



Scoil Fhursa News

September 2024



Dear families,

We are delighted to send you our September 2024 newsletter and to let you know that we are up and running and ready to do our very best for the school year ahead.

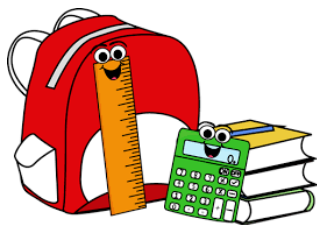


Our big news this September is that our school now provides a **FREE HOT LUNCH** to every child in the school. We are delighted that the boys are enjoying their lunches every day and there is very little waste. If boys want to change their choice of food, parents can do so on the Glanmore App. All of the waste goes into recycling – so there is no land-fill. There are 8 different options every day for the boys to choose from – so there is something for everyone. The boys are loving it, some boys are even trying food they never would have before. Glanmore Foods continue to supply the best of quality assured school lunches.



Every day, every child also receives a lunch bag with their morning snack in it. This takes a huge effort to organize and all that we ask in return is that waste, left-overs and wrappers go home in the afternoon. This also allows families to monitor what a child eats. Thanks for your help with this job.

To help us blast off for the new school year, we need the help of all families with the following important work:



Pupil Personal Accident &

Arts/Crafts: We want to thank all families that paid their Pupil Personal Accident Insurance and Arts and Crafts cost. This year the Dept. of Education provides a top-up grant to cover the cost of school books and copies. This has been a great help and the benefits have been passed onto the families. Instead of asking families for €70 per child, the cost has been dramatically reduced to €30 per child. This covers the cost of art materials, photocopying and for insurance. [This is 24 hour a day, 365 days a year personal accident insurance policy for your child from Allianz].

This year we have introduced a new method of payment through our Aladdin software package. Families are sent a text/email with a secure payment link. Payment can be made through this link. Texts/emails will also be sent for any outstanding balances due. This system was introduced in June for school tours and school fees and is working very well.

We are planning on organizing off-site trips over the year for the boys. For us to do this safely, they will need their Allianz Insurance – which is included in their €30. We are also hoping to

purchase more arts and crafts materials – in order for us to do this, we will need parents to pay the €30. Parents can call into Catherine in the office and pay by debit/credit card or cash.



The School Uniform must be worn by all boys every day. This is a long standing rule that is agreed between parents, staff and Board of Management. We aim to set a standard by proudly wearing our school crest and colours.

We ask that families help us maintain this standard by taking off the uniform every day after school and keeping it fresh for the remaining days of the week.

School equipment: We operate a school shop and offer pencils, pens, copies etc on sale at wholesale cost price. We make no profit. Some teachers offer to collect cash from the boys, and to use our school shop or other suppliers to gather together the necessary classroom learning materials. Whatever way it is organised, every boy needs to have his own supply of school equipment every day. Please check the school bag regularly and replace whatever is needed. Thank you.



The Board of Management accepts responsibility for pupils from 8:40 a.m. – not before that time. Staff come on duty in their rooms at 8:40 a.m. when our staff open the back doors and welcome boys into school. The boys are directed safely to their classrooms by other staff inside. 8:40 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. is called



“assembly time” but at 9:00 a.m. sharp, the class doors close and lessons begin for class learning time. We ask everyone to do their best to keep a high standard of time-keeping this year. Please arrive between 8:40 a.m. and 8:55 a.m. so that teachers can make a prompt start to the 9:00 a.m. lessons with all boys sitting down ready to learn. Children who arrive after this time can become embarrassed and upset. Please help us to avoid this happening.

Scoil Fhursa uses a programme called Aladdin to keep a record of daily attendances, late arrivals and early leaving. This is monitored by the Education Welfare Officers of the N.E.W.B. It is very important that all absences, late arrivals and early leaving are explained by families in writing so that teacher can enter the information on the Aladdin system.



Unless authorised by the principal and only in very exceptional circumstances, no family members should drive into the school grounds. We remind everyone that reversing and doing 3-point-turns at the gate is careless. It puts other people’s children at risk and it should not happen. It is also careless to sit parked in the school zone during opening and closing times. We ask everyone to show the utmost consideration for our children.

Park up or down the road – not at the gate. Thank you.

Many of our pupils cycle to school and we have a cycle rack at the front door of the school. We ask that families supply a bike lock and encourage the use of cycling helmets. “You only have one head – so put a lid on it!” We would also like to remind families that the Board of Management accepts no responsibility for bikes that are stolen or damaged.



