

Scoil Maelruain News

November 2022

A snippet of life from our school in Old Bawn.



Principal's Corner

We have had a busy November in Scoil Maelruain Junior. The children got to enjoy doing lots of experiments for 'Science Week', will focus on how Maths is fun for 'Maths Week' and we welcomed parents back into the school for parent-teacher meetings. We would also like to thank parents for their support for our pilot 'Hand Towel' initiative.

We are really looking forward to opening our doors again to parents for our upcoming Christmas performances. Our children are busy getting ready to provide parents with some festive entertainment!

Mrs. Claire Durr

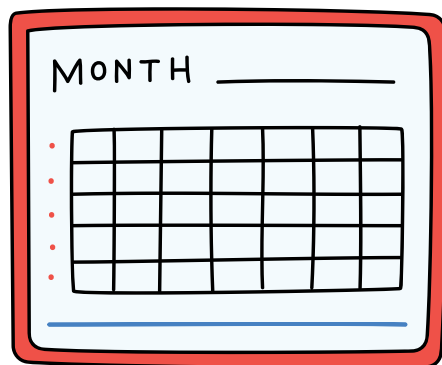
Important Dates.

Christmas 2022: School is closed Wednesday 21st December at 12pm and re-opens Thursday 5th January.

February 2023:

St Brigid's Day: School is closed on Monday 6th February.

Mid Term: School is closed on Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February. School reopens on Monday 20th February.



Scoil Maelruain Junior,
Oldbawn Avenue,
Tallaght,
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Principal: Mrs. Claire Durr
Deputy Principal: Ms. Aideen Butler

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Rainbows Ireland provides peer group support to children aged 7 and over and young people who have been impacted following a bereavement or parental separation or a divorce.

When significant change and loss happens in a family, the entire family can be affected, including children and young people. Children and young people can generally find it difficult to understand their feelings and often do not have the words to express how they feel.

Rainbows provides group support for children of a similar age and loss experience. Meeting others in a similar situation can be very supportive for children and young people.

Rainbows is not a counselling group or professional therapy. It is a free service. If you would like your son/daughter to attend Rainbows or you would like to know more, please contact Ms. Farrell at cfarrell@scoilmaelruainjunior.org

Please note this service is currently only available for children over age 7. We hope to be able to offer this service at our school in the New Year subject to availability of volunteers.



Shoebox Appeal Update



There was a huge response in Scoil Maelruain Junior to 'The Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal.'

Many thanks to all the children and families for their generosity.

This generosity will deliver gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible.



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Our Active School.



On the 14th of November, all of the classes in the school began the '4 Week Active Break Challenge'. Each class for 4 weeks tries to do something active everyday for at least 5 minutes or more. This could be a little exercise break at their desk, a dance break in their classroom, a jog around the nearby yard or courtyard or lots of other great activities.

The class then records what they did each day on a special record sheet stuck up in their classroom. The children are really enjoying the challenge and can see from doing it, how as well as being fun and keeping us healthy, physical activity can also help us with our concentration and focus.

On Friday 25th November the whole school came together on Zoom and did an Active Break together for #FeelGoodFriday. The children danced along to a video of a cardio drumming routine.



A chance to dance!

Spaces for students have become available at The Mowlds Academy of Irish Dancing who host Irish dance classes in the school every Wednesday at 2.30pm. Irish dance teacher, Natalie Mowlds has twenty years experience and has been holding classes in Scoil Maelruain for the last twelve years.

Through the classes, Natalie encourages each child's natural ability to move and dance while in turn teaching basic Irish dancing steps in a fun way. For further details, contact Natalie on 087 7471957.

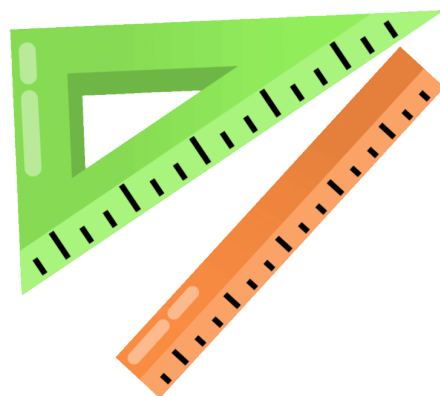


Maths Week 2022

We are all really forward to 'Maths Week' that is taking place in the school next week!

Maths Week is an Important way to help learners enjoy maths and highlight the creativity of the subject.

Lots of fun activities are being planned for the week. Watch out for December's newsletter for a full report on the week's activities!



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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

We are delighted to announce the date and times for the Christmas performances that will take place in the school hall this December. Entry and exit will be via the main reception door.

The children are all working very hard and look forward to bringing some Christmas cheer to the school hall next month!



14th December	Time:	Classes
Rooms 9 and 13	9.10 - 10.00am	Ms McGrath & Ms White/Ms Bradley
Rooms 10 and 14	10.00 - 10.40am	Ms Brennan & Ms Crowley
Rooms 11 & 12	10.50 - 11.30am	Ms Tierney & Ms Herterich
Rooms 15 & 16	11.30am - 12.10pm	Ms. Mitchell & Ms Kennedy
15th December	Time	Classes
Rooms 1 and 2	9.10 - 10.00am	Ms O'Sullivan & Mr Brady
Rooms 3 and 4	10.00 - 10.40am	Ms Nugent & Ms Smith/Ms Burns
Rooms 7 and 8	10.50 - 11.30am	Ms Ryan & Ms Breen
Rooms 5 and 6	11.30am - 12.10pm	Ms O'Driscoll & Ms Byrne

The Aistear Programme.

