



2017

Hello and welcome back to a new school year. Our newsletter will continue to be issued the first Thursday of each month and a paper copy will be sent home with the eldest child of each family on the day. Newsletters are also available on our school website scoilbhrideathgarvan.com. Extra copies are available on request. We look forward to another productive, busy and exciting new school year.

Staffing: We welcome the return of two of our permanent teachers this September. Ms Karen Breslin and Ms. Michelle Burke both returned and are teaching 5th Class and Senior Infants respectively. We also welcome our newest staff member Bláthnaid Tennyson who is teaching 2nd Class. We wish Bláthnaid all the best as she joins the family of Scoil Bhríde. Welcome back, to all our other teachers and to Fiona and Roger. Welcome back also to Trudy, who has agreed to continue to stand in for Emer until her return. On behalf of the Scoil Bhríde family, staff, parents and children, I would like to wish Emer well on her road to recovery.

Junior Infants : We welcome 30 new junior infants to Scoil Bhríde this year. We hope they will be happy and make lots of new friends and enjoy their school days. The junior infants will finish at 12.15pm until Friday Sept. 15th. Pick-up is at the butterfly garden door. In the mornings until Friday 15th only, parents/guardian may escort the junior infants to their classroom but we ask you to encourage them, as soon as possible, to make their own way in, independently from the front door. There will always be someone to greet them at the school door. Older siblings may escort their infant siblings to the classroom also. From Monday 18th Sept. the infants must come in from the front door independently.

Senior Infants: Senior infants are collected at pick-up time (2pm from Sept. 1st) at the back door nearest to the GAA clubhouse.

Staff Meeting: A staff meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th Sept. 2017 from 3-5pm. To facilitate this meeting all pupils (1st -6th) will be dismissed at **2.45pm**. Please arrange prompt pick-up.

Allianz Insurance : Once the insurance premium of €9 is paid, your child is covered for school activities, social, domestic and pleasure activities also. (including during school holidays) This is a 24hr cover. Please ensure this €9 is paid on line or to the office at your convenience.

School Opening Hours: Please note that school doors open at 9.00am and school officially begins at 9.15am for all. Please ensure your child is on time for school as a bad start to the day affects everyone! If you are delayed please inform the school office. If your child needs to attend a morning appointment or to be picked up early please ensure you inform the school, by a note in the child's school diary, a call to the office on 045 441645 or by email to the office, scoilbhrídeathgarvanoffice@gmail.com.

Note: If collecting your child during the school day always call in to the school office first.

“No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before 9.00am. Classes commence at 9.15am. No pupil should arrive later than 9.10-9.15am (except in exceptional cases – informed to the school) Classes end each day at 3pm for 1st -6th classes. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school and the person to escort them should be at the school no later than 3pm, as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after that time. In the case of children travelling by school bus, the school cannot accept responsibility for escorting them from the bus to the school or from the school to the bus. Those parents who feel their children need to be escorted on these occasions should make arrangements to ensure that some escort is provided”

This is the wording recommended we relay to all parents by the insurance company Allianz and the DES.

Voluntary Contribution: To provide the resourced education we aim for your children we rely on the generosity of you, our parents, to supplement the capitation and other grants we receive from the Department of Education. The voluntary contribution is a vital element in allowing us to run the school as it should be. The contribution is €130 per child, €250 for two children up to a max of €300 per family. A huge thank you to all those parents who have already paid this contribution on- line and to the office. The on-line facility is an optional one. The contribution can be made in any amounts at any time. Again sincere thanks.

Holidays : We hope everybody had an opportunity to take a break from the normal routine and relax on holiday together. Please note that parents are advised not to take their children out of school during the term time for holidays. Please contact the school if this is a consideration to discuss.

Sponsored Silence: Last years 6th classes organised, with their teachers, to not speak for a whole day in June....and they did! They raised an enormous amount of nearly €3,000 for Cancer Research! Huge congratulations to them all and their teachers Ms. Kelly and Ms. Cosgrove. The current 6th classes will be holding the annual cake sale for the local hospice on Friday 15th Sept. Please support. More details to follow.

