

# Scoil Phádraic Cailíní

## Parents' Association Newsletter



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Autumn Edition October 2017

### A word from the Parents' Association

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new and returning families of Scoil Phádraic Cailíní. It is great to see so many happy faces in the school each day.

We are looking forward to the year ahead, working with all families and the school through our activities including the library, paired reading, cake sales, receptions, the National Parents' Council, our calendar and book rental activities. We encourage everyone to support and get involved in the PA by volunteering for an activity that interests you, or attending our monthly meetings. New ideas are always appreciated. If you cannot attend meetings, please drop us an email with your ideas and suggestions.

Our Parents' Association AGM will take place on Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the school hall, with special guest speaker Donal Scanlon from Mental Health First Aid Ireland. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see you there. In the meantime, we would like to thank you all for your support and wish you all the very best in this new school year.

### Dates for the Diary ...

<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Calendar Photos</b>	We produce a school calendar every year as a fundraiser for the Book Rental scheme. The theme for the 2018-2019 calendar is 'Active Learning'. Photographs for the calendar will take place in school on Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October from 9am.
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Halloween Cake Sale</b>	The Halloween Cake Sale will take place from 9am on Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October. Donations of cakes, buns etc. are all appreciated. Everyone is welcome so please drop in from 9am, noting that the girls will visit the cake sale with their teachers during the day.
<b>Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Open Night</b>	St. Patrick's Girls' and Boys' National Schools welcome parents of future students to an Open Evening on Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 7-9pm, where parents can visit the school and meet the pupils and staff.
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Halloween Dress Up</b>	The girls can come to school dressed in their costumes on Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October. The school will then close for mid-term from Oct 30 <sup>th</sup> - Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Class Retreat</b>	The retreat for the 6 <sup>th</sup> Class girls is scheduled for Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November.
<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Parents' Association AGM</b>	The Parents' Association AGM will take place in the school hall on Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November at 9am. Donal Scanlan, from Mental Health First Aid Ireland, will be guest speaker. Donal will give an introductory talk on mental health, awareness, stigma and supportive behaviours. We encourage all parents/guardians to attend.
<b>Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Teachers In- Service Day</b>	The school is closed for an In-service Day for teachers on Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November.
<b>14<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Assessment Tests</b>	The annual assessment tests will take place during the weeks of the 14 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018.

# The Parents' Association ... How to get involved ☺

Here is a snapshot of some of the work in which the Parents' Association members are involved. There will be more information available during the AGM on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. If you would like to help with any of these activities, please let us know as the more help we get, the more we can do for our girls.

## Paired Reading

The paired reading sessions are run every morning, Monday-Friday, from 9.00 - 9.30 and involve an adult reading with one or more pupils. Each volunteer generally commits to 30 mins 1-2 mornings a week.

This is a very worthwhile and rewarding program for both the girls and the volunteers. We would love to make the program available to more of the girls, so for those of you who are interested in getting involved, and have a morning to spare, please contact **Veronica on 086 4015426**.



## The Library



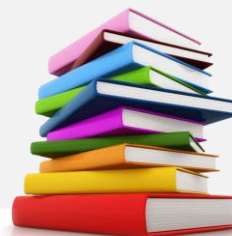
'Reading for Fun' is what we are promoting via the school library. The girls from 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Class visit the library every 3 weeks (Tuesdays 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class; Wednesdays for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class) and borrow a book of their choice to read and enjoy at home. We are always looking for parents / guardians to help with the maintenance and operation of the school library. If you have a little spare time to help (1 day every 3 weeks from 9 – 10.30am), please reach out to **Triona on 087 9412177**.

## Book Rental

The Book Rental Scheme has been in operation in the school for over 15 years. The cost is €10 (Senior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class) and €15 (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class), representing approximately 70% savings in comparison to buying these books yourself.

Volunteering involves a little fundraising throughout the year to support the scheme (e.g. school calendar) and then helping for a few mornings in June to clean, collate and cover books for the next term.

If you would have time to help us, please reach out to **Deborah on 086 8276555**.



## Cake Sales and Receptions



Throughout the school year, we also work in conjunction with the school to organise cake sales (e.g. Halloween and Easter) and receptions (e.g. Receptions for First Holy Communion, Confirmation and 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation). If you would have time to help at these events, please reach out to **Ruth on 086 0898984**.

