

# C.B.S. SCHOOL NEWS

## OCTOBER 2023

### Halloween School Holiday

School will close on Monday, 30th of October and re-open on Monday, 6th of November.

### Normal school closing hours on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October (No Half-Day)

### Halloween Dress-Up

Halloween ('Samhain') is an Ancient Irish Tradition, and we will celebrate by having a Halloween dress-up day on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> of October. We encourage pupils and staff to dress up for the day; rather than buying expensive costumes, we encourage you to dress your child in homemade outfits, which will tie into our Green Schools message 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.'

### Attendance

We want to remind parents that the Attendance Policy and strategy have been updated, and our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) is Ms. Sinead McCourt. Attendance is being monitored, and issues will be raised early to try and reduce absenteeism. We are also encouraging families to please take holidays during school holiday periods and not during term time. The loss of school days due to holidays throughout the year is significant.

### School Absence Procedure

When a child is absent from school, parents/guardians are asked to please send a note of explanation to the class teacher using the **Aladdin Connect System** only. This is essential to complete the Daily Attendance Roll.

### "In to Win"

We will focus on attendance during November, and our HSCL, Maria Doyle, will promote our school's "In to Win" campaign. This campaign is running in conjunction with TESS and other local schools. We want to improve attendance during November. There will be prizes up for grabs, but as the campaign says, you must be "in to win".

### KiVa

We had our KiVa Anti-Bullying week, it focused on increasing awareness and understanding around the term 'bullying'. Mrs. Emer McNulty has sent a message through Aladdin Connect with all the information you need to support our campaign. The term bullying can sometimes be overused, and it helps when everyone understands what bullying is, how to identify it and also what steps to take to prevent it. If you haven't already read the email, please do so when you can and acknowledge that you have read it. This helps us ensure that our message is being shared throughout our school community.

### Junior Infant Enrolment

Our enrolment process is open for Junior Infants 2024. If you or a friend would **like** to register a child, please fill in the pre-enrolment form as soon as possible. This online form is available through our website. [Enrolment - CBS Primary School \(cbsprimarydundalk.ie\)](https://cbsprimarydundalk.ie): The child must be 4 by 1st of July 2024.

### Parent/Teacher Meetings 2023

We plan to have our Parent-Teacher meetings on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. We will use the **Aladdin Connect System** to organise the meetings; you can book a slot through the app and arrange meetings for siblings. More details on these meetings will be provided closer to the time.

### Important Notice: Child Safety & Traffic Congestion

Parents are kindly asked to observe the ONE-WAY SYSTEM in front of the school and **not** stop in the middle of the road, as this causes long tailbacks. **Please park up and collect your child/children.** Also, **do not** park in front of the barrier or on the double yellow lines. The safety of the children, especially in the mornings and after school, is vital.

### Home School Liaison Co-Ordinator

Our H.S.C.L. Mrs. Maria Doyle is available to help and support any families in difficulty, telephone 087 371 8931 (during school hours).

### **Polytunnel**

The School Completion Programme has sponsored a big polytunnel for our school. The children have been very busy weeding and getting things organised for planting. Ms Sinead McNally is leading the project and wants to set up a committee to help with the garden. Please let us know if any of you are green-fingered and would like to help. The children are excited about this project, and we hope to see fruit and vegetables in the growing season.

### **Winter Weather**

With the seasons changing, we ask that children come to school with a warm coat/raincoat. We will try to take children outside as often as possible throughout the winter season, and a coat will keep them warm and dry.

### **CBS Flag Day**

This year, our Annual Flag Day Collection takes place on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> of November. This event raises vital funds for our school sport/games & equipment. If you are available, even for an hour, please volunteer your time to help collect. Mr. Jones is organising this Flag Day, and we would appreciate your help and support. We used last year's funds to buy P.E. equipment.

### **First Holy Communion & Confirmation Dates 2024 (In St. Patrick's)**

✚ Confirmation	Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> of April at 11 am
✚ First Communion	Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> of May at 11 am

### **Early Collection**

Parents are asked not to collect their child/children from school before their home time, as it disrupts the class and unsettles the children; please make appointments for after school.

### **Care of Hair**

Please check your child's hair for head lice regularly, as head lice is a national problem. Pupils who are infected should be treated at home. We insist that long hair is tied back or plaited because it is difficult to control head lice, and keeping hair tied back is the best way to reduce infection. Also, can we remind you that extreme hairstyles and highlighting are not permitted.

### **Shoebbox Appeal 2023**

We will be taking part in the Christmas Shoebbox Appeal again this year. Shoebboxes can be donated in school or online, and we ask that you have them ready by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of November. More details on getting your Shoebbox ready can be found at: <https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebbox-appeal/ways-to-build-a-shoebbox/>

### **The Lunch Bag**

It was brought to our attention that when ordering snacks, parents find it difficult to cancel orders and be refunded, resulting in parents losing money. We contacted the company about this.

*"Our lunches are packed (approximately 30,000 each day); it would be very difficult for our staff to be able to find a single lunch, decant it, remove from our master file and then go back to refund the parent. We do try to offer as much time as possible for parents to cancel their orders. Other providers require at least a week's notice to make changes to orders so we tried our best to be more accommodating to parents and schools alike. Unfortunately, we would not be in a position to be able to reduce the cancellation time for these orders especially as our orders grow but our staff numbers stay the same."*

If this impacts you, please consider providing your own snack to your child. The hot lunches will continue to be offered free of charge.

### **Uniforms**

McEvoy's recently informed us that the grey body warmer should be available next week. They have also said that other uniform items are expected within the next five days.

### **Homework Policy**

We have reviewed our Homework policy, which will be uploaded to our website shortly.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN EVERYONE**