

**Scoil Naomh Bríde,
Baile an Bhóthair,
Áth Troim,
Co. na Mí.
C15 TP62**



**St. Brigid's N.S.,
Boardsmill,
Trim,
Co. Meath.
C15 TP62**

Telephone/Fax: 046-9546358

Roll Number: 17947K

Email: boardsmillns@gmail.com

Website: www.boardsmillns.com

29th September 2023.

Dear Parents,
I would like to draw your attention to the following;



Halloween Break: The school will close on Friday 27th of October at 3.00pm and re-open on Monday 6th November at 9.20am.

Halloween: As we approach the festival of Halloween, I would like to remind everybody that we have a strict **no nut** policy in the school.

Bug Busting: Please see accompanying information sheet.



Enrolment for 2024/2025 School Year: Enrolments are now being taken for Junior Infants for the 2024/2025 school year. Enrolment Forms can be downloaded from our school website www.boardsmillns.com. The closing date for receipt of completed enrolment forms is **Friday 26th January, 2024**. Our Annual Admissions notice is also available to view on our school website.

Memory Lane Photography: A photographer from Memory Lane Photos will visit the school this Monday 2nd October to take photos of the children. All children should be in **full** uniform. Individual, family and class photos will be taken on the day and all families will receive samples of the photographs at a later date. There is no obligation on parents to purchase photographs.



Parent-Teacher Meetings: The annual parent-teacher meetings will take place on Thursday 23rd November from 3.00pm – 5.45pm. Class teachers will be in contact with you in November to organise times for meetings.

Teaching Practice: Ms. Emma Coloe will begin teaching practice in Senior Infants with Ms. Hughes during the month of October.

Parking at the School: I would like to thank everyone for **not** parking on the new footpath along the road and for using the Set Down areas correctly. It is much appreciated and leaves it a lot safer for the children entering/exiting the school.



Sundries Arts/Crafts Payments: Thank you to all who have paid this year's Arts/Crafts and Sundries fees. I would appreciate it if any outstanding payments could be made as soon as possible. A Payment Link will be sent out again this week.

- 1 child = €50.00
- 2 children = €90.00
- 3 children = €120.00
- 4 children = €140.00
- 5 children = €150.00



Drogheda Credit Union Money Club.

Drogheda Credit Union, through our local branch in Trim, are running a primary school initiative called the 'Money Club' to encourage children to learn more about money and to learn about the value of money through saving with the Credit Union. They are encouraging children in 4th, 5th and 6th classes to join their local Credit Union in Trim. Parents will have to bring their children into the Credit Union to open an account if they do not have one. Accounts can't be opened in the school. If children are already members of the Credit Union, they will still be able to save their money through the Money Club in the school. Once a month, a member of the Credit Union will visit the school and the children can lodge their money into their savings account with them. They will receive a receipt slip from the Credit Union showing the amount they have lodged to their account. There is a minimum lodgement of €1 and a maximum lodgement of €5. Receipts will not show the balance of savings as this is private information for parents only and the scheme is not intended to be a 'competition' on how much a child has in savings. A member of the Credit Union is visiting the school next Tuesday the 10th of October to lodge money from children to their savings account if they so wish.



Board of Management: The term of office for the current Board of Management ends on the 30th of November 2023. A new Board of Management will take office for 4 years from 1st December 2023. The Board of Management consists of eight members made up as follows:

- 2 patron nominees
- 2 parent nominees, elected by the parents.
- Principal and Teacher on the staff
- 2 community nominees



Over the next few weeks elections for the two parent nominees will be held. I will issue further information on these elections in due course.

Official Blessing of our School & Grounds: On Friday 20th October, very Reverend Bishop Tom Deenihan will conduct a special blessing of our school and grounds. Parents/Guardians and members of the public are very welcome to attend. Further information will be given over the next few weeks.

New Maths Curriculum: I have attached for your attention information on the New Primary Mathematics Curriculum.

New Curriculum: A new Primary Curriculum is to be introduced in 2025. I have attached for your attention some information on the new curriculum.

