

Scéalta 8

News & Information for
St. Mochta's National School Community
16th October 2019

Girls Football Team in the Semi-Finals!

Our Team played a fantastic game of football last Wednesday at the Cumann na mBunscoil Semi-Final. However, it was not their day. The team showed tremendous courage and great team spirit, particularly in the second half. We are incredibly proud of the team for getting St. Mochta's National School so far in the competition. Thank you for all your hard work over the last few weeks and for all the excitement you brought to the school after all your matches. Thanks to our coaches Ms. Schmidt, Ms. Reilly and Ms. Egan. A particular thanks to Declan Jennings, Games Promotion Officer – Westmanstown Gaels and to one of our dad's, David Sweeney, for their work with the team.

Parent Association AGM - Board of Management Representatives

As you know the AGM for the PA will take place next Tuesday 22nd October. At the meeting nominations will be invited for parent nominees on the Board – one female parent and one male parent. Parents may self-nominate and each nominee must be seconded by a person in attendance at the meeting. Each nominee will be invited to say a little bit about themselves and what they can contribute to the Board. The votes will be counted in public. The result of the ballot will be notified to the parents and to the patron's representative. We hope for a large attendance at our AGM and encourage you to come along and vote.

Maths Week

This week is 'Maths Week' in our school. The children will participate in maths quizzes, chess tournaments, maths adventures and **Maths Eyes Posters**. Thanks to all of our teachers for organising an exciting week for our children and, in particular, Ms. Brennan for co-ordinating the week.

Halloween celebrations at St. Mochta's – Friday 25th October

All children are invited to come to school in Fancy Dress (optional). However, there are some rules:

- Please do not go to an unnecessary expense!
- No hand held implements please.
- No masks.

Children who do not wish to wear fancy dress can opt for '**No School Uniform**' instead.

New Lines on the Yard

Thank you to everyone for your full co-operation with our new lines system. As mentioned in our special email last week, the permanent lines will be painted on the yard over the mid-term.

Every School Day Counts Campaign

Following our school promotion of making 'Every School Day Count', the guidelines below indicate how parents can help:

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness, this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homework).
- Attend evenings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour

- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.

Túsla have given us a '***Tips for Parents by Parents***' leaflet which is attached. Please take a look at this leaflet.

Aldi Posters

Many thanks to everyone who has brought in stickers to fill our Aldi poster which is almost full. Don't worry, we have another poster! So please keep bringing in the stickers. St. Mochta's has the opportunity to win various prizes. If you shop at Aldi and spend over €30, **please accept the Aldi Play Rugby Stickers**. Your child can bring the stickers to school and help us fill our poster – we need another 300 stickers! Thank you for your continued support.

No Smoking on the School Premises

We remind all parents/guardians that there is no smoking allowed on any part of the school premises.

New Junior Infant Admissions – Academic Year 2020/2021

Please note that registration for Junior Infants is now closed. Any applications received from today's date will be deemed late.

Sports Updates

Congratulations to Orla Burge, Leah Maguire, Lucy McNamara and Alex Nichol who all represented St. Mochta's in the Leinster Schools Championships in the NAC on Sunday October 13th. The girls swam to an excellent 5th place in the 200m Freestyle relay and 10th place in the 200m Medley relay in a highly competitive gala. The girls also swam exceptionally well in their individual events with Alex, Lucy and Leah swimming the 50m Freestyle, Alex and Lucy also swimming the 50m Backstroke and Orla swimming the 50m Breaststroke. Unfortunately Alex Martin was not able to participate due to injury. Well done all, once again an absolute credit to the school!

Honk! Auditions

A big thank you to all the children who auditioned for our musical Honk! Everyone did a fantastic job. Unfortunately, there are very limited places. Therefore, while some children will be happy, there will be many children who will be disappointed. Please respect our very difficult decision. We will let the children know in the next few days.

Honk! Poster Competition

We invite children from 3rd-6th class to design a poster/programme cover for our upcoming production of Honk! The winner will receive a family ticket for 4 to the opening night of our show. Please note the following:

- Entries to reach us by Wednesday 23rd October
- Poster must be portrait style on an A4 sheet
- Use colouring pencils only
- **NO WRITING** on the poster. This includes the name of the show, venue etc.
- Please put your full name, class and teacher's name on the back of the poster
- Your poster must be your own work and must not include any commercial characters e.g. Disney
- This blurb may help you:

Honk! is a musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen story The Ugly Duckling, incorporating a message of tolerance. The musical is set in the countryside and features Ugly – a cygnet who is mistaken as an ugly duckling upon falling into his mother's nest and is rejected by everyone but Ida (his mother), a sly tomcat who only befriends him out of hunger, and several other barnyard characters.

Dates for your Diary

19 th October 2019 10am to 1pm	Message from the Parent Association A Clothing Collection will be held at the school from 10am to 1pm. Please bring as many bags as you can to raise funds for our school. We accept: Clothing (must be reusable and re-wearable, we will not accept dirty, wet or damaged clothing), Paired Shoes, Handbags, Belts, Curtains, Towels, Sheets, Blankets, Soft Toys. We do not accept: Pillows, Duvets, Fabrics or Cut-off Materials.
21 st October 2019	1ST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2020: The First Parents' Preparation meeting for HOLY COMMUNION will take place on Monday 21st October at 7.30pm and its for Parents only. If you cannot attend please contact Mary Greene at pastoralcare@stmochtasparish.ie
22 nd October 2019	The 2 nd Meet of the Fingal Primary School Athletics League takes place at Porterstown Park, Dublin 15.
22 nd October 2019	PA Annual General Meeting - Board of Management Please note that the AGM will take place at 8.00pm in the PE Hall. As you are aware, the current Board of Management will soon complete its term. At the AGM, the school will be seeking new parent nominees, one male, one female, to the new Board of Management which will commence in December. The Board meet once a month to oversee all aspects of managing our school. If you have skills that could benefit the school and you are interested in serving on our Board of Management, please contact the PA or Ms. O'Boyce, Acting Principal.
<i>Mid Term Break</i>	<i>School Closed from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November inclusive.</i>
5 th November 2019	Confirmation The Enrolment Ceremony will take place at St. Mochta's Church at 7.30pm.
12 th November 2019	First Holy Communion The Enrolment Ceremony will take place at St. Mochta's Church at 7.30pm.
13 th November 2019	Primary Language Curriculum Training The Department of Education and Skills has informed the school that there will be a one day training session provided to all teachers at St. Mochta's National School. The date has been confirmed and will take place on Wednesday 13 th November 2019. There will be no school for children on this day. Please keep a note for your records.
20 th & 21 st November 2019	Parent Teacher Meetings A letter will be sent home after the mid-term to confirm your appointed day and time.
25 th & 26 th November 2019	Junior Infant Vaccinations The HSE has confirmed that Junior Infant Vaccinations will take place in the school on the 25 th & 26 th November next. A letter from the HSE will be sent home to parents after the mid-term break. Should you have any queries, please visit www.immunisation.ie
1 st December 2019	Save the date for our Christmas Fair. We are currently gathering prizes for our monster raffle, if you have any prizes that you can donate please contact the PA at parentsassociation@stmochtas.ie . All donations greatly appreciated.

Community News

- St. Dominic's College, Cabra, will hold an Open Evening on Wednesday 23rd October from 7.00-9.00pm. All girls and parents are welcome from 4th, 5th and 6th classes.
- Many thanks to Declan Jennings from Westmanstown Gaels for all his work with our 1st Class children. If your child is interested in playing GAA and you'd like further information, please contact Declan, Games Promotion Officer, on 085-8006101 or visit www.westmanstowngaels.ie.
- **Come and celebrate Porterstown parkrun's 4th birthday on Saturday, 19th October at 9.15am**, Operation Transformation leaders David Cryan and Siobhán O'Brien are encouraging everyone to come and walk/run/jog our 100,000th kilometre as part of the celebrations. The volunteer organisers have gone that extra mile this year to make it a great, free event for all ages and abilities. Celebrations include a warm up with Olympian David Gillick, birthday cake, yoga, Vhi rewards and pacers. To hit the 100,000th kilometer milestone on our birthday would be a fantastic achievement. Bring the kids, dogs and grandparents - everyone is welcome to Porterstown parkrun and it's all free. Sign up on to www.parkrun.ie Print your barcode and bring it with you.