Many thanks to The Parents Association for all the fundraising that has been so successful this year.

The money raised has contributed to new equipment to support 'The Aistear Programme' for Junior & Senior Infant classes.

This method of learning through play has proven to be very beneficial for children who enjoy it immensely.



Ms. C. Glennon.

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Hand Towel Initiative

Thanks for all the support with our 'Hand Towel' pilot. We have had a very positive response to it. We will continue with the pilot until Christmas and will look for parent feedback through a questionnaire, before the Christmas holidays.

Our reasoning behind this initiative is:

To reduce our blue roll waste, which currently stands at 20 black bags per week.

To provide a safe and hygienic way for children to dry their hands sustainably.

To reduce the amount we are spending on blue roll - while the Department of Education is still providing a 'Covid Grant', that grant has not increased and the cost of blue roll has doubled. We will continue to provide blue roll for children who may forget their towels. We will also provide some spare towels for children where needed.



Science Week 2022

Science Week took place in Scoil Maelruain Junior earlier this month. The week aimed to celebrate the role of Science in our everyday lives.

The children took part in many experiments from magnets, sinking and floating and testing heart-rate to name but a few.

Second class students, Efrain Varghese and Sofia Kennedy outline their experience of participating in the initiative.

"I was on the Science Team and my job was re-setting tables with experiments. I was setting up the magnets table. Each class came to the halla at a different time and day." **Sofia Kennedy**

"Some of the experiments were static electricity, light-opaque/translucent/transparent, floating finger, how magnets attract and repel each other, how plants drink and floating/sinking. My favourite experiment was the floating finger." **Efrain Varghese**



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Health & Safety Reminder



We would like to thank all the parents and students who have followed our health and safety reminders so far. Just a couple of further reminders that we would like to bring to your attention:

- There is no parking at the school. We have had a number of complaints from local residents about people blocking their houses entry at drop off and collection each day. Children who are walking, cycling and scooting to school are also in danger of being hit by moving vehicles. We would appreciate it if you could walk, cycle or scoot where possible. If you have to drive we would appreciate it if you could park at the church car park and walk to the school.
- While the school grounds are open for staff access in the mornings we would encourage children to arrive from **8.40am or later**.
- If you need to access the grounds during the school hours please ensure that the gates are left closed behind you.
- Wet Days: children should arrive at school **at 8.50am and later**. If they do get to school before that there are shelters by each door. As we all know the weather in Ireland is very changeable so we would encourage all children to have a raincoat in their bags or wear a coat each day.
- We would ask that children **dismount** their 'vehicles' at the school gates and **walk** them through the school grounds.

Your children's safety is paramount, and we appreciate your support with these measures.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Teachers are unable to speak with parents at the doors in the morning. Communication with teachers is done through **email**.

Teachers will review their emails at the end of the school day.

For this reason emails may not be answered immediately.

For urgent communication please contact the office by phone 01-4510706 or by email scoilmaelruainjunior@gmail.com

We appreciate your understanding on this matter.



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Lend a helping hand in 2023?



We are looking for Parent Helping Hands for the start of 2023. We would like parents to help out with the following:

- To accompany children to and from the church.
- To accompany children on school tours.
- To accompany children to sporting events.
- To help with Maths activities.
- To help out with Literacy activities.



How do I get involved?

All Parent Helping Hands need to be Garda Vetted through the school. You need to bring in proof of address and a photo ID (Passport/Drivers license) to the school and fill in an Application Form at the office ASAP. We need to submit a form to Archbishop's House. They will then email you an e-form which you must return within 7 days otherwise the form will expire and you will need to begin the process all over again. When the 'Vetting' comes through you will be informed by Archbishop's House and the Declaration will also be sent to the school.

Arts & Crafts Class

Our talented artists have been busy again this term. So far, they have been working on Winter art pieces and dazzling shooting stars! The children are very excited to start creating some festive Christmas Art very soon!



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Parents' Association



Fundraising

This has been a great month, for fundraising. Thank you to all the parents who sent €2 in for Christmas Colours Day and who purchased their child's Christmas cards. €539 was raised from Christmas Colours Day and the amount is still to be confirmed from the Christmas cards by the card company.

Expenditure

Christmas Annuals: The Parent's Association has funded the Christmas Annuals this year. This ensures that each child gets one.

Treat from Santa: Santa usually visits the children in the school each year and the Parents' Association fund a small treat from the big man himself. A mini selection box will be delivered to your child's classroom on the day of Santa's visit and handed out when children are going home. Your class rep will check in with your teacher to find out if there are any allergies in the class and if a special treat needs to be sourced.

Class Representatives

By now you may have heard that most classes have a class representative for the Parents Association. We are hoping to get reps for all classes in order to update parents on activities, get feedback and input from all parents in the school. Your class rep will use the WhatsApp group for your class. This WhatsApp group can be used to pass on information to the class from the Parents Association, ask for ideas/suggestions for fundraising initiatives or any other class business as is necessary. We are looking for representatives in the following classes: Ms. O' Sullivan, Ms. White/Ms. Bradley's. If interested please email scoilmaelruainjnr@gmail.com

Getting Involved (Helping Hands)

There are a few ways of getting involved. You can take part and be an active member on the Parents Association Committee or you can just let us know if you want to be included on a volunteers list so we can let you know when there are opportunities to help out in the school. You will need to be Garda Vetted to help out, so pop into Valerie at the office and she will get the ball rolling. You will need ID and proof of address.

Get in Touch: scoilmaelruainjnrpa@gmail.com