CTYI Bright Kids: The Centre for Talented Youth, Ireland, at Dublin City University provides specialised courses for young people from 6-12 years old with exceptional ability in verbal, numerical or abstract reasoning. These students are usually performing in the 90th percentile or above in Standardised Tests. If you feel your child may fit the profile described above, please contact me here in the school for further details.



Website: Please don't forget to view our school website at www.boardsmillns.com for up-to-date information on school initiatives.

Contact Details: I would appreciate it if parents could ensure that the school has the most up to date information re: contact details e.g., phone numbers, emails and addresses. If any of these details have changed for you recently, please contact Emma in the office at 046-9546358 or by email at boardsmillns@gmail.com.

Homework: Homework is an important aspect of learning. It helps reinforce work completed in the classroom. It also helps develop the discipline of a child being able to work independently, an important skill for when the child moves on to secondary and 3rd level education. Children, however, should not be spending hours each evening trying to complete homework. I would encourage parents to read through our homework policy on our school website and if parents have any concerns at any stage about their child's homework to contact the class teacher.

Healthy Eating Policy: I would like to remind everyone again to be especially vigilant when organising your children's lunches this year and to ensure that it is a healthy lunch. Some children are still bringing in sweets and bars. You are also aware that as a school we have **banned** all foods and drinks that contain obvious pieces/signs or traces of nuts and Kiwi as there are a number of children within the school who suffer from serious reactions to these foods. I trust your vigilance in this very important matter. I would also like to remind everyone that there are no treats allowed on Friday's.



Punctuality: I would like to remind parents of the importance of punctuality in the mornings and in the evenings when dropping off or collecting their children.

Attendance: Parents are reminded that the school is obliged by law to inform TUSLA when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 school days in one school year. In the past we have always sent a letter to you if your child is approaching 20 days absence and we will continue to do so. The "Return to Educational Facility Declaration Form" is the official explanation for any child's absence from school and should be completed and returned to the class teacher when your child returns to school. A copy of this form is available on our school website.

Community News

Trim Library: Starting in October Trim Library will be hosting two new Book Clubs for children aged 8-10 and Ages 10-12. Any child between these ages who wishes to join may do so by leaving their Name at the Library Desk in Trim. The book club for ages 10-12 will meet the first Thursday of the Month from 3.30pm -4.30pm. The Book Club for ages 8-10 will meet the first Monday of the Month 3.30pm-4.30pm.



Kind regards,

James Battersby

James Battersby (Principal).

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Bug Busting- A whole school initiative to prevent Head Lice

The issue of 'Head Lice' causes considerable frustration for parents, children and staff alike in all national schools. There is also a lot of mistaken information and advice on the causes of and prevention of head lice. Head lice is a community and family problem, but about 80% of cases affect school-aged children, the 4 - 16 year olds.

As a school we have decided to take a pro-active approach to dealing with 'head lice' based on a specific educational programme aimed at developing awareness of and treatment of head lice. The specific educational programme that we will use is called '*Bug Busting*'. Bug Busting started in England in the 1980's and is used by the NHS, National Health Service, in schools there. Bug Busting is a very safe, effective and non invasive way of preventing, detecting and/or treating outbreaks of head lice without the use of pesticides.

Bug Busting is based on the evidence that head lice when completely saturated in moisture stay still. It uses an ordinary shampoo and conditioner and a special fine tooth comb. There is no need for parents to purchase expensive 'treatments' in pharmacies with this initiative. Bug Busting is successful because it **interferes with the lifecycle of the bug** through a united whole school approach. It is important that all parents/guardians work together to wash their children's hair on the specific nights chosen to 'Bug Bust'. It is also advisable that all members of the family should bug bust.

Instructions for parents/guardians.

- Wash your child's hair with your own ordinary shampoo as usual and rinse.
- Dry it off a little.
- Put conditioner on the hair and leave it on.
- Detangle the hair using your own ordinary white tooth comb.
- Leaving the conditioner in place, begin combing the hair section by section using the bug buster comb.
- Slot the teeth into the hair right at the roots and draw it up to the tips.
- Check the bug buster comb for head lice after each stroke, by wiping it with kitchen paper or by rinsing it under the tap.
- Repeat until the whole head has been combed through.
- Rinse the hair and repeat the process when the hair is really wet.
- This process is repeated on Day 4, 9 and 13 whether you have detected head lice or not.

