

# Scoil Phádraic Cailíní

October 2021

## Dear Parents,

We had an exciting day on Wednesday with the visit of the Minister for Education Norma Foley. We hosted the Minister, Senator Lorraine Clifford-Lee, Counsellor Adrian Henchy and members of Minister Foley's staff in the school garden. The Pupils' Council represented their fellow pupils wonderfully, with their well-prepared questions for the Minister. She was then treated to a debate by some of our 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils, who impressed all those present with their articulate and well thought out arguments. Minister Foley presented our newly elected members of the Pupils' Council, Grace O' Shaughnessy and Amy Murphy, with their badges. Our parent body was represented by Patricia Gray and Paudie Byrne and Chairperson of the Board of Management Lisa English was also in

attendance. This support, and that of Senator Clifford-Lee and Counsellor Henchy was invaluable, when we raised our concerns in relation to



our building challenges with Minister Foley. We also raised her awareness around the importance of supporting girls with additional needs. The Minister acknowledged the reasonableness of the matters raised and could recognise that the pupils and their needs were at the centre of these. I am currently following up on these matters with her staff. Overall, it was a lovely occasion with a celebratory feel. The quality of the teaching and learning as well as the happy atmosphere of the school was visible to all our guests. As always, the girls themselves are our greatest ambassadors.

## Aladdin Connect

We are delighted to have Aladdin Connect up and running and would like to thank you all for downloading the app. Connect can be used to advise the school of late arrivals/early collections, as well as for completing absence notes and return to school declarations.

## Healthy Lunches

The school operates a Healthy Lunch Policy, this means that the girls have a fruit break in the morning and have healthy options in their lunch box for later on. The girls are allowed to bring a small treat to school on Fridays.

Eggs, nuts and nut-based foods including Nutella



are banned from the school as we have children here who are severely allergic to these foods. Crisps are also not allowed for hygiene reasons. The Healthy Lunch Policy is part of the wider Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) curriculum.



## Dates to remember:

**22<sup>nd</sup> October** – Halloween fun day. Girls can come to school in their costumes – more details to follow!

**25<sup>th</sup> October – 29<sup>th</sup> October** - school is closed for mid-term break

**2<sup>nd</sup> November** – school closes at 12 midday for teacher training as instructed by Dept of Education

## Bikes & Scooters

Due to coronavirus we cannot store scooters and bikes in the one location as we traditionally did, as this would involve too much cross over of pupils in the mornings and afternoons, when depositing and retrieving their bikes and scooters. The school has ordered new scooter racks and are awaiting their delivery. Once the new scooter racks arrive for outside the school, I will explain where each class is to store their scooters and bikes. The school takes no responsibility for scooters or bikes left on the school premises. The children will need to remember to collect their scooter or bike before they walk to the school gate with their teacher, as there won't be anyone available to supervise them returning to retrieve their scooter. Teachers will remind them at the end of the day to collect their scooters.

## Return to Sport!

As a result of an easing of restrictions, we are delighted to have the girls playing sport once more. Our first class girls are enjoying tennis lessons with Hugh and GAA training in the school has also resumed. Special congratulations to our first class girls who played their first GAA match with St Pat's recently!



## First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our 3<sup>rd</sup> class girls who made their First Holy Communion last month. The girls had been disappointed previously when the ceremonies could not go ahead, but their patience was rewarded as they had a day worth waiting for! Thanks are due to Fr. Pat and Fr. Augustine for their help in getting the girls prepared – including coming to the school for a very special First Penance service.



### Scoil Phádraic Cailíní

Together We Learn,  
Together We Succeed

- Catholic Ethos
- High Academic Standards
- Languages - English, Gaelige
- STEM Education  
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths
- The Arts - Music, Drama, Art
- SPHE - Social Personal Health Education

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**Enrolment for Junior infants  
2022 is now open - visit  
[www.scoilphadraiccailini.ie](http://www.scoilphadraiccailini.ie) for  
more information!**



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