



Holy Rosary School Update

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20/10/2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The 2023-24 school year is moving at pace! As we approach the midterm break, which begins next Friday, the 27th, we're gearing up for some Halloween fun that you won't want to miss. Check out all the details in this newsletter, along with plenty of other exciting updates and stories.

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Maths Week Excitement at Our School

Our school celebrated Maths Week this week. Well done to all of our pupils for their engagement and to our staff for organising a wide variety of fun activities.

Throughout the week our pupils embarked on exciting maths trails, and tackled daily maths problems. Additionally, pupils paired up with their fellow students from other classes, coming together for a wide range of maths-related activities. There was a great sense of fun and excitement around the school all week.

We also had the pleasure of a visit from Vicky O'Connell from Mathletics4Schools, which added an extra layer of fun to our week. Thank you Vicky!

Finally, a massive thank you to everyone who played a role in making Maths Week so enjoyable for our pupils, to Ms. O'Hara for coordinating and to all our staff for making it such a fun week. Please see some photos below and standby for more photos on Facebook very soon.

Maths Week 2023



Halloween Fun Friday 27th

All children are invited to come to school dressed up for Halloween on Friday the 27th of October 2023. There will be fun activities and a Halloween themed outdoor disco on the day.

We encourage all children to try and use costumes they already have at home, to make home -made ones or to borrow from a friend or neighbour, so that parent(s)/guardian(s) are spared extra expense. We would also ask parents to keep accessories for costumes at home, for example; swords, wands etc. as they have been lost in previous years. We would also stress that children should only wear costumes which are age appropriate, for example; no high heels, belly tops etc. Also, be mindful to avoid costumes which are overly scary or gory as this may upset some children, particularly in younger class groups. Junior and senior children will be together on the day. No scary clowns or excess blood.

Children who do not want to dress up can wear their choice of clothes. Please see the email from Ms. Byrne for some examples of costumes.



Parent Teacher Meetings 2023

Our Parent-Teacher Meetings are planned for the second week following our midterm break. The main day for these meetings will be Tuesday, November 14th, but please be aware that your child's teacher may have additional slots available on other dates during that week.

For now, kindly save the date. You'll be able to book your meeting slots through our Aladdin system at a later date. We look forward to meeting you in November.

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Meet Your 2023/24 Student Council!



We're excited to introduce the Student Council for the school year 2023/24!

At Holy Rosary, we place huge importance on child voice, and the Student Council serves as a platform for our pupils to share their thoughts. Already, our new Student Council has hit the ground running with two productive meetings under their belt.

Remember, every pupil in the school is considered a member of our Student Council, and their voices are heard through our representatives during these meetings. Here's to a fantastic year ahead for our Student Council, and we wish them the very best of luck!

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Parents Association

As you are aware we held our AGM on Thursday, 12th October. The night was a huge success and in particular we would like to thank Hayley Rice, our guest speaker, who gave a very informative and interactive talk to parents on positive parenting and building confidence and self esteem in our children.

We were delighted to present the school with a cheque for €13000 which represented funds raised over the last 2 years. We would like to thank all parents and guardians for their generous support for our fundraising efforts and we look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

We have attached a very short form that should only take a minute of your time to complete. We would love to hear from you on the following topics:

- Are you available to join our Parents Association committee?
- Are you in a position to join our volunteers list to help with different events throughout the year?
- Do you have fundraising ideas?
- Do you have ideas for a wishlist on how the funds raised can be spent?

Thank you

Parents Association Committee

[Parents Association Questionnaire](#)

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New Boards of Management

Our current Board of Management will reach the end of its term on November 30th. A new board term brings with it the requirement for nominations and elections of parent nominees. Our patron, through our patron's representative, will be commencing this process in the coming days. Information about the meeting to elect a parent nominee will be communicated to you with at least 10 days' notice in advance.

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Anti Bullying Review

We are currently undertaking our Anti Bullying Policy annual review. We would value any feedback that you may have on our current practice by completing the short survey below before 4pm on Tuesday 24th October. Please see our current Anti Bullying Policy at the first link below.

[Holy Rosary Anti Bullying Policy](#)

[Anti Bullying Parent / Guardian Survey](#)

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Road Safety Concerns

I share your concerns regarding road safety in and around our school, and I believe it's crucial that we address these issues. Some individuals dropping off or picking up their children are not adhering to traffic laws, which can put members of our school community at risk. It's of utmost importance that you never allow your child to exit the vehicle unaccompanied when the car is still running and parked in a hazardous location.

Furthermore, I believe that infrastructural improvements in and around our school are necessary to enhance safety. I have already been in touch with local representatives in this regard, and I encourage the entire school community to voice their concerns in a similar way to ensure that meaningful action is taken.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me directly.