Facts about Head Lice

- The eggs of head lice usually take 7 to 10 days to hatch (recorded range 5 to 11 days). Live eggs and head lice are **not easily spotted on the head**.
- **Combing dry or damp hair** with a fine-tooth comb **is not a reliable** way to detect lice, and especially deceptive in short, straight hair, where you would think it would be easy.
- **Metal combs are not suitable for louse detection** because these combs are primarily **nit combs**. Lice caught between the tightly spaced teeth remain unnoticed against the metal and can be combed back into the hair unharmed at subsequent strokes.
- It is not scientifically proven that head to head contact has to be prolonged to catch lice - **close contact is enough**.

Vital knowledge about the life-cycle

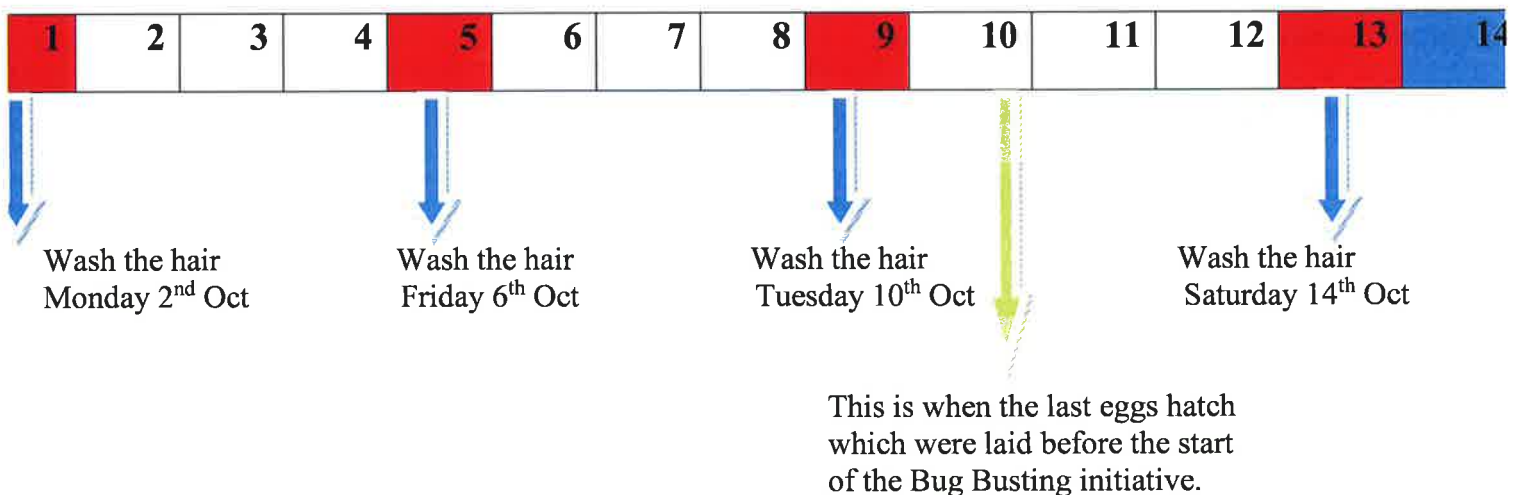
- A head louse (*Pediculus capitis*) usually hatches 7 to 10 days after the egg is laid (sometimes 5 to 11 days).
- A newly-hatched head louse becomes full-grown in a minimum of 6 days.
- Full-grown head lice move from head to head; younger lice tend to stay on the head where they hatch.
- Many products rely on killing lice as they hatch because it is difficult to kill live eggs with chemicals, and hard to ensure the removal of all eggs by combing

Breaking the life-cycle

Preventing head lice from spreading: it is critical to remove the lice before the sixth day from hatching.

Preventing head lice from reproducing: a new generation of eggs can be laid from day seven after hatching.