## National Parents Council

Our Parents' Association is a member of the NPC (National Parents Council), giving us access to a national network of parents and parents' associations. Our parents' representative on this council provides details of any interesting conferences or events available to parents of primary students. See [www.npc.ie](http://www.npc.ie) for more details.



NPC is the only national representative organisation for parents of primary school children. It exists to support and empower all parents through their helpline (01-8874477), training courses and website.

## Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine

Bíonn Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine againn gach seachtain. 'Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine' means 'Irish speaker of the Week'. To win the award, the girls must use Gaeilge throughout the school day, inside and outside of the classroom. All of the girls are doing a great job. Maith síbh!

Here is a photo of some of the pupils who have been awarded the honour of Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine by their class teacher.



## Junior Infants Adventures

Welcome to all the new girls in Junior Infants this year. The girls have settled in so well and are having great fun, learning new things every day and making new friends. One of their learning adventures brought them on a nature walk. This little excursion was greatly enjoyed by all.



## Road Safety

The school has been running activities for Road Safety Week last week and Ms. Greene and the teachers are persistently addressing the issue of safety coming to and from school with the children. The school is continually canvassing to get better conditions i.e. wider paths, a set down arrangement for cars etc. It is hoped that when the pedestrian access at the back of the school is opened that this will take some of the pressure off the paths leading to the front of the school. The following are some of the issues that concerned parents have raised and these issues have been raised with the children in school;

- Children being allowed to cycle or scoot to school unaccompanied
- Children stumbling from scooters onto the road.
- Children stopping and starting & scooting and cycling on the road overtaking pedestrians and other children on scooters
- Children coming at speed behind pedestrians on their scooters and bicycles trying to overtake them on the busy path
- Helmets not being worn when scooting and cycling

While the school can educate the children about road safety, the school cannot control how the children come to school. Parents need to be responsible for the safety and conduct of their child on their journey to and from school, we ask that all parents speak to their children today about the above issues and their journey to and from school.



## Head Lice

There have been incidences of head lice reported in the school this autumn.

### What are Head Lice?

A head louse is a wingless insect, with 3 pairs of legs with hooked 'claws'. It is normally transparent in colour (therefore difficult to detect), except when it has taken a blood meal and becomes brown/red. Head Lice are spread through head-to-head contact. They can spread quickly, so the onus is on us as parents to do what we can to avoid the spread and help keep the problem under control.



### What can we do to help?

1. Firstly, all our girls' hairs should be tidily tied back in plaits or buns (see examples) to reduce the potential of hair-on-hair contact in school
2. Irish Pharmacy Union - Prevention and Cure Tips:
  - Check children's hair for lice regularly, ideally twice a week. Use a wet comb made for the purpose. Combing through wet hair makes the process easier. **Please see attached a Detection Comb** (*Thank you to LIFE pharmacy*).
  - Check close to the scalp, behind the ears, around the nape of the neck, top of the head and under the fringe.
  - Treat the hair only if live lice or unhatched eggs are present.
  - Treat the child and other family members as soon as possible.
  - Inform the school, contacts and friends when your child has head lice. The school can then inform other parents that there is an outbreak, so everyone can check their own children.
  - Remember to repeat the treatment as advised by the instructions on the treatment pack.



## 2018 Calendar – 17<sup>th</sup> year in production

We produce a school calendar every year as a fundraiser for the Book Rental scheme.

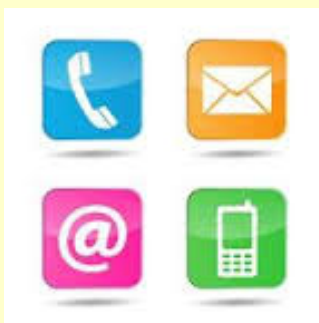
The calendar offers a memento from your daughter's year, lists the school holidays and is a handy reference point for some local businesses. We have an 'Active Learning' theme for the 2018-2019 calendar and photographs will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

We are also running a colouring competition for the girls to design a cover for the calendar.



**The calendars will be available for purchase in November.**

## Contact Us



- Contact us on 086 0898984
- Email us [scoilphadraiccailiniparents@gmail.com](mailto:scoilphadraiccailiniparents@gmail.com)
- Like us on Facebook: Scoil Phádraic Cailíní Parents' Association
- Reminder: The Parents' Association AGM will take place in the school hall on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November after school drop off at 9am**  
We encourage all parents/guardians to attend and look forward to meeting you at the AGM, else please do join us for our next meeting **at 8pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** in the staff room.