Welcome Fr. Aquinas & Fr. Gerard

We were delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new parish priests, Fr. Aquinas and Fr. Gerard, at our school assembly last Friday.

We would also like to express our thanks to Fr. Aquinas for presiding over our beginning of the school year mass and Holy Rosary Day recently.

As part of Holy Rosary Day celebrations, we were treated to a reenactment by our 4th Classes. Well done to the boys and girls who participated, and a big thank you to the teachers and staff who helped to prepare them for this performance.

For a recap, please take a look at the pictures at the link below:

[Holy Rosary Day 2023](#)

Gaelic Games



We're keeping our fingers and toes crossed for the maiden voyage of our new jerseys as our 3rd and 4th Class boys take to the field next week! Recent poor weather led to the cancellation of some fixtures but rest assured that these will be rescheduled.

We wish to extend our best wishes to our senior captains Layla and Ben, as well as our vice-captains Cara and Dylan, as they lead the way in the year ahead.

Reminder:

If you or someone you know is interested in coming together to establish a partnership within our school community to grow and promote our games please email principal@holyroaryschool.ie

Well Done St. Pats

A huge congratulations to St. Pats GAA on their victory in the county hurling final last weekend! We can't wait to extend a warm welcome to some of the team at our school next Tuesday. While our beautiful blue school uniforms are a point of pride, children are more than welcome to wear their club colours and bring along flags if they wish to do so on the day.



It's been so lovely to see so many children communicate with us using lámh over the course of the past week. We really enjoyed celebrating Lámh Day on Wednesday 18th. We encourage you to get involved at home too!

Lámh is a manual sign system used by children and adults with intellectual disability and communication needs in Ireland. The signs are based on Irish Sign Language (ISL). Speech is always used with Lámh signs and they can be used to support communication. Signing naturally encourages people to slow down a little, encourages eye contact, and is a great means of inclusion and connection.

Please find attached the videos of the Lámh signs for 'hello', 'goodbye', 'thank you', and 'toilet'. We would love everyone in our school community to give this a try!

Videos:

Hello <https://youtu.be/MBAnhTTo6E?si=EO47z9aBy9kbiWdW>

Goodbye <https://youtu.be/3ueOgGYxnKE?si=7o8IPfmuHYWnDJVc>

Toilet https://youtu.be/v8LWJgi244g?si=W4K0x7Mm_bzb3Eho

Thank you (see attached link)

Help (see attached link)

[Thank You!](#)

[Help!](#)

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Garda Visit



A huge thank you to Garda Niall Kennedy who visited our school on Thursday. Niall engaged with all our classes throughout the day, addressing age-appropriate subjects ranging from road safety to online safety and staying safe during Halloween. Niall is extremely popular with our boys and girls, and they always enjoy his visits.

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NCCA / Foróige

We're sharing news about an initiative led by the National Council of Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). The NCCA is shaping a new curriculum and wants to hear from children across the country about their school experiences, what they value in education, and how they prefer to learn.

Our school is a pilot location for this, and on October 26th & November 7th, Hub na nÓg will visit to gather insights from a group of 12 children from 3rd to 6th Class, representing our school community. During these sessions, children can share their thoughts through fun activities, writing, and drawing.

Specifically, the focus will be on children's thoughts and learning experiences in Social and Environmental Education (SESE), covering History and Geography. The NCCA values children's input in decision-making, and their thoughts will influence the ongoing

development of the primary school curriculum, benefiting children nationwide. A huge thank you to those who volunteered to take part!



We've had very positive feedback to our school photos which were taken recently. Please follow the instructions provided to you to ensure that you receive your photos. If you have any questions please liaise directly with County Photos or contact Francesca in the office.

Admissions 2024/25

A quick reminder that our 2024/25 Admissions window opens on Monday morning, 23rd October. Please see our Admissions Notice on our website for more details or refer to the email sent to you earlier this week.

School Policies

Please find links to a selection of important school policies here. We kindly ask that you familiarise yourself with these.

[Holy Rosary School Code of Behaviour](#)

[Accepted Uniform in Holy Rosary School](#)

[Child Protection Safeguarding Statement P1](#)

[Child Protection Risk Assessment P2](#)

[Mobile Phones & Other Devices Policy](#)

Facebook Page

Please check out our facebook page for photos and updates!

[Holy Rosary Facebook Page](#)

School Calendar 2023/24

School Calendar for your convenience:

[School Calendar 23-24](#)

We will be in touch with further updates soon, but for now, have a lovely weekend!

Le meas,

Brendan Roache,

Príomhoide.



Holy Rosary School

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