Days to Bug Busting



On Day 14 the head is clear of all head lice. Only empty egg shells are left on hair.



Information for parents on the new *Primary Mathematics Curriculum*



The Department of Education has published a new maths curriculum for children in primary and special schools. The curriculum sets out what children will learn in maths in every school.

What is different and how children will learn under the new curriculum

The aim of the new curriculum is that children see maths as important and useful to their everyday lives.

It does not change much of 'what' children learn, but it improves 'how' children learn maths. This includes more learning through play and problem solving. It also provides more opportunities for children to be creative, take risks and be challenged. It gives teachers more flexibility to teach in a way that best meets the needs of each child. The following are some examples.



✦ Children will have a chance learn maths through play. Teachers can use games involving counting, measuring, angles and so on.

- Children can make connections between maths and other areas of learning. Some examples are the use of maths in PE or history, or Irish.
- Children are encouraged to share, reason and argue their thinking about maths.
- Children will be given more space to work with each other and discuss their ideas.
- Children will have the chance to solve real-life problems using maths.





Supporting teachers

During this school year, teachers and principals will get to know the curriculum and might begin trying parts of it in their classrooms.



Teachers and principals will receive support in the new curriculum. The school will let parents know when this support will happen. It may mean that schools close for some or all children for a short period.



More information

The Primary School Curriculum is changing. The *Primary Mathematics Curriculum* is another step in updating the curriculum, much of which is over 20 years old.

Where to find more information



Scan the QR code or click the link below

If you want to read more about this change, and find supports for parents, see

1. gov.ie/primarycurriculum
2. ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents/



click

click





The new primary curriculum:

What you need to know as a parent or guardian

the new primary curriculum,

when changes are happening, and

where you can find out more.

The new primary curriculum

A curriculum sets out what children should learn and how they can learn it in school.

The curriculum that is used in our primary and special schools is 24 years old and is now changing. Here are some examples of what the new curriculum will do:

- build on the successes and strengths of the current curriculum
- make connections with what and how children learn in preschool, primary, special, and post-primary schools

- include new areas of learning, such as Technology and Engineering, a broader Arts Education and Modern Foreign Languages which will begin when children reach third class



- provide new suggested time allocations for each curriculum area/subject



- provide more flexibility for teachers in deciding how best to use class time
- emphasise the importance of play and playfulness in learning for every child from junior infants right through to sixth class.



The new primary curriculum will include the following five areas and subjects: -

Language

English, Irish and Modern Foreign Languages from third class.

STEM Education

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Wellbeing

Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Physical Education (PE).

Arts Education

Drama, Art and Music.

Social and Environmental Education

History and Geography.

In addition to the five areas set out above, the Patron's Programme forms part of your child's learning experience in primary and special schools. The patron, the body that establishes and operates the school, has a legal right under the 1998

Education Act to design and implement its own programme (patron's programme) in accordance with the ethos of their school. In the majority of patron's programmes, the area of religious education is addressed.

When is the primary curriculum changing?

A new Primary Language Curriculum for English and Irish is already being taught in our primary and special schools since September 2019. A new mathematics curriculum will be introduced to schools in September 2023. Teachers will have a year to become familiar with it before they start teaching it in class from August/September 2024. Teachers will continue to teach the current mathematics curriculum until that time.

The changes to the other areas and subjects of the curriculum will be introduced in the school year beginning in August/September 2025.

Parents/Guardians and the new curriculum

Parents and guardians continue to play a key role in their child's education. The new curriculum promotes a partnership approach which will encourage increased communication between schools and parents. This aims to keep you informed about your child's progress in school and the school informed about your child's learning at home.

Parents and guardians have had input to the curriculum to date through public and targeted consultation.



1 Scan the QR code or [click here](#) for the results of the consultation.

Parents and guardians will continue to have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft curriculum areas and subjects through public consultations in 2024. These consultations will be widely advertised.

Where can I find more information?



2



3



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1. NCCA.ie
2. Gov.ie
3. Curriculumonline.ie
4. NCSE.ie