SCOIL BHRÍDE
NEWSLETTER
June 2025• info@scoilbhridens.ie • (01) 8210300

Principal's Summer Term Address

Dear Parents, Guardians and Pupils,
We come to the end of another great year in Scoil Bhríde. I hope my updates, throughout the year have kept you informed of all the activities our pupils have engaged in. It is a long list - too numerous to mention again here! We are very proud of our wonderful staff and pupils and of all that has been achieved. Our beautiful newsletter showcases many of these activities and achievements.
We are lucky to have a very dedicated and supportive staff here in Scoil Bhríde and I feel privileged every day to lead such an amazing group of professionals. Their kindness, enthusiasm, team work and genuine interest in all our pupils helps to make Scoil Bhríde a very strong and vibrant school.
Our pupils are a credit to you as parents/guardians. We continually strive to complement and work collaboratively with you to instil positive values in our pupils and a great attitude to school. It is a joy to open the doors of the school each morning and welcome so many smiling faces and hear polite and well mannered greetings.
We say a fond farewell and best wishes to our graduating 6th class pupils. We will miss them all. They have been a great group of children, fantastic role models for our younger pupils. We know they will go on to do us proud as they venture on the next chapter of their educational journey. This also means saying a sad farewell and sincere thank you to families who have been an important part of our school for many years. We had a wonderful graduation evening yesterday.
Ms Annie McCabe will be leaving our staff tomorrow. We will miss her very much. Annie has been a wonderful teacher, colleague and a very valued member of our team. We wish her and her family the very best of luck as they move on.
Thank you sincerely to our Parents' Council. Their constant support, time and energy is essential to the successful partnership in the school. They are always looking to recruit new members so if you would like to get involved, let us know and we can point you in the right direction!
On behalf of the staff of Scoil Bhride, I would like to thank you all for your consistent support over the past year. Have an enjoyable holiday, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming you back on August 28th.

Le gach dea ghuí,
Sheila Dempsey
Principal

Sixth Class Legacy Art Project

Our sixth classes have just completed their legacy art project and it looks fantastic. Mr O'Shea, Ms Stack and both sixth classes have been involved in a very exciting and interesting heritage programme, which culminated in their wonderful video which was completed in the last couple of weeks. They decided to have heritage as the theme of their artwork. The children produced a series of acrylic painted tiles to form one large work. Each child included an aspect of their heritage, either local or global, within their tiles in a riot of beautiful colours. This was unveiled on graduation night and now hangs on the long corridor where it can be admired and enjoyed by the children, staff and visitors to our school.

6th Class Heritage Project

Sixth class were delighted to participate in the Heritage Keepers programme. Starting with six online workshops with other schools around the country, our students have investigated the rich history, culture and biodiversity in our area.

Sixth class have enjoyed learning more about some of the inspiring people and places in our locality. A field trip to Trim Castle and The Hill of Tara was a highlight for our students.

It has been an incredible learning experience and our students. Sixth class and their teachers Ms. Stack and Mr. O`Shea are very grateful to everyone who came to visit and share their stories and experiences.

Gaelbhratach

Over the course of the year, gach duine sa scoil was ag obair go dian on their Gaeilge. Ghlacamar páirt sa scéim Gaelbhratach agus bhí a lán buaiteoirí don 'Caught ag Cáint'. Maith thú gach duine agus lean den obair!

Horseriding

Coiscéimeanna went horseriding for 6 weeks in Kilcloon. The children loved horseriding and the playground facilities. It was such a success that Coiscéimeanna hope to return for more horseriding sessions next year!

Music Generation

Our Coiscéimeanna classes and infants to 4th class have all enjoyed weekly music classes with Music Generation throughout the year. Coiscéimeanna and infants enjoyed song singing, playing percussion instruments and movement to music. First and Second classes have been learning to play the recorder. 3rd and 4th classes have been learning to play the bodhrán.

Swimming

3rd and 4th classes have been busy taking part in swimming lessons every Tuesday. Not only is this great fun but swimming is a very important part of the PE and SPHE curriculum. It's a great opportunity to get some exercise, learn a new skill and have fun with friends. Swimming is a highlight of the year for these classes.

School Concerts

This month the children in Scoil Bhride enjoyed two wonderful musical events. First, we were visited by Music Generation. The school hall was packed and all our children enjoyed a morning of musical entertainment. The four musicians played a medley of fun songs and all the children were in fine voice joining in the singsong. They played many popular tunes and the audience needed little encouragement to join in. Then on June 20th we were delighted to enjoy a visit by the spectacular Garda band. It was the third time the band visited our school and nobody was disappointed. Once again, the children got the opportunity to join in with the band and sing along. They went through the various instruments played by the band and several children got the chance to join the band on the stage, including both of our sixth classes. The sound was fabulous and a great day was had by all. We look forward to the next time they come back to raise the roof in the school.

