



Scoil Náisiúnta An Dea Aoire
The Good Shepherd National School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

10.09.15

We hope that you all had a lovely summer holiday (despite the weather!) - your children certainly did from what we hear. We extend a big welcome back to all our pupils and a special Céad Míle Fáilte to our new Junior Infants and to those children who joined us from other schools and other countries.

We are very happy to have Tiny Tots Playgroup and Angels Care Montessori at Good Shepherd N.S. again this year. They are located on the corridor beside the Parents' Room - welcome Jean, Gina & staff plus all the little people!

STAFF CHANGES

We wish Ms. Ní Mhórdha a happy year ahead as she begins her career break.

Welcome back to Ms. Lynch who rejoins us after a period of leave.

We are happy to have Mr. Robert McGuire, who was with us last May and June, back at the school this year and delighted to welcome Mr. Karl Heaney who is joining the GSNS team as a teacher in our ASD class.

We bid farewell to Ms. Doyle & Ms. Staunton who have taken up teaching positions elsewhere and to Ms. Stafford who has secured a permanent S.N.A. post in another school.

JUNIOR & LEAVING CERT RESULTS

We were very happy to hear from many of our past pupils (and their proud parents!) of their great results in the above exams. Congratulations and well done to all concerned – the many hours of study definitely paid off!

SAFETY ISSUES ON WHITEHALL ROAD

As you know, the construction of 28 apartments and 67 houses has begun at Hazelbrook Square, the housing development across the road from our school. The works will take approx. 20 months to complete. This is resulting in an increased level of traffic on the road.

I have had a meeting with the site Safety Officer and gave him the times when our school drop offs and collections occur. The company will endeavour to keep their trucks and heavy machinery off the road at those times but this will not always be possible.

Rathfarnham Gardaí have asked us to tell you that parking on double yellow lines, on the cycle lane and outside Hazelbrook Square is not permitted.

PARENTS CLASSROOM VISITS (SEPTEMBER 14th – 18th)

Throughout next week we are organising a series of short visits to classrooms so that parents can meet the class teacher and see where your child works so hard each day! Molly will let you know the dates and times. As usual, there will be time for a cuppa, a chat with her and also time to get to know other parents. *Please note that formal Parent/Teacher Meetings will still take place – on November 25th, 2.30pm – 5pm, save the date.*

CABINTEELY CARNIVAL, SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1pm – 5pm

The annual Carnival in Cabinteely Park is a family fun day – entry and all attractions are free. This year it will feature circus performers, a world record holding juggler, bouncy castles, lawn games, face painting and lots more. Parking is very limited, so organisers are recommending that people walk or use public transport where possible. Dublin Bus services the area with bus numbers 45, 46A, 84 and 145.

For further information www.dlrevents.ie

SCHOOL PHOTOS

The school photographer will be at the school on Tuesday morning next, 15th, to take the first school photos of our new Junior Infants! New pupils throughout the school may have their photo taken as well but you must sign a permission slip (available from the office).



PUPIL CONTACT INFORMATION DETAILS

We are currently updating our records so if any of your personal details have changed please let us know immediately.

TIES

We have a much admired school uniform but have noticed that some pupils are not wearing our school tie. To facilitate parents we are now selling these at the school – the cost is €5. If you lost a school tie please do purchase one as the uniform looks incomplete without it.

NEW HEADED PAPER

A big thank you to the talented Anna Kurpanik, mum of Zuzanna, for our beautifully designed notepaper.

PHOTOS - MEDIA IMAGES

Our pupils have appeared in the print media on several occasions over the past number of years. Also, as you know, our website contains many photos of the work (& fun!) than goes on in our school and where a child's image is on the site it will mainly be as part of a group – e.g. choir, sports teams, student council, and green school committee. If names are added it will be first names only in alphabetical order so that no child can be individually identified. Please let us know in writing by **Friday, 18th September** if you do not want any image of your child displayed or published during the year.

IN SCHOOL, AFTER SCHOOL AND EVENING ACTIVITIES

- **Breakfast Club** is up and running again daily this year. The children can get a drink and toast for 50c and there is often fruit available. During some of the colder months we hope to have beans on toast and the very popular hot chocolate!! Children enter the Breakfast Club through a side door on the junior yard which opens at 8.30am and closes at 8.45am. *Only those children going to Breakfast Club can be in the school from 8.30am onwards – all other children enter school at 8.50am with their teachers.* *Please note that parents or younger siblings, who are not enrolled in the school, should not enter Breakfast Club. No food or drink from the Breakfast Club is allowed on the yard.*
- The following activities are currently being organised *during school hours* – **Drama, Gaelic Skills, Soccer, Swimming and Tag Rugby.**
- **Short Tennis** – Karl (087 9972027) has returned on Tuesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm.
- **Irish Dancing** in GSNS this year is on Wednesdays at 1.30 – 2.30 pm for Juniors and 2.30 – 3.30pm for Seniors. Contact Andrea (086 8770087) for more details.
- **Hockey** sessions, sponsored by DúnLaoghaire Rathdown County Council, are currently available for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes on Thursdays 2.30 – 3.30pm.
- **Basketball** sessions take place in the hall on Thursdays, 2.30 – 3.30pm – Molly has handed out information sheets.
- **Unislim Classes** are held in the school every Thursday from 6.15 – 7pm. Contact Deirdre at Unislim Head Office on 1850 603 020 or check Unislim Churchtown on Facebook for further details.

I would like to say a sincere thank you to the members of our Parents' Association who worked so hard on your behalf for our school last year.

Thanks also to all family members who supported our fundraising efforts during the last school year.

We are all looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year working with you and your children.

Ag tús na scoil bliana nua gabhaim gach dea-ghuí agus sláinte oraibh go léir.

Sheila FitzGerald - Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed. September 30th Mass for beginning of school year – Good Shepherd Church 10am (weather permitting).
Fri. October 9th Annual Sponsored Walk (during school hours)

- **A reminder sheet, which we distribute in September & January each year, will be issued next week.**
- **A full list of all closures for 2015/2016 will be issued shortly.**