Office e-mail: Please note the following two addresses should you wish to contact us by email. For the school secretary and main office please email scoilbhrideathgarvanoffice@gmail.com If you wish to contact the principal's office directly please email athgarvanschool.ias@eircom.net

Speech and Drama classes: For children aged 5-12 every Monday afternoon at Scoil Bhríde. Classes include Movement, Relaxation, Speech Exercises, Poetry and Prose, Reading, Improvisation, Mime. The purpose of the class is to promote personal development and freedom of expression; encourage an awareness of our listeners and communicate our message clearly and with ease. This is done in a relaxed, fun, yet controlled environment. Examinations take place at the end of the year. Classes commence **11th September**. Contact Eunice Lavelle , Kildare Academy of Communication, on 087 2750418.

After School Activities: Football Training for under 11 boys and girls begins Monday Sept. 11th from 3-4pm on the GAA pitch. Please ensure your child(ren) are picked up promptly at 4pm. The boys first match is on Tuesday 12th at 1.30pm in Ballysax. Basketball for boys and girls will commence soon, details to follow. See below for details of tennis lessons.

Story Club & Study Club: Story Club resumed from **2-3pm** and Study Club from **3 - 4p.m** on Monday 4th September. Contact Cathy D'Arcy for more information at 087-2252847.

Green Flag: We are delighted to be awarded our 3rd Green flag for water conservation last term and it is flying on our flag pole each day ! Huge congratulations and thanks to Ms. Cosgrove, the green schools committee and all pupils who worked so hard for this achievement . We now have three flags for which we have to maintain our energy awareness, litter upkeep and water conservation.

Parking: Please be reminded and advised that the area in the front of the school is for set-down and pick-up only. **No parking at any time**. The first two bays are for invalid parking and buses only. The set-down area is beyond those marked with yellow diamonds. If you need to accompany your child(ren) to the school door/office you **must** park in the GAA car park. To all infant parents, please use the GAA car park when dropping off and picking up your child.

Toilet upgrade : We are delighted that work on the toilet area at the front of the school was carried out over the summer months. The old boy's toilet and urinal were removed and replaced with two brand new toilets. The coat hangers were removed also and replaced with a lovely workspace for the 2nd classes. Our thanks to Kevin Kelly (parent), Lorcan Brennan (parent) and John McKenna (local plumber) for all their work in Scoil Bhríde.

Healthy Lifestyle Committee & No Nuts Policy: Just a reminder to parents to provide your child with a healthy lunch Monday – Friday. A small treat such as a “funsize” chocolate bar or handful of jellies are allowed on Fridays only. Again, please remember crisps, fizzy drinks, chewing gum & lollipops are strictly prohibited at all times. Water is the only drink that children may have during class time. Nuts and foods containing nuts are strictly prohibited in Scoil Bhríde, please be mindful of what is in your child's lunch box at all times. Many thanks for your co-operation. Our committee is constantly encouraging a healthy lifestyle for your children but can only achieve this with your help & support.

Curragh Walks: Weather permitting, on the last Friday of each month, the entire school community walks out on the Curragh. Parents, toddlers, friends & family dogs (on a leash) are welcome to accompany us. The walks take place from 9.30 a.m. to approx. 11 am. Children are asked to bring €1 on the day of the walk. The first Curragh walk for this school term will be on Friday September 29th, weather permitting. This money helps to pay for, but does not cover the entire cost of the following items

- Fruit provided on walk day
- Committee activities such as smoothie making & fruit tasting days
- Prizes for the competitions organised by the Active School Committee

Fruit Break: At 2 p.m. every day (earlier for Infants) the children are allowed a piece of fruit.

Calendar/Holidays: A full calendar will be issued shortly.

Cleaning: Our sincere thanks to Roger, who worked over the summer months, along with our contract cleaners, to ensure that Scoil Bhríde was clean and presentable for our new school year.

