please email stmochtasfundraising@gmail.com.

Confirmation

The Confirmation Retreats are taking place this week and next week in the Parish Centre. Ms. Murphy and Mr. Brown's classes attended this week and Ms. Stewart and Mr. McAdam's classes will attend next week. We hope all our Confirmation Candidates enjoyed from the retreat. The Service of Light Ceremony will take place at St. Mochta's Church at 7.00pm next Monday 11th March 2019.

Reminders

- Huge thanks to everybody for helping to fill our first Aldi Play Rugby Poster. We have ordered a second poster which should arrive shortly. Please continue to collect the Aldi Play Rugby stickers over the mid-term and hand them to your teacher after the break. The competition runs until 7th April, 2019.

- From time to time, we need help from parents to ensure that we can organise activities outside of the school e.g. walking children to/from the church, school tours, etc. We invite parents to become Garda Vetted through the school. Please call into reception for the relevant forms. Garda Vetting can take up to 2 months to process.

Community Notices

Irish Hospice Foundation Working on Communicating in Challenging Circumstances when people are experiencing loss and grief; this a workshop for non-clinical staff and will be held on Thursday, 28th February from 9.15am– 4.15pm in The Irish Hospice Foundation, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2. Fee is €100 and includes lunch. This workshop will support non-clinical staff in developing communication and relational skills when dealing with loss and grief. Both a theoretical and experiential approach will be taken. Bookings can be made on the following link <https://hospicefoundation.ie/education-training/bereavement-training/workshops/> 01 6793188/ 01 6730047.

Park Walk comes to Porterstown Parkrun!

Suitable for all ages and abilities, Park Walk is a free 5k walking programme coming to Porterstown Park, Dublin 15.

- Park Walk starts on Saturday, 2nd March and happens every Saturday at 9.30am for six weeks.
- Park Walk is ideal for those walking on their own, with friends, with a buggy, kids and dog walkers.
- Our Walk Leaders will be there to meet and greet you and guide you through each of the walks at your own pace.
- Sign up for for this free event on to www.parkrun.ie and select Porterstown parkrun as your event. Choose #parkwalkIRE as your club. Print your barcode and bring it with you.

Coolmine Community School

The assessments for incoming 1st years to Coolmine for September 2019 will take place on Friday 1st March 2019. Please contact Coolmine directly should you require further details.

Castleknock Community College

CCC is hosting an Open Afternoon and Evening for prospective 1st Year Applicants to the college in September 2020. On Wednesday 13th March 2019, parents/students are invited to visit classrooms and view facilities from 3pm to 5pm. There will be a presentation by the Principal and other senior staff to parents only from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.