

Beginning of the Year Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents,

We are now at the beginning of our second month back to school and everyone has settled into their new classes. We are all excited about the coming year and we look forward to all of the academic, artistic and sporting successes that lie ahead. On behalf of all of the staff I would like to thank you for your support last year and we look forward to working with you all again this year. I would like to give a special welcome to our new members of staff; Miss Hazel Ivers, Miss Kelley Doyle, and Miss Chloe Kavanagh. I know that they will enjoy working as part of the Glenbrien team and I wish them every success this year.

Le meas,

Fiona Cleere

Junior Infants

Céad Míle Fáilte to our new Junior Infants -Darragh Furlong, Callie Davis, Caedyn Murray, Darcey Brady, Demi Brady, Jimmy Butler, Ollie Doyle Cullen, Flynn Sludds Hickey and Lachlann McManus

We hope they enjoy many happy years with us here in Holy Family Primary School, Glenbrien.

School Office Hours (Secretarial)

This year, our school secretary, Liz, is in the office during the following times each morning:
Mon to Fri 8.45am - 12.00pm

If any parent has an urgent query outside of these office hours please leave a message on the school phone ([0539138398](tel:0539138398)) or send an email to glenbrienns@gmail.com

Absentee Notes

When a child is absent from school, please use the Google form link to explain the absence, on his/her return to school. This is then recorded on the Aladdin system and forms part of each pupil's attendance profile. This is an important part of our attendance record keeping. A link to the school Google absence explanation form was sent out to all families via text at the beginning of September. Please use this same link each time your child is absent from school.

Children Leaving Early

All children being collected early from school should be **signed out** in the sign out folders. There is one in each classroom in the school. Where possible, **an email** should be sent to the class teacher in advance.

Staff Meeting - Term 1

The staff meeting for this term will take place on Thursday 17th October. The school will close for all pupils at 12.00pm.

Special Education Teaching

During the 2nd term last year, the Department of Education issued the new arrangements for Special Education Teaching hours in all primary schools. The school's allocation of SET hours was cut by 2.5 hours. This meant that the previous cluster with Ballymurn NS was no longer possible and a new cluster was established using Principal Release hours to retain the full time, permanent teaching position in the school. The SET teacher is now shared with Oylegate NS, travelling there one day per week. In order to minimise the effects of less support teaching hours in the school, a number of arrangements have been put in place. Miss Morrissey will visit the school every 2nd week to cover principal release days. The SET teacher will cover a half day each week of principal release time. On Wednesday afternoon's SET sessions in the school will be taught by Miss Morrissey or Miss Cleere. The Board of Management is in the process of appealing the decision to cut SET hours in the school. An update will be sent out once a reply is received from the Department.

Crafting Sessions – Senior Classes

This week members of the ICA began crafting sessions with the pupils in 3rd and 4th class. Next week will be the turn of the pupils in 5th and 6th classes. The pupils will begin by learning how to knit. We are very grateful to Joan, Mary and Anne for giving up their time each Thursday to share their knowledge and skills with the pupils in the school.

Beginning of the Year Mass

The school community celebrated a beginning of the year mass last Tuesday, 1st of October, at 9.30am in St Peter's Church, Glenbrien. Thank you to all those parents, guardians, grandparents and friends who were able to join us for our celebration as we began another new school year together. The mass was celebrated by Fr Gahan and we would like to wish him many happy years ministering and working in the parish.

Health and Safety

- Morning Drop Off

School begins at 9.00am and the supervision of pupils begins at 8.50am when the school doors open. Pupils who are dropped to school before this time are not covered by the school insurance. We would ask for your cooperation in this matter.

- Evening Drop Off

In the interests of health and safety -

Cars should **not park in front any part of the school gates** as this creates a dangerous hazard for pupils leaving the school to walk towards the carpark area. All cars should be **reverse parked** and cars should **not be parked on the side of the road** opposite to the school site.

Grant Funding

A big THANK YOU to Ana Egan who compiled the application and requested funding on behalf of the school from Sports Active Wexford through the Physical Activity Promotion Scheme. The school was granted €300 to purchase indoor athletics equipment. We hope to add more equipment in the future as funds allow.

Hurling 365

Hurling 365 sessions resumed in September and will continue every Tuesday morning from 8.20am for pupils from 1st to 6th classes. If any parent is available and interested in helping out as part of the volunteer rota, please contact Miss R Doyle.

Music

The weekly music sessions, with visiting music teacher, Mrs Lorna Maher, resumed in September. The sessions take place each Wednesday afternoon. All pupils from 1st to 6th should have a music folder (A4 ring binder with clear pockets) and a recorder. Please label your child's recorder. We ask that each child would contribute €1 per week towards the cost of the sessions. There will be 14 music sessions in the first term. Payment links will be sent out to all families next week.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will continue its visits to our school every second Tuesday. This is an excellent opportunity for all classes to increase their love of reading. The next date will be Tuesday 26th of September.

Health Promoting Schools

Healthy Eating Week is running this week. Lessons and activities will take place during the week to encourage healthy eating habits at school and at home. The foods children eat really do affect their learning, behaviour and concentration in class. A small change in diet can yield huge benefits for your child. Here in Glenbrien N.S. We have a strict healthy eating policy four days a week and on Friday's the children are allowed to bring a treat. During the week each child should have a balanced, healthy lunch. Cereal bars should not be put into lunch boxes due to the high sugar content. We also recommend that each child should have a portion of fruit and a portion of vegetables in their lunchbox.

Mini Sevens Success

CONGRATULATIONS to both the Boys' and Girls' Mini Sevens football teams who have qualified for the 2nd round of the competition. This is a special achievement for the Glenbrien girls as they are the first Girls' Mini Sevens team in the school to make it to the 2nd round of the competition!!! The Girls' team had two great wins over Curracloe NS and Crossabeg NS. The Boys' team defeated Castlebridge NS and drew with Wexford CBS. We wish both teams the very best of luck with the next stage.

Friendship Week

As a boost to the SPHE programme and as a prevention strategy from our Anti- Bullying policy, we held *Friendship Week* from Monday the 16th to Friday 20th September. Each child participated in lots of activities with their friends and their 'buddies' that help to encourage positive relationships and promote confidence. All classes engaged in SPHE lessons based on the theme of friendship and interacting with others. On Monday 23rd, all of the pupils came to school in dress up clothes matching their buddies. Well done to everyone on an action-packed, fun-filled week of positivity and friendship.

Rackard League Football

The boys and girls in 5th and 6th classes are training very hard at the moment as part of the Oylegate/ Glenbrien Rackard League teams. Well done to the Boys' football team who have won all of their group games and who have qualified for a Roinn A quarter final against Blackwater NS. The Girls' football team have been battling hard with two great games against Rosslare NS and a strong team from Mayglass NS.

In School League

Well Done to the boys and girls from 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes who are showing great skill, teamwork and determination during the lunchtime league. Thank you to the referees and animated coaches from 5th and 6th classes for organising the competition.

Confirmation Class

The confirmation class travelled to Gorey in September to be part of a beginning of the year mass celebrated by Bishop Nash.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 17th October - 1st Term Staff Meeting

Wednesday 23rd October - Halloween Witch Walk

Wednesday 20th/ Thursday 21st - Annual Parent/ Teacher Meetings

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Concert (Matinee and Evening performance)

Board of Management

The next B.O.M. meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th Of November at 8.00pm in the school hall.

Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile