



Scoil Náisiúnta An Dea Aoire
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

7th May 2015.

STAFF CHANGES

We bid what we hope will be a temporary farewell to Mr. Peter Whelan. Peter is taking up a post as lecturer in St. Patrick's College for Primary Teacher Education from Tuesday, May 5th to the end of the next academic year. We wish him well in this new endeavour.

Mr. Robert McGuire is replacing Mr. Whelan in 6th class until June 30th. Mr. McGuire is a fully qualified and very experienced teacher and we are delighted to welcome him to the Good Shepherd N.S. team.

GOOD BEHAVIOUR AT BREAKTIMES "NO HOMEWORK PASS"

These blue stickers will be in your child's diary on Wednesday next, May 13th (for the period 23rd February - 8th May). If your child did not receive one please talk to him/her about good behaviour on the yard or contact the class teacher or myself for more information. As usual, Junior classes who don't have a diary will get a blue certificate and a little treat on Friday, May 15th.

SUMMER WORKS SCHEME (SWS) 2015

I am delighted to inform you that our application for SWS 2015 has been successful. We applied for a grant (our first application was submitted 5 years ago!!) to provide enhanced security for our school. The work of installing CCTV inside and outside the building will take place during July.

UNIFORM CHANGES, SEPTEMBER 2015

Thanks to those who returned the uniform survey re tracksuit bottoms and shorts. Of the respondents 90% wanted re-inforced knees on tracksuits and 83% wanted the option of purchasing shorts as an extra. These changes will be available as part of our uniform for September 2015 at The Schoolwear House, Unit 3 Ballyogan Business Park, Ballyogan Road, Dublin 18 (01 2921540).

In September/October 2015 we will ask for your opinions on uniforms in general. Any changes voted for by a majority at that stage will be incorporated into the uniform from September 2016.

CLASSES 2015/2016

Places remain in a small number of classes - if your child will not be returning in September please let the school know as soon as possible.

As in previous years, we will have one combined class. This will be a 5th/6th combination and this class is now full.

BOOK RENTAL & SCHOOL FINANCES

- [**Book Rental:** If anybody didn't get the letter last week outlining Book Rental for 2015/2016 please contact the school. Book Rental for next year is due by May 29th.
- [**Money owed:** There is still a small amount of money owed for swimming or extras on booklist from September 2014 - please check that you haven't forgotten to pay.

5th CLASS NEWS

5th class were involved in many varied and interesting projects during the year. These were already mentioned in previous newsletters but now let's hear our pupils' views! - **SEE OVERLEAF**

TERENURE COLLEGE SPRING DRAMA COMPETITION

Our play got a special award for 'Best Concept' - well done everybody!

"It was great fun watching other plays. I enjoyed acting for the audience. I was nervous at first but then I liked it" Jackie

"I enjoyed taking part in the Terenure Drama Competition. We were up against 3 other schools. Our play was 'A Midsummer Night's Dream. I played Queen Titania" Cass

"I was delighted when Terenure College mentioned my performance in their newsletter. I loved being up on stage" Eoin

"I really enjoyed the play in Terenure. I thought our play was unique and fun. I really felt like a star!" David

SEALIFE/MARINE EXPLORER PROJECT

We were just one of 12 schools chosen to take part in the above project in conjunction with Blackrock Education Centre and The National Sea Life Centre in Bray. The mini aquarium and its occupants were with us for five weeks and we were the only school that had a 100% survival rate!

"I enjoyed the responsibility of keeping the sea creatures alive and safe. We managed to keep them all alive and well during the 5 weeks of the project" Alice

"Our starfish 'Réalta' was a bit of a bully! He tried to eat our limpet. Our teacher moved the limpet and saved it from the starfish. Phew!" Alanna

"We fed our sea creatures twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It was such a smelly job. The starfish and shrimp were so greedy!" Callum

"When the tank arrived, Mustafa and I filmed the whole thing. Tomás (our co-ordinator) made it into a film/documentary. It turned out really well" Kacey B.

"I thought that having a fish tank in the class was cool!" Gavin

"The shrimp was so funny - he was not shy at all! He kept dancing for us and always swam to the top of the water" Mustafa

BIZWORLD JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR EXPERIENCE

We were delighted to welcome BizWorld back to Good Shepherd N.S. again this year. Through participation in these workshops the children learned valuable team building skills and expanded their knowledge and experience of enterprise, money management and critical thinking.

"I really enjoyed Bizworld and loved making the movie. It was a great experience" Dylan

"Bizworld was great. We voted in our groups. I was the Production Director. It was fun" Ola

"Before Bizworld's visit, I wasn't interested in business stuff at all! Now I am really interested" Patricia

"I was the Design Director for our company 'iHelp'. I loved taking part in Bizworld. I would love to do it again" Hussain

"I had to go to the 'Dragon' and make a pitch on behalf of our company. It is scary that I may have to do it for real in the future!" Josh

"I worked in sales and finance during Bizworld. I loved managing the money making lots of 'Bizbucks'" Darragh

THEATRE WORKSHOP BY THE ABBEY THEATRE'S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

'Me, Michael' in conjunction with the Abbey Theatre, which toured a number of schools in Dublin visited Good Shepherd N.S. in February. The workshop incorporated song, dance and audience participation. It covered various social and cultural issues and encouraged the children to recognise and acknowledge different forms of discrimination.

"I thought the play 'Michael's Story' was great. The actor was brilliant at doing impressions of various characters" Cillian

"The props used were fantastic. Michael kept them all in a suitcase. We helped him to build a kite" Augustinas

"It was great fun having the Abbey Theatre in school. Michael was a great actor. I liked how we got to take part" Ryan

"Michael was a great actor. He told us a story about his life living in County Donegal. It taught us about discrimination" Kacie D.

Well done to 5th class on all their achievements so far this year - they are currently enjoying 'Cool Dudes' cookery sessions on Thursdays.

Sheila FitzGerald, Principal.