



# February 2024

# EOLAS



## Farewell to Mary

The staff and pupils of Scoil Mhuire would like to acknowledge the retirement of Mary the Runaí. While we are delighted that Mary will now have more free time we will very much miss her positive, hardworking and energetic presence here in school. Having worked in Scoil Mhuire for over thirty years Mary was the face that welcomed all pupils, staff and visitors to the school and everyone was very fond of Mary. Her dedication and commitment to Scoil Mhuire has been unwavering and we would like to say 'thank you' to Mary. Thank you for your kindness to all, your countless hours of work and the positive energy you brought to Scoil Mhuire.

The girls are busy preparing to mark Mary's retirement over the coming weeks and for now we wish Mary a long and happy retirement.

A Thuismitheoirí/A Chaomhnóirí,

Over the month of February we warmly welcome the signs of Spring at Scoil Mhuire! The increasing daylight, improving weather, and the joyful sight of dancing daffodils around our school grounds offer a much-needed psychological boost to us all.

This month, we embarked on new learning adventures, fostering the growth and development of our pupils in tandem with the season's rejuvenating energy. Our dedicated staff continues to work tirelessly, ensuring that each child is supported and challenged in their learning journey. Let's embrace the promise of Spring together, looking forward to brighter days ahead filled with learning, growth, and community spirit. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our school community.

In this month's Eolas there are some updates and information for the weeks ahead. Thank you for giving full attention to all the updates and messages we send to you.

Mise, le meas,

*Liz Uí Bheanáid*

Principal



There are many resources available for parents on how to keep your children safe. The following link leads to a very helpful online video from the National Parents Council(Primary). [Click here for the video.](#)

The ISPCC has also got very helpful videos: [Click here for ISPCC video.](#)

We have mentioned Barnardos Ireland, the Children's Charity in previous newsletters. They run free webinars on online safety for parents. Further information can be found by clicking the link [here](#).

## Friendship and Wellbeing February

February was a vibrant month of friendship and wellbeing at Scoil Mhuire, filled with activities designed to foster kindness, mindfulness, and community spirit. Our students engaged in a variety of events, including meditation and mindfulness sessions, "Drop Everything and Breathe" moments, and cooperative games. Highlights included "speed friendship" meetings across classes, buddy walks pairing younger pupils with older cailíní, and the school choir's original song composition. The spirit of kindness was further amplified through random acts of kindness and a creative poster competition featuring our Morning Mantras. These initiatives not only enriched our school's culture but also strengthened bonds among students, making this month a memorable celebration of wellbeing and friendship. Thank you to Assistant Principal Elaine Iníon Ní Thuama and our Wellbeing Committee for organising such a wonderful month of activities.

## CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE

We had a lovely celebration of the **Sacrament of First Penance** for the First Holy Communion pupils on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The girls performed a beautiful drama based on the story of Zacchaeus, the greedy tax collector who met Jesus and turned his life around after the encounter. This Biblical story is a great favourite with the girls who are making First Penance. Comhghairdeachas leis na cailíní agus a múinteoirí!

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** (Friday, 10.30am):

Scoil Mhuire Confirmation

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday, 11am): Scoil

Mhuire First Holy Communion.

### **Other School Closures for the 2023-'24 school year -**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** - School closed for Referendum

**St Patrick's Day Break:** Monday, 18th March

**Easter:** Friday, 22nd March (last day of term); reopen on Monday, 8th April

**May Bank Holiday:** Monday, 6th May and Tuesday 7th

**June Bank Holiday:** Monday, 3rd and Tuesday, 4th June

**End of 2023-'24 School Year:** Wednesday, June 26th.



### REVIEW OF SCHOOL'S CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The review was conducted in accordance with the 'Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement' published on the Department's website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie).

The Child Safeguarding Statement (including a Risk Assessment) was also updated. It is displayed inside the main school entrance and it is also on the school's website. In all matters relating to Child Protection, schools are obliged to follow the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023' (available [here](#)).

The **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** for all Child Protection matters in Scoil Mhuire is **Liz Uí Bheinéid** (Principal) and the **Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)** is **Sinéad Mhisteil** (Acting Deputy Principal). We are always happy to get feedback from you on our Child Safeguarding procedures.

### Board of Management – Report to Parents

- The update of the Gaeilge Curricular Plan to include the writing genres was ratified.
- The Annual Review of the Child Safeguarding Checklist was completed
- Speech and Drama lessons will continue again next year
- Annual Sponsored Walk will take place again - 19<sup>th</sup> March

The Board expressed their thanks and admiration to the whole school community on the incredible work done for the WSE