



Scoil Náisiúnta an Easpaig Ó Gealbháin
Bishop Galvin National School
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November 2011 – Samhain 2011

- The school will close on Thursday 22nd December at 12.00 noon for the Christmas holidays. We will re-open at 9.00am on Monday, 9th January.
- The children will attend mass in the local church at 11am on Wednesday, December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
- The school Carol Service for Christmas will be on Wednesday, December 21st at 11.00am in the church.
- *Toy Sunday* in the local church is on December 10th / 11th. If possible, children are asked to bring a small gift, suitably wrapped, to Mass on the day. They will be distributed in time for Christmas.
- The annual Christmas appeal for non-perishable items for the St. Vincent de Paul will take place the week before the Christmas holidays. A note will be sent home with details at a later date.
- The Parent / Teacher meetings were a great success. The staff appreciates the very positive comments parents make in relation to the school. We thank you for your support. If you need to meet your child's teacher on another occasion, please telephone the school to make an appointment.
- The schools "Healthy Eating Guidelines" are a huge success. Healthy lunches are evident in all classes and teachers are actively encouraging pupils in this regard. Treats and fizzy drinks are discouraged. Friday is "treat" day and this practice is also maintained in the staffroom. Chewing gum and food containing peanuts is not permitted.
- Children must take home all uneaten food. Packaging must also be taken home for recycling. This practice has made a huge difference to the build up of "rubbish" in the school and has the added benefit of giving responsibility to children for the recycling of their waste.
- A parent or another authorised person must collect children who leave school before normal closing time. They must first be "signed out" in the office. Children will not be allowed home with older brothers or sisters unless a note clearly stating this arrangement has been sent in to the class teacher. Parents are also advised that children should not be collected early from school. Children who leave school before 1.40pm are marked absent for the day.
- Crests for school jumpers are available from the office. They cost €3.50

Christmas Gifts

Last year the staff requested that children should not bring presents to the teachers in the school. Once again, we ask that children do not bring gifts to staff. Collections of any type for staff are discouraged. Parents are asked to respect the wishes of the staff in this regard.

If parents are in a position to give presents, perhaps the Vincent de Paul could be the beneficiary this Christmas.

Parents should also note that Kris Kindle will not be organised by teachers. If children wish to give presents to their friends, it should be done **outside** of school time.

New Website

Many of you will have visited our New Website. It allows for easier uploading of news, photographs and other items of interest from school. We hope to update the site regularly.

The school encourages supervised access to the internet at home. We would strongly encourage you to visit the links page of our website and to browse the activities on Internet Safety which have been uploaded lately. These might be viewed and discussed with your children.

Check out www.bishopgalvin.ie

Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life

The Minister for Education and Skills recently published the *National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People*. The strategy sets a series of targets for improving literacy and numeracy standards for the period 2011 to 2020. One of these targets is to improve outcomes at Primary school level. You can see a summary of the strategy by visiting the school website and following the link to Downloads.

Child Protection Guidelines

The Department of Education recently issued new Child Protection Procedures for schools. The new Board, at its first meeting, will adopt the procedures in full. The document *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary School* is available on the Download section of our website.

The procedures are based on *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*. The staff has already had training on the new procedures.

Parents Association

The new Committee held their first meeting early this month and elected Deirdre Bourke as Chairperson. Best wishes to Deirdre and the new Committee.

Board of Management

A new Board has been elected and will meet for the first time in early December. Details of the new BOM will be published on the school website as soon they have been formally appointed by the patron.

The school community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Fr. Ryan who is retiring as Chairperson of the BOM. We also thank the members of the old board for their valuable contribution the school.

Croke Park

The school Senior Football team has reached the final of Sciath na nGearaltach in Croke Park on Tuesday 13th December. This will be the school's 34th final. The team is excellently prepared by Mr. Devaney and Mr. Lafferty. We look forward to an enjoyable day out and hope that luck will be with us on the day.



A note with transport arrangements for supporters on the day has already been sent home. Permission slips to attend the game should be returned before Friday of this week.

Text a Parent

A *Test Text* was sent to each family to-day. One number was selected by parents at the beginning of the year for this service. If you did not receive a text from the school, you should contact Valerie in the office.