

CALENDAR 2023-2024

School re-opened for all pupils on Thursday, 31st August 2023.

October Mid-term Break: Closed Monday, 30th October to Friday 3rd November incl.

Christmas Holidays: Closing Friday 22nd December at 12.15p.m. and re-opening on Monday, 8th January 2024.

Public Holiday: Monday, 5th February 2024.

February Mid-term Break: Thursday 15th and Friday, 16th February 2024.

Public Holiday: Monday, 18th March 2024 - St. Patrick's Day.

Easter 2024: Closing Friday, 22nd March at 12.15p.m. and re-opening on Monday, 8th April 2024.

May Mid-term Break: Closed Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th May inclusive.

Public Holiday: Monday, 3rd June 2024

Closing for Summer Holidays on Friday, 28th June at 12.15pm

Scoil Íde is used as a Polling Station so we may be closed for any Elections/Referendums that may be called.

There will be a school closure during this school year to facilitate staff training in the Primary Math Curriculum. This date has yet to be confirmed



SCOIL ÍDE NEWS

www.scoilide.ie

061 345495

September 2023

JUNIOR INFANT APPLICATIONS

2024-25

As per updated legislation, applications will open on 1st October for our 2024-25 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 2023 to February 1st 2024, we will accept applications for the school year 2024-2025. Please read the Admissions Policy available at www.scoilide.ie. All offers of places are made in accordance with this.



Date for the Diary...

LIMERICK GOSPEL CHOIR

Rejoice and Sing
A journey of 20 years

Special Guests

Pop Choir 'Radio'
A lively & diverse vocal ensemble, with music across all genres

RaYche P
BIMM Graduate
Vocalist & Performer
Music Producer

Killian Fitzgerald
Performing Arts Coach
Musical Theatre
Baritone, Vocalist

Scoil Íde, Corbally
Mixed Voice
Primary School
Choir

The award winning Limerick Gospel choir bring you a night not to be missed as we celebrate two decades as a choir.

A special night of our most memorable moments and favourite songs as we journey through the last 20 years.

We are honoured to have **Special Guests** on the night all the way from Serbia **Pop Choir 'Radio'**. Other guests include past members **Killian Fitzgerald, RaYche P** and **Scoil Íde Primary School Choir**.

Lime Tree Theatre
Sat 4th Nov/8pm
Tickets: €20

Booking Details:
www.limetreetheatre.ie
Booking Office: 061 953400

Child Protection Procedures (CPP)

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. It is important to note that if you ever have any observations in relation to CPP, you can contact principal@scoilide.ie

All CPP documentation will be reviewed at the 1st Board of Management meeting of this school year on October 10th, 2023.

You can read our full policy on our website.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

It is widely accepted that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress.

The school is obliged by law to inform Tusla when a pupil is absent for 20 days in one school year. Teachers are obliged to fill in the category of absence so parents & guardians should contact them to inform them of the nature of the absence. If absences are explained, this will be indicated to Tusla.

WELCOME BACK

We returned to school on Thursday, August the 31st. It was great to see all the children heading to their new classrooms with their friends. Thanks to all the parents and guardians, staff and indeed the children for making it such a successful return to school.

Student Council 2023-2024

Our freshly elected Student Council have settled into their new roles and are working hard to make this a great year for everyone in Scoil Íde. At the moment they are busy organising a 'Halloween Hoolie' for our younger students. After the midterm break they will be planning the annual 'Christmas Coppers Campaign' as well as a Nativity production for the junior classes. The Student Council is a voluntary and demanding role and we really appreciate all the time and effort these students put in. The Council had a very constructive meeting with Mr D'Arcy where they outlined their plans for the year. Mr D'Arcy now has to go and do his homework and report back to the Council before the mid term break.

Maith sibh!



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. It is also a good idea to seek the advice of like minded parents / guardians who have sent a child of their own to the secondary school you are considering. The children will receive the a hard copy of the application form in the 1st week of October and this will also be emailed to parents and guardians by Friday, October 6th, 2023.

Acceptable Use Policy and Technology

As part of our on going commitment to having rigorous child protection systems in Scoil ide, we took a measured and considered look at the school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) in relation to technology.

Many children in Scoil Íde have access to or own their own smartphone or smart watch amongst other smart devices. The school rule that applies to smart devices is one that was put in place in a time when phones could make calls, send or receive SMS text messages and play a basic game like snake. Smart devices are unbelievably powerful now and the most basic smartphone is more powerful than any desktop computer in any classroom in the school. We all know how much technology has moved on. Our AUP needs to move with the times too

Smart devices now include smart phones, watches and speakers and even washing machines.. They have transformed our lives in many ways and we all enjoy them at various times during the day. However, there is evidence that they can take over our lives in ways that can impact ourselves and others negatively.

I have spoken to staff about this subject, I have surveyed parents and guardians about this matter and I have sought the opinions of the children in our senior classes. The amendment to the Acceptable Use Policy is as follows...

Children may not bring smart devices into the school unless written permission has been sought by parents and guardians and submitted to the Board of Management for review. This written submission should outline the rationale behind the need for a child to have a smart device with them on any given school day. Any infringement of this rule will involve the confiscation of the smart device. The device will be returned to the parent or guardian at the end of the school day or when they are available to collect it.

We have some children in the school who have a smart phone with them in school for medical reasons. They would not be affected by this rule change. These smart devices have changed the lives of these children for the better.

Another common reason people give in favour of bringing a smart device- usually a smart phone to school is so that a child can be contacted by parents at home time. I would argue that if this was the case then those children should use a phone such as the types sold by Nokia. The battery lasts for three weeks on a single charge and there would be little chance of it dying on any given day.

People may say that the school is "banning smart devices" I don't like the word ban, I much prefer speaking about what's appropriate.

Alcohol has not been banned in the school nor have chainsaws. That said, we don't allow children to bring alcohol or chainsaws into school because it is **not appropriate** for children to bring them into school. The same is the case with smart devices. Teachers will provide the technology required so that children can learn at an appropriate level.

Indeed UNESCO, the UN's education, science, and culture agency, recommended that only technology that supports learning is merited in schools, saying that mobile devices can cause distraction, risk pupil privacy, and lead to cyberbullying.

As principal of the school I deal with all incidents that arise from inappropriate use of smart devices in schools. Trust me, they are not worth it.

The Board of Management will review all the feedback at their 1st meeting on October 10th and I will relay their decision to the school community shortly thereafter.

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.

Despite being one of 8 schools in Limerick to be designated A "Safer Routes to School" school, no work has yet taken place on either the Corbally or Mill Road sides of the school. Parents and guardians were surveyed in 2022 on ways to 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 that will be introduced.



The month of September in pictures.

