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Board of Management

Fr. Frank Drescher
Mrs. Linda Geraghty
Mrs. Alana Loison
Mr. Declan Murray (Chairperson)
Mr. John O'Connor (Treasurer)
Mrs. Bernie O'Mara
Mr. Séamus Sullivan (Secretary)

Principal:

Mr. Séamus Sullivan

Deputy Principal

Mr. Eiven Shanahan

Assistant Principal

Ms. Alison Hayes

Assistant Principal 2:

Mr. Pius McFadden
Mrs. Linda Geraghty
Mr. Stephen Mullen

Parent Association Committee

Mrs. Ciara Duffy (Chairperson)
Mrs. Alana Loison
Ms. Rachel Moriarty (Secretary)
Mrs. Larissa Norton
Mrs. Denise O'Connor (Treasurer)
Mrs. Irene O'Connor
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Nuachtán Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí



Easter Newsletter — March 2021

Issue No. 2020/21/3 (11)

Pieta Amber Flag Initiative

Over the last few months, we have been working hard to achieve our Amber Flag. This is an initiative which aims to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in our school. It involves the school coming together to create a safe, positive, and healthy attitude towards our physical and mental health and wellbeing. The Amber Flag is awarded upon achieving these aims and we hope to be able to fly it outside the school with pride by the end of the school year.



Our Amber Flag committee, which consists of members of the Student Council, has been busy helping to organise activities to achieve this. Some of the things we have already undertaken include:

- Creating an Amber flag noticeboard
- Sticking positive posters and affirmations around the school
- The organisation of Wellbeing Week last November
- The introduction of the 'Lust for Life' programme in 5th and 6th Class
- Wellbeing Wednesday activities during our remote teaching and learning
- 'Fun Friday' on 26th March (colourful non-uniform day) to raise money for Pieta House

We also hope to introduce a 'worry box' in all classrooms where any worries or concerns can be dealt with in a discreet manner by staff members.

Ms. Brannock, Ms. Mallon and Ms. Murtagh welcome any other suggestions or ideas that could help with this initiative or if anyone is willing to share any skills/ talents with us regarding art, music, meditation, fitness, healthy eating, etc., please let us know.

Board of Management Updates

Following Board of Management meetings on 25th January, 8th February and 22nd March, the Board is pleased to report the following:

- The following policies have been ratified/reviewed: Child Safeguarding Statement, First Aid Policy, Remote Teaching & Learning Policy and Zoom Call Policy & Procedures
- Four classrooms have had new 75" tv screens installed (thanks to Eddie & Mr. Shanahan)
- The repair and maintenance of the all-weather surface was carried out on Tuesday 2nd March
- PE equipment and storage boxes have been purchased to allow each class to have its own stock—these will hopefully be in use after Easter.

A Message from the Principal

Little did we know as we closed our doors on Thursday 12th March 2020 what the next year would entail for the members of our school community. What was planned as a two week closure was eventually extended for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year. A welcome return at the start of the 2020/2021 school year was managed carefully until January's announcement that schools would remain closed after Christmas. Again, we could not have foreseen the extent to which this would last, with our special class pupils returning on Monday 22nd February, our Junior Infant to 2nd Class pupils returning on Monday 1st March and our 3rd to 6th Class pupils returning on Monday 15th March. This has amounted to 87 school days away from school for our special class, 92 for our junior classes and 102 for our senior classes. Academic progress was managed remotely, which was very difficult for all concerned. Serious concerns regarding mental health and wellbeing also arose. Thankfully, all classes are now back at school and I sincerely hope that it will remain so from this point on.

I must say a word of thanks to all in our school community for their response over these trying periods. Again, we have seen the value of working together to make the most of a challenging situation and pupils, parents, guardians, teachers, SNA's and ancillary staff deserve great thanks and praise for giving greatly of themselves throughout this period. We must continue to do so in order to keep the school open and to keep each other safe. The vaccination process brings hope but we must keep our guard up and our focus strong. The Easter break will give us all a chance to regroup and to return to school on the 12th of April ready to give our all until we finish on the 30th of June. Please be aware of your responsibilities if you are travelling out of the country over the break. A 14-day period of restricting movements must be observed on your re-entry into the country before your son can return to school. This can be shortened if proof of a negative COVID-19 test result (the test must take place a minimum of 5 days after returning) is shared with the school.

There has been a lapse on the part of some parents/guardians with regard to parking when dropping children off for school and/or collecting them after school. **There is no set-down facility available where there are double yellow lines**, whether for 10 seconds or 20 minutes. Parents and guardians are also reminded to **wear face masks on school property** and to **maintain appropriate physical distancing when waiting to collect children**.

Despite the school closure, there is much to report at Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí. I would like to thank Ms. Brannock, Ms. Mallon and Ms. Murtagh for their efforts in spearheading our application for the Amber Flag. Ms. Brannock also coordinated the school's Wellbeing Wednesday focus throughout the school closure period. Thanks to Mr. McFadden for coordinating Seachtain na Gaeilge, with some of the activities being managed remotely. Our caretaker, Eddie, has started work on the space at the end of the junior yard, which will become an enclosed play area for the pupils in our special class primarily. The repair and maintenance of the all-weather surface has also taken place. Parent teacher meetings for Junior Infants to 2nd Class pupils have taken place in the last two weeks and those for senior classes will run from the 19th to 30th April (please book early once slots are made available shortly after our return from the Easter break). Ms. Brannock and Ms. Dunne organised a second Staff Kms Challenge, which raised much needed funds in support of Dave Panergo. I look forward to the launch of our school lotto after Easter, which will aid various school projects and reward a few parents/guardians along the way.