Events Happening in Scoil Fhursa:

- Building work on our new **Special Class** is well underway and we hope to be up and running after the October Mid-Term. This is our second Special Class in Scoil Fhursa and we look forward to working with the boys and their families.
- **Cycle Safety** <http://www.dublinbaycyclingcentre.com/> We are delighted to have Colm and his team back again this year for a 6 week Cycle Right Training course. This takes place every Tuesday morning with the 5 class boys. This is our second year to have this in Scoil Fhursa and the boys are benefitting greatly from it.



- **Athletics** – We would like to thank Fergal Scally, Sports Officer with Dublin City Council for organising an athletic coach, Shane, to facilitate an 8-week programme with the senior classes. This takes place every Tuesday in Kilmore West Recreation Centre.
- **Maths 4 Fun** – is currently taking place on Tuesday mornings in Mr. MacEoin’s senior infant class. It’s great to see parents/grandparents coming in to volunteer in the class with the boys.
- **GAA Coaching** – We would like to welcome Frank back to Scoil Fhursa. GAA coaching takes place for the Junior Classes every Wednesday morning either in the school hall or [weather permitting] outdoors on the school yard.
- We are delighted to announce that our **Members First Credit Union savings scheme** will be starting back on Friday 18th October. If you would like your child to start a savings account, please contact the office for an application form.



We also aim to continue a high standard of learning in 2024/25 with our Discipline for Learning Programme. We will continue to give green cards and school certificates throughout the year.



Our free cinema trips for cert winners will take place at Christmas, Easter and Summer. Our annual investment of €4000 - €5000 in this programme really works! Our DFL school rules and policies are available in the home work journals for senior pupils and the DFL policy is available from all teachers on request.



We will continue our high standard of parent-teacher communication again this year on the Class DoJo. We ask that every parent/guardian loads up the Class DoJo app from the Google Play Store for Android or from the Apple Store for iPhones. Teachers will supply usernames and passwords and will organise the connection to the school. Teachers go “live” on Class DoJo from about 8:30 a.m. and they use assembly time to answer queries. 9:00 a.m. – 2:20 p.m. is teaching time so that’s a priority for teacher. Class DoJo goes quiet then. The final replies of the day are sent shortly after home time. Then, teachers turn off the App for the evening. The school also uses Class DoJo to send important information home from the office. We ask families to please respect that all information sent on the Class DoJo is private to school and families and should not be circulated on social media.



Scoil Fhursa has a great social media profile on Facebook. We are so proud of the good news that we share with the wider Kilmore West community.

***** CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE, CLASS DOJO AND FACEBOOK FOR THE 2024/25 SCHOOL CALENDAR *****

Volunteering:

If you can help us by offering a service, please let us know. We would like to organise a 2024/25 list of van drivers, plumbers, painters, carpenters, gardeners, cleaners, handy-people and tea-makers.



In the past, having a list of volunteer family members has saved us money in running the school. These important savings mean we can keep the school warmer on cold days and keep our DFL cinema trips going throughout the year. Please phone **Catherine on 01 8476709** or **WhatsApp 083 045 0099** with your name and get added to our volunteer list. Thank you.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR EVERYBODY EVERY DAY:

- Children need to be collected on time.
- Children need to be collected by someone that is known to teacher.
- If someone new is collecting your child, please let the class teacher know on Class DoJo.
- Parents/guardians need to supply a 2024/25 mobile number .
- Parents/guardians need to have their phone switched “on” during school hours.
- If you need to speak to your child’s teacher you can make an appointment through the Class DoJo App.



These reminders are really important. It happens every week that children are not collected on time or that children have small accidents and we need to phone home. It can be very upsetting for a child if he is left in school after school is closed or when the parent cannot be contacted. Please help us to avoid this upset.

Home-School Community Liaison: Ms. Karen McGrail is our shared HSCL between Scoil Fhursa and Scoil Íde. **Karen is available on 087 797 9847** to speak to in confidence about any school related concerns, worries or problems a parent/guardian might have.. Karen is available any morning at the gate for a chat. Home visits can also be arranged by appointment.



Not well? Stay at home!!

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please message your child’s class teacher on Class DoJo. Keeping your child at home when they are unwell allows them to recover more quickly and helps keep us all safe by preventing the spread of infection.