



11th November 24



NUAHT NA CROISE NAOFA

We are all very much looking forward to an action packed week for Science Week. Many thanks to Mr. Fitz and the teachers for all their hard work arranging the various daily activities, experiments and info for all of the classes. Many thanks also to the parents who got in touch offering their scientific expertise and who will be visiting later in the week!

Other important notes in this week's edition

- Parent Teacher Meeting Booking Details
- Inspectorate Research Survey on Anti-Bullying
- Parents Association Christmas Raffle
- School closure for the General Election



**PHOTO
OF THE
WEEK**



This week's photos are of some of the classes enjoying the science experiments set up in the halla for Science week! Just some of the fun activities children will try out this week.



Parent Teacher Meetings 2023

As you know, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st November next week are the dates for our Parent Teacher meetings. The meetings will take place after school. On the days of the PT meetings, the children will go home at the usual time of 2:30pm (1:30pm for Junior and Senior Infants). After school activities on both days (Active Sports on Wednesday and Tennis on Thursday) will run as normal.

This year we will continue with our online booking system via Aladdin. On Wednesday of this week (13th November) we will be sending an invitation via Aladdin to book your slot(s) for your meeting.

Once you get your invitation you can go on to the **Aladdin system** where you will see a bank of 10 minute slots. Simply book your slot (one for each child if you have more than one in the school). Please note that if you have already attended an IEP meeting with your child's teacher this year you will not receive an invitation to book a Parent/Teacher meeting. We will be inviting parents of families with 3 or more children in the school to book first to allow them to book in their meetings on the same day.

We highly recommend that, where at all possible, parents attend a face to face meeting. These meetings are a wonderful opportunity to meet the teachers and get a feeling for the wonderful school atmosphere in Holy Cross. In the event that you are unable to attend it is possible to arrange a phone call meeting. More information on booking such a meeting is below.

Face to face meetings

If you choose to book in for a face to face meeting for your child please arrive a few minutes before your meeting and wait outside your child's classroom. We will have plenty of signage around the school on the day to help you find your way. If you have more than one child in the school, please give yourself plenty of time to get between meetings. The Aladdin system will only allow you to book a second meeting 10 minutes after the completion of your previous meeting.

Phone Call Meetings

If you would rather a phone call meeting please note the following - **before you confirm your booking there will be a note box displayed where we require you to type "PHONE" in order to let the teacher know.** If you are booking a phone call meeting we ask that you book a slot on the **Thursday afternoon (21st) after 4:00pm** (for Junior and Senior Infant Parents please book as late as possible on the Thursday afternoon). This will allow continuity for the class teachers (i.e. a block of face to face meetings followed by a block of phone call meetings). The teachers will be using phones with the numbers blocked for privacy reasons. When your phone rings at the allotted time be sure to pick up even when you see a blocked number.

..... Continued over page



Parent Teacher Meetings continued

SEN Team Meetings

Parents of children who are receiving additional support from our wonderful special education team, and who have not already had a separate IEP meeting, are also invited to meet with the SEN team on the day of their PT meeting. The relevant SEN team member will be in touch with further details on this before the meetings.

If you are having difficulty with booking a meeting, please get in contact with your class teacher or the office as soon as possible.

Parent/Teacher meetings are always a wonderful opportunity to share information about the progress of each child. Please feel free to pass on observations about your child's progress in school with the class teacher.

Inspectorate Research Survey on Anti-Bullying

Inspectors in the Department of Education are carrying out a survey of parents, pupils (from Rang 3 to Rang 6) and teachers in schools about ways to prevent and tackle bullying. Our school has been asked to take part in this survey. This coincides with the Department's new "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying behaviour in schools. The new Bí Cineálta procedures will replace the current anti-bullying procedures in place in schools. The new procedures come into effect in September 2025. All schools including our own will be working on new policies and procedures ahead of the start of the 2025-26 school year. We will share further information on this later in the school year.

We will be contacting all families later today with links to the relevant surveys. We would be grateful if you took the time to complete them. The surveys will be open until 6pm on Friday 15th November. Míle Buíochas.

Parents Association Christmas Raffle

The annual Holy Cross Parents Association (PA) Christmas Raffle is fast approaching! The raffle is the biggest and most important fundraiser of the year for the PA, and as always, all monies raised will support various activities in school for the children.

We'd be very grateful if any parents and families, personally, or maybe through their employer could sponsor or donate prizes (for example previously we've been kindly given vouchers for Dundrum, restaurants, cinema, beauticians, hairdressers, food and drinks hampers etc.).

Alternatively cash donations are very welcome to help meet the cost of the top prizes. Please get in touch with Carina in the office, or Mr. McGrath directly with your donation. Many thanks as ever for your support.

School Closure - General Election - 29th November



As you will have likely heard in recent news reports, a General Election has been announced, due to take place on Friday, 29th November.



As Holy Cross School is a polling centre the school will be closed for all children on November 29th