Active Week

Active week got off to a great start last week with the beautiful weather and a sea of colour celebrating Jersey Day on Monday. Children all classes received coaching lessons from Klazzkickz soccer coaches. 6th class had a taster session of tag rugby with a visit from Coach Barbara from Leinster Rugby. Coach Teresa provided Badminton to all class levels and Coach Caroline spent her time with senior classes doing GAA. The coaches were excellent at promoting confidence in the children while having great fun at the same time. We thank them for their efforts throughout the year.

Active week finished out with two blistering finals of the Lunchtime League. Congratulations to Galway on winning the Tailteann Cup and Donegal on winning the Sam Maguire Cup. Yet again, 6th class did an outstanding job arranging the event, from managers to umpires, to lining out the pitches and refereeing games, the whole set up was a team effort that benefited so many children. Thank you to Mr O'Shea for all his effort in co-ordinating the leagues.

Our School Forest

This month our school forest is looking better than ever. The thirty trees we have now planted are in full leaf and each year are becoming noticeably taller. Earlier this year our two sixth classes planted an oak tree and a mountain ash tree. They were kindly donated by the tidy towns committee who have provided us with many of our trees and Denis O'Leary is always at hand to help us planting them. This year was no exception. Our forest now contains a large selection of beautiful trees, the majority of which are native species. We now have a selection of birch, mountain ash, holly, beach, sycamore, hawthorn, crab apple, maple, alder, cherry, oak, hazel and horse chestnut trees.

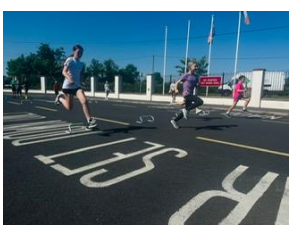
In the last week we have added beautiful signs beside the trees to help the children identify them. This was made possible due to the remarkable talents and generosity of two people in our community. Firstly, Wendy Coffey who put a huge amount of time into designing the individual signs. She also designed a magnificent sign with all the trees in the forest. They are really beautiful and we can't thank Wendy enough for this. Secondly, when we approached local sign maker Kevin O'Farrell he also very generously offered his services free of charge. We are most grateful to both Wendy and Kevin for their kindness. They were also responsible for the large tidy towns sign at the entrance to the school. Their generosity is greatly appreciated and these signs will be enjoyed by all who visit the forest for many years to come.

Robin Wild

At the start of May, the whole school were invited to a workshop with environmental ecologist Robin Wild. Robin was with us for two days. The students learned all about biodiversity, the variety of life on earth and how they are all interconnected. Robin had lots of different specimens for us to look at on the day and most of us enjoyed getting up close and personal with our four and six legged friends!

Sports Day

On June 19th, both sixth classes along with their teachers Ms. Stack and Mr. O`Shea organised a brilliant Sports Day for us all this year. The sun shone as classes took part in golf, dance, GAA, dodgeball, badminton, relay races, gymnastics, wheelbarrow races, 3 legged races, an obstacle course and 'Soak the Joker' challenge. We continued our competitive sprint races in the afternoon. It was great fun and a very memorable day!



Our School Playground

We were delighted to be selected to receive funding from *Ballymacarney Solar Farm* as part of their community benefit fund. This funding allowed us to upgrade the surface of our school playground. The beautiful artificial grass surface means our playground can be enjoyed by the students in all weather.

Our School Wormery

This term, we were delighted to welcome Craig Benton, a compost expert from Composting Ireland to Scoil Bhríde. Craig worked with our students on the Eco team to prepare a suitable and inviting home for our new worms. Our Eco team learned many interesting facts about worms and how to ensure the worms at Scoil Bhríde are well looked after. The Eco team under the supervision of Ms. Walls and Ms. Alonso are in charge of feeding the worms once a week.

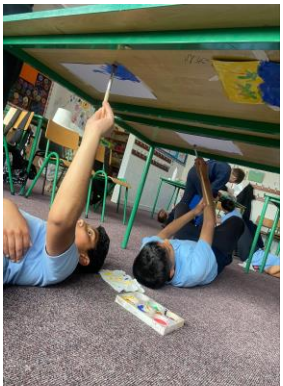
Our School Garden

Children in our school have been busy in recent months tending to our flower beds and courtyard garden. They are now in full bloom. Our Eco team and gardening team have been working hard, watering, planting, weeding and keeping the beds in order. Several classes have been out planting flowers in pots and the Eco team have been doing wonderful work on their new composting venture. Miss Ryan's fifth class recently put down a bed of cabbage and other vegetables and they are looking very fine right about now.

Ms. Ryan`s 5th Class

It has been a busy month in 5th class. This month, 5th class have been learning all about native trees and biodiversity. It's been brilliant to spot the trees at different stages of growth in our very own school tree nursery. Such a great way to see what we're learning about in real life!

As part of their learning about the papal conclave, 5th class explored the incredible artwork of the Sistine Chapel and the life of Michelangelo. To really understand the challenges Michelangelo faced while painting the chapel ceiling, 5th class had a go at creating their own masterpieces - under tables! It was tricky, a bit messy but lots of fun!