A number of parents/guardians are as yet to set up an Aladdin Connect account and I urge them to do so without further delay. It is via Aladdin that parents/guardians will be able to edit family details, access their son's school reports and standardised test scores and inform the school regarding absences, late arrivals and early collections. It is also via Aladdin that **parents/guardians must complete a Return to School Declaration when a pupil is returning to school after any absence**, regardless of reason or length.

Wishing you an eggs-tremely enjoyable Easter break,

Seamus Sullivan

Principal

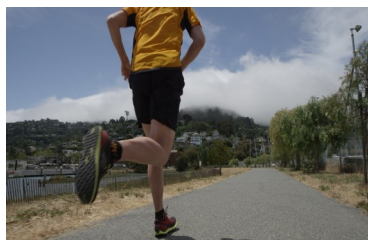


Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí Lotto

The Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí Lotto will be launched after Easter (exact date to be confirmed). The lotto will raise valuable funds to provide resources and support to the pupils of the school while affording parents/guardians the chance to win weekly prizes and a rolling jackpot. Players will be able to buy one line for €2 or three lines for €5 each week. There will be more information available after Easter so watch this space!



Staff Kms Challenge



Following November's successful Kms Challenge in aid of Barnardos, Ms. Brannock and Ms. Dunne set the staff the more difficult challenge of collectively walking, running or cycling 3500kms between Monday 18th January and Sunday 28th February, with Ms. Dunne keeping tabs on the total as it built up. The final total was an impressive 3793.22km and staff members made contributions towards a great cause close to home. One of our parents, Dave Panergo, underwent major surgery recently to remove tumours from his brain. Thankfully, this was a fantastic success and he is on the road back to full health. If you would like to contribute, Dave has a gofundme page at https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-panergos?utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer Well done to all and best wishes to Dave on his continued recovery!

COVID-19 Reminders

It is of vital importance that parents/guardians recognise and adhere to the necessary actions we all need to take or avoid in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, protect each other and keep our school open. Please adhere to guidelines and avoid large gatherings, (whether internal or external). Play dates should not be organised. Ignoring these and other guidelines places all those with whom you come into close contact at risk. If a person develops any common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), he/she should self-isolate (stay in his/her room) and seek medical advice via a GP or a walk-in COVID-19 test centre straight away. Other people in the same household will need to restrict their movements (stay at home), i.e. in the case of children, they should not come to school. Children awaiting a test or a test result should not come to school.

Definition of Close Contacts

- Any person who has had face to face contact for <1m with a confirmed case of COVID-19 for a period of longer than 15 minutes in a school day.
- Any person who has been between 1 and 2 metres from a confirmed case of COVID-19 for a period of longer than 15 minutes in a school day with consideration of other mitigation measures, e.g. face-coverings, pods, ventilation, etc.

Contacts are assessed from contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 during their infectious period - 48 hours before the onset of symptoms if symptomatic, or 24 hours before the test for COVID-19 was taken in those who are asymptomatic.

We are all responsible for our own actions. Nobody wants to revert to school closures and remote teaching and learning. As our school motto states,

Ní neart go cur le chéile!

Strength in Unity

The power of a couple or team pulling together, working for the same goal, striving to reach a common destination, is far greater than the sum of its parts. This is your school - keep it safe!

School Calendar April — June 2021

April 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

☐ Saturdays & Sundays

■ School Closed

□ School Open

📅 Return to School Dates

🕒 School Closing at 12.00p.m.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 in Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí from Monday 8th to Tuesday the 16th of March. During this week we celebrated our native language through various activities.

Well done to all pupils who took part in class activities in the Junior end of the school. Well done to all pupils in the Senior end of the school also, who got involved in remote activities during the week.

Congratulations to all the pupils who won prizes or “Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine” for their extra efforts in speaking the Irish Language.

Many thanks to all the teachers for their help and support throughout the week.

Rinneamar ceiliúradh ar Sheachatain na Gaeilge 2021 i Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí ón 8ú lá go dtí an 16ú lá de mhí an Mhárta. I rith na seachtaine rinneamar ár teanga dhúchais a cheiliúradh trí gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla.

Moladh mór do na daltaí go léir sna Ranganna Shóisearacha a ghlac páirt sna gníomhaíochtaí ranga.

Moladh mór do na daltaí sna Ranganna Shinsearach freisin, a ghlac páirt i ngíomhaíochtaí ón bhaile.

Comhghairdeas leis na daltaí go léir a bhuaigh duaiseanna nó Geailgeoir na Seachtaine de bharr sár-iarracht an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus a labhairt ás a stuaim féin.

Míle buíochas do na múinteoirí go léir as an chabhrú agus tacaíocht i rith na Seachtaine.

Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh sí

Frásaí Gaeilge / Irish Phrases

Gaeilge	Pronunciation (Donegal dialect)	English
Mas é do thoil é	mos eh doh hull eh	Please
Gabh mo Leithscéal	gav mo la scale	Excuse me
Fáilte romhat	foyle-teh row-ad	Your Welcome
Níl a fhios agam	neel-a-iss-a-gum	I don't know
Slán	slawn	Goodbye

HE ISN'T HERE.
He is risen!

LUKE 24:6