Uniform: We thank all parents for turning out your children so well in their uniforms each day. Please make sure you know your child's tracksuit day(s). Tracksuits can only be worn on the designated days. For the month of September, children may wear their summer uniform if weather allows.

Swimming: Swimming classes will resume in the Curragh Swimming pool on **Thursday 14th September**. The first 6 sessions will be for both 6th classes (Ms. Kelly and Ms. Cosgrove). Swimming is an element of the Primary School P.E. Curriculum and is obligatory for all students.

Student Council & Healthy Lifestyle Student Committee: Every year students from our 5th & 6th classes are represented on these committees. They provide a voice for all students and work closely with the staff on the Healthy Lifestyle Committee to record 'Walk on Wednesday' and distribute fruit on Curragh walk days, among other activities. The student council members meet regularly and liaise with principal and staff on matters raised by any student. They also represent their school at various events during the year. The students from last year's 5th class will remain on the committees and 5 new members for the Students Council and 5 new members for Healthy Lifestyle Committee will be elected from 5th class over the coming weeks.

HSE Dental and Hearing Screening Programme : The children in Senior Infants will have received a consent form to give to parents for the school hearing programme, a date for this screening will be confirmed once all consent forms are returned so please return asap. The dental programme for 2nd, 4th and 6th classes will also be this year. Details will follow.

Parents Association : The PA AGM will take place at 8pm Tuesday 19th September in the GP room. All parents very welcome. The Parents Association is an integral part of Scoil Bhríde and allows us to provide resources and activities for your children. Please come along to the AGM and if possible offer your time and expertise to the committee. We particularly invite all "new" parents to come along and meet with other parents and learn more about the life of Scoil Bhríde.

Gardening Club: Some students in 6th class are co-ordinating the gardening club this year. The gardening club ensures our flower baskets are maintained & watered and also look after any other flowers or trees around our school. Thanks to all the students from 3rd class up who volunteered to help out over the year.

Last Mondays: Parents are reminded that they are invited and welcome to visit their child's classroom on the last Monday of each month between 9.00 – 9.15 a.m. **September 25th** is the date this month. This is an opportunity to see your child's classroom, view work on display, etc.

Tennis Lessons: Coach, Darek Kostecki, is offering Tennis lessons every Tuesday, 3pm in the school yard next to Staff Car Park. Softer tennis balls and perfect sized rackets for smaller hands mean students will be able to develop at their own pace while having fun in an enjoyable environment. Cost is €10 per lesson with 8 classes per term. Ages: 5-12 years old. For more information, please contact Darek on 085 773 5968 or darektennis@gmail.com.

Playball Afterschool Classes: A new term of Playball Classes starts today, Thursday 7th September, 3pm to 4pm in the GP Room. Suitable for Junior Infants through to 4th Class children. 8 weeks Cost: €52 (or €6.50 per class). Fee to be paid directly to Coach Henry.

A few places are still available. If your child would like to join in, please contact:
Henry Bryce Tel: 087 176 0382 or Email: henry@playball.ie

Website Sponsor 2017/2018: Our School Website (www.scoilbhrideathgarvan.com), is a great source of news and information for all Parents. Our sincere thanks to parent, **Marguerite Farragher, Stella & Dot Stylist** who is sponsoring our website this year. Our emailed Newsletters will feature our Sponsor over the months to come – stay tuned!

Photograph Consent:

Please contact the School Office to let us know if you **do not wish** your child's photograph to appear on the school website.

Emailed Newsletter: All parents are welcome to sign up to receive our emailed Newsletter. This service provides you with two updates per month; one at the start of each month, and another mid-month. Simply go to our website: www.scoilbhrideathgarvan.com and select **News Updates**, then **Emailed Updates**, and **enter your email address(es)**.

Any problems or queries, use our website's "Contact" page to send us an email. Thank you.

Looking forward to a great year ahead.

Le gach dea ghúí

Kate Gallagher B.Ed.