Bí Cineálta Poster

As you are aware, here in Scoil Bhríde we have been busy preparing our new Bí Cineálta Policy for next September which will replace our Anti-Bullying Policy. Thank you to all parents who participated in the parent survey earlier in the year in relation to this. The new policy will be available to view on our school website.

We are very lucky to have so many enthusiastic children who were eager to have their say in developing our child friendly poster. The boys and girls based the poster on our important 'Boomerang Book', originally created by our Student Council. This book is sent around classes throughout the year where children record acts of Kindness and promote the message that *'Kindness is like a Boomerang, When you are kind to others, kindness will come back to you'*. They carefully selected pictures from our book to be included on the poster, which will be displayed around the school. Well done to all involved!

Badminton

This term the Parent's Council kindly supported the children's badminton lessons with coach Teresa. Children of all classes enjoyed the fun and engaging lessons and developed their co-ordination, balance, teamwork skills to name but a few! The children have become very enthusiastic about badminton and really enjoy developing their skills. It is great to see such a buzz around the school about it!

Thank you to our Parents' Council

Thank you to the Scoil Bhríde Parents' Council for all their great efforts and hard work throughout the year. The children enjoyed trying a variety of delicious fruit kindly donated free of charge by Keelings on Fresh Fruit Friday. The visit of an ice-cream van arranged by the Parents' Council on Friday June 20th helped to cool everyone down on the hottest day of the year. A special thanks to the Parents` Council for hosting the reception in the school for the families of children who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. Thank you to all parents who kindly donated treats for the reception and helped out on the day. We would also like to thank the management of Kilbride Service Station (opposite the school), who generously provided goodies for the reception.

Projects in Ms.Gannon`s 1st Class

This month, Ms. Gannon`s 1st class enjoyed completing projects. All children in 1st class presented their project to their classmates. There were fantastic projects on animals, super projects about special places and interesting projects about the solar system. Our 1st class boys and girls also shared their projects with other classes. Well done on all your amazing work!

School Tours

All classes have had great days out this term on their school tours. Junior and senior infants had a brilliant day at Newgrange Farm.
First and second classes enjoyed Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park.
Third and Fourth classes had a super and muddy time at Causey Farm.
Fifth classes had a great time at Redhills Adventure.
Clara Lara was a big hit with both sixth classes.

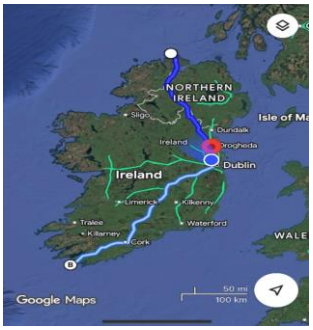
PEP Day

This year, in order to celebrate the diversity and heritage of the children of our school, we decided who best to showcase their knowledge, than the students themselves. Children were invited to other classes, and hosted sessions in their own classes, educating their peers on their heritage, cultures and traditions. From food tasting to dancing, story telling to project work, the variety on display was a fantastic celebration of all our children in Scoil Bhríde.

PEP stands for Peer Education Projects, this has shown to be a fantastic way of educating children on what makes us unique as well as what connects us. Dialogue is a very important skill that takes place during PEP day and we hope it prepares children to become active listeners, confident speakers, proud of their heritage and respectful of others. Well done to all involved!

Joe Donnelly's Malin Head to Mizen Head Challenge for Coiscéimeanna

On Friday June 20th , Joe Donelly took on the epic challenge of travelling from **Malin Head to Mizen Head** in one day on a Honda 50. This massive challenge was kindly dedicated to raising funds for Coiscéimeanna. On the day, the entire school gathered in our basketball courts to cheer on Joe as he stopped by Scoil Bhríde on his journey. Our infants created good luck posters, and all the children cheered for Joe. Our boys and girls proudly held a 'Good Luck Joe' banner. All of us at Scoil Bhríde are extremely grateful to Joe for his very kind and thoughtful gesture. Thanks to Joe 'going the extra mile' and all the very generous donations on Go Fund Me, an extraordinary €12,930 has been raised to date.



Farewell to our Colleague

We are very sorry to say goodbye to our wonderful and highly esteemed colleague Annie McCabe. Ms. McCabe has worked at Scoil Bhríde for 6 years. McCabe has been an incredible member of staff, a dedicated teacher and a thoughtful friend. She will be fondly remembered by all the pupils she taught over the years. We wish Ms.McCabe and her family all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

6th Class Graduation

It was with heavy hearts we said a fond farewell to the Class of 2025 at their graduation on Thursday 26th June. Parents joined us as we sang and took a trip down memory lane with a slideshow of pictures of our departing 6th class. It was fantastic to watch all they have achieved throughout their years in Scoil Bhríde and we are so very proud of them. We wish them all the very best as they begin the next stage of their learning journey in secondary school.

Incoming Infants

We look forward to welcoming our boys and girls who will be joining our school when they start Junior Infants on Thursday the 28th of August.

Wishing you a happy and safe summer holidays.