

CALENDAR 2021-2022

October Mid-term Break: Closed Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021 inclusive.

November 11th: Half Day for Primary Language Curriculum Training. School closes for pupils at 12:15pm

Christmas Holidays: Closing Wednesday, 22nd December 2021 at 12.15 p.m. and re-opening Thursday, 6th January 2022.

February 2022 Mid-term Break: Closed Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 25th February 2022

Closed Wednesday, 17th March 2022- Public Holiday.

Easter 2022: School closing Friday, 8th April 2022 at 12.15 p.m. and reopening Monday, 25th April 2022.

Closed Monday, 2nd May 2022-Public Holiday.

Closed Friday, 3rd June 2022 & Monday, 6th June 2022-Public Holiday.

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

Receiving the sacraments is a part of a journey you began with your children when you brought them for their baptism. We are delighted to be able to help you by teaching the religious education programme, Grow in Love but the primary responsibility is a parental one. Our role is to help you but not take your place. If you have decided that your child will be receiving the sacraments, your participation in the preparation –especially at home and in the parish– is vital.

All our third classes will have received the Sacrament of Communion within the next week and our 6th Class of 2021 received the Sacrament of Confirmation before we returned to school. We trust all families had/ will have an enjoyable time despite the challenges faced by all in the school community.

The Outdoor Classroom

The Outdoor classroom was the brainchild of past principal Peter Long who saw the potential of a disused space behind the senior building. On the occasion of its 10th Anniversary we renovated and extended the classroom during the months of May to August. Teacher Neil Foley and caretaker Trevor McInerney spearheaded the work but huge thanks must go to all the members of staff who gave their time voluntarily to work on this project. We now have seating for over 40 people at a time, we constructed concrete raised beds, reseeded the wildflower bed and have added raised beds for winter planting. This space is now used during breaks and for children to learn outdoors and it is also a great resource for our support teachers and SNAs who work with children with special educational needs in a calm and open environment. We plan to enhance the outdoor classroom further in the coming months so watch this space



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SCOIL ÍDE NEWS

061 345495

September 2021

JUNIOR INFANT APPLICATIONS 2022-23

As per updated legislation, applications will open on 1st October for our 2022 Junior Infant Intake. Applications are only accepted in the year previous to starting school and are conducted through our website: www.scoilide.ie

From October 1st 2021 to February 1st 2022, we will accept applications for the school year 2022-2023. Please read the Enrolment Policy too. All offers of places are made in accordance with this.



WELCOME BACK

We returned to school on Wednesday, September the 1st.

It was great to see all the children heading to their new classrooms with their friends and we thank them for following the procedures we have put in place to keep the school as safe as possible.

Thanks also to the parents and guardians for their support and cooperation at this time. We understand that the past month has been challenging and we appreciate the patience and understanding shown by everyone

Our Response Plan can be viewed on our website. It will be updated in accordance with the latest guidance.

Rest in Peace

We would like to offer our condolences to staff member Muire Keehan and all the family and friends of her father, Norman who passed away peacefully on Sunday the 26th.

Ar Dheis Dé go Raibh a h-Anam.



CHILD PROTECTION

All teachers are mandated to report any disclosures from pupils. The Designated Liaison Person is Ray D'Arcy and Deputy Designated Liaison person is Tom Hartney.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement is available to view on our website. If you have any observations in relation to it, you can contact principal@scoilide.ie

Parking and Child Safety / Safer Routes to School

Please be mindful of the rules of the road when dropping and collecting children to & from school. Please avoid blocking entrances and exits. Children must use pedestrian access points and avoid walking through the car parks. Observe physical distance guidance at drop off and collection times.

Our application to the Safer Routes to School Programme was successful. Over the coming weeks, children, parents and teachers will be surveyed on how we can make Scoil Íde a safer school to drop children off and collect them in the evenings. I'm sure everyone will agree that the safety of the children is paramount and this consideration will be the predominant element of any changes we will introduce.

Secondary School Open Nights

There is a Common Application System in operation in Limerick. The schedule of Open Nights for secondary schools in the Limerick Area has been emailed to all parents and guardians. Should you have any questions in relation to this system do not hesitate to get in contact with the school principal Ray D'Arcy at principal@scoilide.ie. If you are going through this process for the first time we highly advise that you attend the open nights of any secondary school that you are considering sending your child to.

Zeeko Internet Safety Talk

We hosted Jackie from Zeeko on the 15th and 16th of this month. She spoke to the children in all the 4th and 5th classes about their internet use and about appropriate ways to behave online. Jackie also spoke to the teachers from 4th, 5th and 6th classes and then hosted a Zoom webinar for parents in 4th and 5th class. The feedback from the children, teachers and parents has been very positive. It is really important that parents and the school work together on this issue. We all need to be vigilant when it comes to children's access to the internet because it allows them to access huge swathes of content, some of which is highly inappropriate. Many of us are parents and teachers so we face these issues ourselves at home. The key takeaways for us were the following...

- Children should not have access to devices in their bedrooms. A number of children are awake very late at night on devices. The device should be left with parents when children go to bed.
- Households should operate a digital sunset. No devices an hour before bedtime so children can get a better quality of sleep
- Some children stated that they spend up to 4-5 hours online or on devices. This increases at the weekend. This is an unhealthy amount of time for anyone to spending on a device daily
- Many children are playing games that are rated 18+. These games contain incredibly graphic and inappropriate content. Do you know what games your children are playing?
- Many children are on social media. To do so they have stated that they are 13. They are not in the vast majority of cases.
- Children should only interact with friends online that they actually know in real life. Many children are engaging with absolute strangers online on a regular basis
- Parents should know the password to devices that your children use and should monitor these regularly at different times of the day. Children should know that parents are going to do this.
- Commonsensemedia.org is a good site to find out more on this subject. Click on "Parents need to know" tab
- **The time to start implementing all these rules is at now, not when a child is a teenager and habits have been formed and thus much harder to change.**

Community Notice

Castletroy Hockey club has now launched a new venue in Seanchoil on a Saturday mornings from 9am and are taking membership places for girls and boys aged 5 and up! Go to <https://www.castletroyhockeyclub.ie/> for further details

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

While it is accepted that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress, there will be exceptions made this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you all for your vigilance by keeping children who are unwell at home, seeking GP advice and observing the HSE guidelines around restricting movements, isolation etc.

This will have an effect on attendance figures, however, our primary concern is to keep the school open and the school community safe. The school is obliged by law to inform Tusla when a pupil is absent for 20 days in one school year. As teachers fill in the category of absence, parents should contact them to inform them of the nature of the absence. If absences are COVID-19 related, this will be indicated to Tusla.

