



**Scoil Náisiúnta An Dea Aoire**  
**The Good Shepherd National School**

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Dear Parents/Guardians  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

It is hard to believe that we are now in the 6th week of the term and that Hallowe'en is almost upon us!

### **SUMMER WORKS SCHEME (SWS) 2015**

As noted in our newsletter of May 7th last - we applied for a grant from the Department of Education & Skills (our first application was submitted 5 years ago!!) to install CCTV at our school. This application was successful and CCTV was installed during July and August. Cameras are set to record both outside (grounds & yard) and inside (on all corridors) to provide enhanced security and to further strengthen child protection/safety in the school. The total cost of the work was €42,201.00 which also included a new locking system for the front door.

### **TESCO COMMUNITY FUND**

Thanks to all who supported us when shopping in Tesco, Nutgrove Shopping Centre, last term and put their blue goodwill tokens in the container for Good Shepherd N.S. We got a cheque from Tesco for €303.45 which will go towards an iPad for a class in our school. Thanks to those pupils who helped me to collect the cheque in July after their GSNS Summer Camp – Abigail, Darragh, Dee, Gary, Kara, Sian and Sofia.

### **ACTIVE FLAG – OFFICIAL LAUNCH FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**

The flag raising ceremony for our new Active Flag will take place this Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Well done to Ms. McCormack and our Active Team. We are delighted that Nora Stapleton, Six Nations winning rugby star, will be here to raise the flag. Nora works for the IRFU as Women & Girls Rugby Development Executive. She has also won honours with the Donegal Ladies GAA Team and, as many of you know, was our GAA coach in a previous life! All are welcome to the launch.

### **SPONSORED WALK – FRIDAY OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**

Weather permitting, our sponsored walks will take place after the Active Flag raising ceremony. Walk cards were given to the children last week. Each child gets a card so that they can be included individually in the November raffle for returned cards. We have spoken to pupils about safe collection of money, knocking on neighbours' doors etc., and I know that you will all be very aware of these safety aspects also. If you would like to accompany the children on the longer walks please come to the Parents' Room after the Active Flag launch. Please return all cards and money by Monday next, October 12th.

### **STAND UP FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION**

The Primary Teachers' Union, INTO, has launched a campaign to highlight primary education in Budget 2016 on October 13<sup>th</sup> next and to get this on to the agenda for the general election which is now expected in the Spring of 2016. The INTO is urging the government to prioritise primary education as cuts to primary funding have had significant consequences for pupils, teachers and parents. It is now time to replace cutbacks with investment. Among the issues being highlighted are class sizes, fairer funding and support for leadership in schools.

[ We have special postcards for the campaign here in the school for parents to sign. After adding your signature you can either send/give them to your local T.D. yourself or drop them back to the school and we will deliver them all together.

[www.goodshepherd.ie](http://www.goodshepherd.ie)

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**Principal:** Sheila FitzGerald

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- [ You can also contact local TD's by email using the campaign website [www.standupprimary.ie](http://www.standupprimary.ie). Select 'email your local TD' and select his/her constituency. The programme will generate an email address for the relevant TD's and a pre-worded email ready to send.

### **\*MISTAKE RE BAG PACK DATES ON EVENTS CALENDER**

There is no bag pack in November this year but the April 2016 dates are correct. After that it is hoped to have one SuperValu Bag Pack in each school year. Apologies for any inconvenience.

### **IRISH DANCING**

Reminder that Andrea Redmond holds Irish Dancing Classes here in the school on Wednesdays at 1.30 – 2.30pm for Juniors and 2.30 – 3.30pm for Seniors. Contact Andrea (086 8770087) for more details.

### **TIME TO READ PROGRAMME WITH SMURFIT KAPPA**

Welcome back Smurfit Kappa! Time to Read is a reading enhancement programme involving businesses and primary school children in 2<sup>nd</sup> class managed by the Schools' Business Partnership. The programme is currently running in only 30 primary schools across Ireland and we are very proud that Good Shepherd N.S. is once again one of the participating schools. We are delighted, for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year, to be in partnership with Smurfit Kappa, whose headquarters are in Clonskeagh. The initiative was a great success last year. The pupils really enjoyed the one to one sessions with their tutor and reading the lovely books that were donated as part of Time to Read. The Christmas visit to Smurfit Kappa Headquarters and the visit to Dundrum Library were some of the highlights of the 2014/2015 programme.

### **'DRESSING UP' DAY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23rd**

As is traditional, if they wish, children may dress in Hallowe'en outfits/casual clothes on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be prizes for the most imaginative costumes put together from recycled materials/old clothes – judged by somebody from outside the school. Every year we ask for a small contribution from each child on this special 'no-uniform day'. Money collected will be given to help sick children in the following centres – Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and Suzanne House, Hospice for Children, Tallaght.

### **CLASSROOM VISITS**

This new initiative was a great success last month. Your children loved seeing you in their classrooms and we thank you for all the positive feedback that you gave us after the visits.

### **PARENTS' MORNING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 9 – 10AM. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**

1. The four year term of the current Board of Management (BOM) ends on November 30<sup>th</sup> next and the new BOM begins its term of office on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and runs until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
2. There will be a meeting at 9am on November 10th to elect the fathers' and mothers' nominees on the new BOM. This should take about 15 mins.
3. After the election Ms. Anne Prendergast, Psychotherapist, will give a short talk (approx.20 mins) on Wellness and Wellbeing. Anne will provide a small 'goodie bag' for all who attend. She will be happy to take questions afterwards and there will be a cuppa for those who are free to stay on.

*Ms. Veale will send you a letter with some more details of this event nearer the time.*

### **STAFF CHANGES**

As most of you know, I am taking early(ish!!) retirement after Hallowe'en. I have worked in Churchtown Parish for all of my teaching career, in Loreto Girls N.S. and Good Shepherd N.S, and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with so many wonderful children and their parents. I hope to return to support the school at various events and at many of the Parents' Association initiatives, Bake Sale, Easter Raffle etc. – if I'm free and if I'm invited!!

I am delighted to inform you that Ms. Órlaith Veale has been appointed as the new Principal of our school. Órlaith has taught many of your children during her almost sixteen years in the school to date. She is very kind, competent and hardworking and has always had the best interests of our pupils and the school in general at heart. She has been Deputy Principal for the past three years where she has brought her many and varied talents to this role. The school is in very safe and capable hands with Órlaith at the helm and we wish her many happy and fulfilling years as Principal.

## **BOOK RENTAL & SCHOOL FINANCES**

1. **Book Rental:** Thank you to all those who participated in the School Book Rental Scheme this year. If anybody didn't get the letter outlining Book Rental for 2015/2016 please contact the school.
2. **Money owed:** There is still money owed for extras on booklist for this academic year – please check that you haven't forgotten to pay. As mentioned before, if you wish to pay by instalments, we can facilitate this.
3. Reminder also to some parents of Junior Infants re balance of the €150.00 still owed.

*Thanks to the vast majority of you who have completed all payments.*

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Principal. Sheila FitzGerald –