

# Scoil Phádraic Cailíní, Donabate, Co. Dublin

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Together we learn,

Together we succeed



## Scoil Phádraic Cailíní | March Newsletter – 2022

### Culture Week



Dear Parents,

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March we will be celebrating **Culture Week** in the school. The children will be learning about all the cultures that are represented in our school community. We will be celebrating the colour and variety that different cultures bring to all our lives. The theme for this year's Culture Week is *Writers from Different Cultures*. This is also in acknowledgement of the 100 year anniversary of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The children will be learning about myths and legends from other countries as well as famous writers from other countries.

We would be delighted if some of our parents would volunteer to share with their child's class or indeed any class level in the school, a traditional story, favourite bedtime story or tale from their own culture. This could of course be a traditional Irish tale. The idea would be that the parent would read the story to the class over zoom or if restrictions are lifted, in person. If this is something you feel you could contribute to, you can either contact your daughter's teacher or the school office, and we would be delighted to hear from you.



### Holy Communion Classes

Our First Holy Communion girls are busy preparing for their First Penance, which is the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This will be taking place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11am in St. Patrick's Church. This is a very special step on their journey towards First Holy Communion.



### Lent

Tomorrow we celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the start of the season of Lent. This is a time of reflection. The girls will be learning about Lent with their teachers and making their Lenten promises.



### Upcoming school closure dates:

St Patricks Day - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> & Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Holidays - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (inclusive)



# Hockey

As we move into spring and are hopeful of brighter days, we are excited about getting our sports teams up and running again. Donabate Portrane Hockey Club have organised for their new hockey coach Anthony, to start teaching hockey to the girls in the school, during the school day. This opportunity will be rotated amongst the classes between now and the end of the school year, however we are starting with 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class this term. While it is not a requirement we recommend that the girls wear mouth guards and any other protective gear that you see fit during these lessons on a Wednesday.



We are starting up a school hockey team this year. It will comprise of pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> class. The girls will practice after school on Tuesdays. We are looking forward to hopefully inviting teams from other schools to come and play some friendly matches here. We hope to build up the team's experience in preparation for joining a schools

league in the new school year. We are delighted and very grateful to have two parent volunteers to help us with the team, Claire Henchy and Catherine Reilly as well as Ms. Walsh and Ms. Henderson.

## GAA

Naoise has finished up with us as our school GAA coach and we wish him well in his new role. We are delighted to welcome on board Paul Jones as our new replacement coach. We are very grateful to St. Pats GAA for supporting the girls with this opportunity. Paul will be putting the girls through their paces on Tuesdays and currently senior infants to second class are participating in these lessons. Again, it is not a requirement that the girls wear mouth guards and any other protective gear, however we encourage this for safety reasons. Many of the girls already play these sports and so they are very used these good practices. Our senior GAA team is back in action and back practicing thanks to Deirdre Zaidan, Ms. McDonald and Ms. Dwyer.

## Anti-bullying

Throughout the school year there is a constant running narrative about the importance of treating others the way we would like to be treated ourselves, not to say anything to someone that you wouldn't want said to you and how to be a good and kind friend.

Each month the girls fill in a private anti-bullying survey, sharing how they feel in school and recognising the importance of the role of by-standers and our collective responsibility, in ensuring that everyone is included and feels happy in school. Our updated Anti-bullying Policy will be available on the school website shortly.

In February we focused on cyber-safety, with Safer-Internet Day falling on the 8th of February. Ms. McGee organised online workshops for the senior girls highlighting the importance of safe internet use. We would encourage you to talk about your daughter's internet use with her, identifying the benefits and the risks, as well as listening to what she has to say about her life online.

When it comes to mobile phones and instant messaging, you need to be monitoring group chats in particular. Remind your daughter(s) not to type a message or send a picture that would hurt someone's feelings or that she would not want you or teacher to read or see!

### Contact Us:



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