



## Nuachtlitir na Samhna 2022



Dear Parents,

The witches are warming up and the ghouls are getting ready for another Hallowe'en celebration.

In this Nuachtlitir we share some of what's been happening in our first half term.

### **Dates for the Diary/ Dátaí don Féilire:**

31 October – 4 November 2022 (inclusive) Mid-term break.

7 November 2022 **School reopens** at 8.50a.m.

Wednesday 21 December School Closes 12noon. (Christmas Holidays)

Thursday 5 January 2023 **School reopens** at 8.50a.m.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 School closes 12noon (staff training on Primary Language Curriculum)

### **Parent Teacher Meetings:**

Our Parent Teacher meetings will take place during the week 21-25 November. This year parents will have the option of either a face-to-face meeting or a phone call.

We will be in touch after the mid-term break to see which option you would prefer.

### **Secondary Schools:**

A reminder to parents of 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils that many of our local secondary schools have a window for accepting applications for the school year 2023/2024.

Check it out at your earliest convenience.

### **Student Council:**

This year we are organising our first Student Council in St. Colmcille's. The Council will have a representative from each of our 6<sup>th</sup> classes. All other classes will have a Class Representative who will have an opportunity to liaise with their representative on the Student Council.

There has been a very positive response from our pupils and we look forward to learning together as we proceed with this process.

### **Podcasts:**

Last year some of our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils produced our first podcasts which we shared with all classes in the school. This year we have continued with our podcasts and we hope to share our next podcast with our parents and the wider school community. Keep an ear out!

### **Sensory Garden:**

You may have noticed our Sensory Garden taking shape over the last few months.

Thank you to our Junior and Senior School Representatives, Ita Corduff, Seamus Hannon, Emer O'Connor and Kate Kirwan who are overseeing this initiative. A special thank you to Michael Stout, our caretaker, who has put his many skills to use in making benches, planters, and sandboxes to enhance this area.

We look forward to this space being an oasis of calm for pupils, teachers and principals!

We will also shortly be starting work on our Sensory Room in the school. This will provide another calm environment for our pupils, particularly those with specific sensory needs.

### **Music Matters:**

On the musical front we're delighted to hear the sound of choirs and grúpaí ceoil around the school again. We're currently busy preparing for our **Oíche Ceoil on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.**

On the night, children from our Junior and Senior Choirs, Boys' Choir and Grúpaí Ceoil will entertain the audience with a blend of old and new songs under the stewardship of our wonderfully musical staff members who dedicate their time to these various groups. Tá gach duine ag súil go mór leis an Oíche Ceoil.

### **Sporting Matters:**

We had 5 teams in this year's Cumann na mBunscol competitions. This afforded our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class boys and girls the opportunity to represent the school playing gaelic games.

A particular word of congrats must go to our girls Corn Austin Finn team who played some fantastic football to reach the semi final only to lose out to a strong Belgrove team. Thank you to Ms. Leonard, Ms. Hyland and Ms. Kirwan who worked with this group and to all the other staff members who gave so much of their time to coach and manage our various teams.

We look forward to Hurling and Camogie getting underway after Christmas.

### **Debating Matters:**

Debating has been on the agenda of our 6<sup>th</sup> classes over the past few weeks. The inter class debates were of a very high standard and keenly contested with arguments and rebuttals galore.

Our first inter schools debate took place this week and our team of Mia O'Connell, Zakia Stevens and John Connolly were victorious against Our Lady's Grove, proposing the motion "School uniforms should be a thing of the past". Thank you to Alanna Murphy who acted as chairperson and Sean McGreaney as timekeeper. Special thanks to Ms. Grace Maher who once again this year is co-ordinating our debating activities.

### **Library:**

We're delighted to have our school library back up and running following a long Covid break! Thank you to the many parents who have volunteered to help us each day with the admin tasks involved. Special thank you to Cronan Corbett who has invested a huge amount of his time, energy and creativity over many weeks to ensure we have a fantastic library facility at our disposal here in the school.

### **School Policies:**

All our school policies are available to view on our school website [www.stcolmcilles.org](http://www.stcolmcilles.org) under the Our School - Parents - Policies tab.

All school policies continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.

At our most recent Board of Management meeting the annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement and our Code of Behaviour was carried out.

### **What Week?**

Climate Action Week and Maths Week were some of the weeks we celebrated recently. Thank you to all staff who organised activities/events to provide fun and learning for all our pupils. Next on the list is Science Week 14-18 November.

### **Words/Frásáí/Thoughts:**

Please see below some of our words, frásáí and thoughts which we have shared with our pupils in the first half-term.

#### **Words of the Week:**

Community  
Attentive  
Perspective  
Empathy  
Reduce, Re-use, Recycle  
Calculate  
Anticipation

#### **Frásáí na Seachtaine:**

Conas atá tú? (How are you?)  
Tabhair aire (Take care)  
An bhfuil corpoideachas againn inniu?(Have we P.E. today?)  
Tá sé grianmhar/fuar/te/gaofar/fliuch (It's sunny/cold/hot/windy/wet)  
Conas atá tú ag dul abhaile? (How are you going home?)  
Cuir síos an citeal (Put on the kettle)

Cé mhéad é sin? (How much is that?)  
Tá Oíche Shamhna ag teacht! (Hallowe'en is coming!)

**Thoughts for the week:**

To value our children is to value our future (Nelson Mandela)  
If you're too busy to pray, then you're too busy!  
Don't forget to stop and smell the roses.  
Happiness is the only thing that multiplies when you share it.  
(Albert Schweitzer)  
Never look down on anyone unless you're helping them up.  
(Jesse Jackson)  
The best thing you can make is a mistake.  
Mathematics gives us hope that every problem has a solution.  
I witch you all a happy Hallowe'en!

**Half Day Closure:**

School will close at 12 noon on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December for staff training on the Primary Language Curriculum.

**Instagram:**

Keep up to date with our school activities via our school Instagram a/c [st.colmcillessnknocklyon](https://www.instagram.com/st.colmcillessnknocklyon)

**Congratulations:**

Congratulations to our deputy principal, Donal McGovern, who managed Kilmacud Crokes to victory in the Dublin Senior Hurling Championship Final against Na Fianna at the weekend.

Having beaten Mr.Curtin's Ballyboden St. Enda's team in the semi final, it's been a fantastic year on the sporting front for Donal. Best of luck to him as they now progress to the Leinster Championship.

**Finally, we'd like to witch everyone in our school community a happy Hallowe'en and we hope you all have a fangtastic break!!**

Le gach dea-ghuí

*Brian McGowan, Príomhoide*  
*Donal McGovern, Leas Phríomhoide*

