

# Scéalta 12

## News & Information for St. Mochta's National School Community 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019

### Parent Teacher Meetings

Parents are invited to park in the Set Down Area during Parent Teacher Meetings. **However, please use the main entrance at the School Reception when entering/exiting the building.** Many thanks for your co-operation.

Please note that on the meeting days, school will finish at the usual times for Junior and Senior Infants. All other classes will finish at their usual times on Wednesday, but at earlier times on Thursday. Please see list below:-

Class Level	Day	Gates Open
1 <sup>st</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Classes	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Classes	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.15pm

Please collect your child at the time above so that the meetings may start on time. Many thanks for your co-operation.

### Every School Day Counts!

- While visiting our school for your Parent Teacher Meetings, spot the posters on your child's classroom door. As you know, St. Mochta's National School is participating in Túsla's Every School Day Counts! We are asking for an improvement on our school's overall attendance.
- All the boys and girls should be in school for full days. Unless children have medical appointments, please refrain from taking children out of school early.

Thank you for your full co-operation.

### Junior Infants – September 2020

All Category 1 offers have now been issued. The cut-off date is 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. All acceptances must be completed and returned to the office by this Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.

### Science Week

A huge congratulations and well done to all the boys and girls in 6th Class who did amazing work on their Intel projects over the last six weeks. Last Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Intel judges came to our school where they faced an extremely difficult decision in selecting the winning group. The judges commented on the exceptionally high standard of projects which were presented in our school. We are so proud of all of our 6th Class pupils.

The winning group included Lily Murphy, Christopher Reilly, Alisha Kearns and Bobby Donovan from Ms. Kennedy's class. This group completed their Intel project on "**Powering St. Mochta's N.S. Using Wind Energy**". The winners will proceed to the Intel Regional Finals on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to give a special mention to Seán Bradley, Karl Castaneda, Adam Cunningham and Conor McCann from Ms. Egan's class. This group finished in second place with their project, '**Can a Submersible filter the Ocean?**' Well done everyone!

- Science Week at our school continues this week with children in all classes participating in lots of exciting experiments.
- The annual airplane competition for classes from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> takes place tomorrow and Friday. Each pupil was asked to design and make a plane (no glue, cello tape, etc. allowed). Winners will be announced in next week's newsletter.

### Green Schools Initiative

This week is **Clean Air Week**. It is the newest campaign from the Green Schools Travel Programme and is focused on raising awareness of air pollution at school gates. The Eco Warriors have been visiting classes this week to remind everyone that we too can make a difference by increasing active travel such as walking, cycling, scooting and using other sustainable travel modes. Thank you to Ms. Carroll for her work with our Eco Warriors.

### Confirmation Retreat – 6<sup>th</sup> Class Students

The Retreat for Confirmation will take place at the Parish Centre in early December. An epayment link to cover the cost of the retreat, together with the rental of the Confirmation robes has been emailed to all families. Many thanks to those who have paid already. If you have not yet had the opportunity to do so, please pay by the end of November. Thank you.

### Sam Maguire Cup!

We look forward to welcoming Sam Maguire (again!) to our school next Monday. If you have a Dublin Jersey (or any blue top), feel free to wear it to school on Monday and help us celebrate the cup visit to St. Mochta's.

### Dates for your Diary

20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	<b>Parent Teacher Meetings</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	<b>Junior Infant Vaccinations</b> The HSE has confirmed that Junior Infant Vaccinations will take place in the school on the 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> November next. <b>Please find a letter from the HSE in your child's school bag.</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	CHRISTMAS FAIR! Please see the message from the PA at the end of this newsletter.

### Please Remember:-

- No dogs on school property
- No smoking/vaping on school property
- Walk on designated paths and not on the grass
- Children are not allowed to climb walls or walk along the railings
- Pedestrians should enter/exit the school via the designated pedestrian gates only (do not use the gates used by cars!)
- The school is also a place of work and various meetings happen after the children have gone home – we ask parents/guardians to please leave the yards and areas around the school as soon as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.
- Children using bikes/scooters should wear helmets. Bikes/scooters should be securely locked while on the school premises. Unfortunately, there have been a few attempts to take some bikes from the school. St. Mochta's National School cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to property on the premises.
- Should you need to collect your child for an appointment, please avoid yard times. Administration Staff are not in a position to collect children from the yards and you may be delayed.

### Community News

- St. Mochta's Bethany Bereavement Support Group will hold a talk in the Parish Pastoral Centre on Thursday, 21st November at 8pm. Everyone is very welcome, there is no Charge. "Talk by Niamh Fitzpatrick – sister of Capt. Dara Fitzpatrick. *'I now know grief is the price we pay for love.'* Dara was Captain of the Irish Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter 116 which crashed at Blacksod in March 2017 while on a rescue mission, with the loss of all four crew on board. Niamh will share her experience of this loss". **Please see the attached poster.**
- SONGS FOR A WINTER'S EVENING CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Following last year's very successful concert, Mary Flynn, Soprano, together with Mary O'Donnell, Harpist and friends have come together for the 10th annual 'Songs for a Winter's Evening' – a Christmas Celebration. The concert will take place in St. Mochta's Church, Porterstown, Dublin 15 on Sunday, 8th December at 7.30pm sharp. All proceeds will go towards the urgent restoration of St. Mochta's Church. Tickets are on sale from the Parish Office or directly from Mary Flynn at 087 2585398.

## Messages from the PA

**Class Calendars:** Envelopes for orders were sent home with the children yesterday. Please return to the school with one envelope per child by Friday 29th November.

**Christmas Cards:** Orders will be delivered to the children next week.

### **Christmas Fair: Sunday 1st December 2019 from 1pm to 4pm.**

We are looking for donations for our **Book Stall**, **Bottle Stall** and **Cake Stall**. Volunteers will be collecting any of the following items in good condition during the week prior to the Fair. Please bring any donations along from Monday 25th to Friday 29th November at 8.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm.

- Bottles of wine, spirits and minerals can be raffled on the day for the bottle stall
- Books, for children and adults, in good condition for our Book Stall
- Any unwanted gifts or prizes (*as new*) for the Raffle
- We welcome donations for the **Cake stall** on the morning of the fair Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December– buns, biscuits, tarts, scones, flans, brownies, cakes, small Christmas cake/pudding etc. home baked or shop bought. **Kindly note, due to a number of children having severe NUT allergies in the school, we would ask that you please do not use any nuts or nut products in your baking. Thank You!**

**\*Volunteers on the day are crucial to the success of this great event\***

**We currently need LOTS more volunteers to ensure that the event runs successfully.** Help with the set up on Friday afternoon 29<sup>th</sup> Nov or Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. Or volunteer on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December to help run a stall, if only for a few hours, or with clean up after the fair.

If you can help please see a member of the Committee or email [parentsassociation@stmochtas.ie](mailto:parentsassociation@stmochtas.ie).