



SUMMER

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BIRR SCHOOLS

HSCL Newsletter

ST. BRENDAN'S CS • OXMANTOWN NS • MERCY PS • ST. BRENDAN'S BOYS PS

DEAR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

As we enter the final weeks of the last term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and engagement in our school community. The past few months have been filled with exciting activities, valuable learning experiences and meaningful connections between students, parents and staff.

The upcoming weeks promise to be just as eventful, with a range of community initiatives aimed at supporting parents and families. These include various workshops and events which give parents the opportunity to connect and engage with the local community.

A particular highlight is our upcoming *One Book One Community* event, which aims to bring families, students and the wider community together through a shared love of reading and storytelling, encouraging connection, conversation and community spirit for years to come.

Attendance Matters Finishing Strong

As we approach the final months of the school year, we encourage all parents and guardians to continue prioritising school attendance. Every school day counts, and maintaining strong attendance ensures that students remain engaged, prepared and confident as they finish the academic year. Regular attendance benefits students in

multiple ways, from improved academic performance to stronger friendships and better overall well-being. Parents play a vital role in encouraging good attendance habits by reinforcing consistent morning routines and maintaining a positive approach to school engagement. Let's work together to ensure a strong finish for every student!

Primary to Post Primary Transition

The 6th Class to 1st Year Transfer Programme, facilitated by the Roscrea/Birr SCP team, is currently underway. Designed to support students as they prepare for post-primary school, the programme helps ease the transition by addressing their concerns, hopes and expectations. It also plays a key role in promoting school

retention and a smooth adjustment to secondary education.

Parents are encouraged to discuss any anxieties their children may have about this change and to contact the HSCL coordinator if additional support is needed. We look forward to helping students begin their post-primary journey with confidence.

Celebrating Parent Engagement

A big thank you to all parents who have participated in HSCL activities this year! Your involvement has been instrumental in creating a positive school community.



One Book, One Community Initiative

We are delighted to announce the launch of the *One Book One Community* initiative on Friday, May 22nd at 10.30am in Birr Library. This special event is being hosted in partnership with a number of organisations and community groups across Birr, working together to promote reading, connection and community spirit. The initiative encourages people of all ages to come together through a shared reading experience, helping to spark conversation, strengthen relationships and celebrate the importance of community engagement. We look forward to welcoming students, parents and members of the wider community to the launch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOL EVENTS

WALK ON WEDNESDAYS PARENT WALKING GROUP

Each Wednesday

All parents are invited to join in what will be an ideal opportunity to connect, engage and share experiences with other parents. Members of the Walking Group will have free entry to Birr Castle and buggies are always welcome.

Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS, Mercy PS, St. Brendan's NS & Oxmantown NS

Location: Birr Castle

Registration: Text your details to Sabrina 087 6406920

JUNIOR INFANT INDUCTION EVENTS

Children will have the opportunity to explore their new classroom, meet their teacher and engage in fun activities that introduce them to the school environment. Parents will receive important details about school routines, uniform requirements and ways to support their child's learning at home.

Oxmantown National School

took place on Wednesday, May 6th, 10am

Mercy Primary School

Thursday, June 11th, 1.30pm

St. Brendan's Boys Primary School

Friday, May 22nd, 1.15pm

1st YEAR TRANSFER DAY

St. Brendan's Community School

Thursday, August 27th 10am to 3pm

The SCP will host a Primary to Post-Primary Transfer Day for incoming 1st Year students. This event is designed to help students familiarise themselves with their new school environment, meet school staff and classmates. Students will also take part in a range of activities, including team-building exercises.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BREAKFAST BOOK CLUB

1st Tuesday of each month, 10.30am

The Birr Library Breakfast Book Club is a vibrant, participant-driven group that fosters a sense of community and connection among its members. By coming together to discuss books over breakfast, participants have the opportunity to share ideas, engage in meaningful conversations and form lasting relationships.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

Each Wednesday, 11am

A welcoming and friendly group where parents, guardians and toddlers can enjoy playtime, social interaction and connection with other families in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Date: Ongoing

One to one assessments aimed at assisting learners in building and sustaining their literacy and numeracy skills.

Facilitator: LOETB Location: LOETB, Birr

Registration: Contact Debbie Looby 057 9121571

LIBRARY CIRCLE

Each Wednesday, 11.30am

Library Circle is a welcoming and supportive group designed to assist adults with literacy needs in a relaxed and encouraging environment. The sessions provide opportunities to build confidence in reading, writing and communication skills while enjoying conversation, learning and social connection with others in the community.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

CRAFTY FRIDAY EVENT

Each Friday, 10.30am

This weekly children's group is the perfect opportunity for little artists to explore their creativity, make new friends and enjoy hands-on crafting fun. Each week features a different craft, from painting and collage to seasonal decorations and more.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

KNITTERS CLUB

Each Wednesday, 5.30pm

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, the Knit & Natter Club is the perfect place to stitch, chat and share tips in a relaxed and friendly setting. Bring your own project or start something new. All skill levels are welcome.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

ADULT BOOK CLUB

Last Thursday of each month

Whether you're an avid reader or simply looking to enjoy a good book and friendly conversation, the Adult Book Club offers a welcoming space to connect with others and share ideas. Each session provides an opportunity to discuss a selected book

in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere while meeting fellow members of the community who share a love of reading.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

KIDS LEGO CLUB

Each Wednesday, 3.30pm

Kids Lego Club is a fun and creative session where children can build, design and explore their imagination through Lego activities. The club encourages creativity and problem solving while giving children the opportunity to make new friends and have fun together.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

PARENTING SUPPORTS

HELPING YOUR CHILD DEAL WITH ANXIETY

This webinar looks at ways to recognise signs of anxiety, build resilience and create a calm and supportive environment at home. Parents and guardians will also have the opportunity to learn about helpful resources.

Facilitator: ISPCC Location: Online event

Registration: <https://www.ispcc.ie/parenting-hub>

PARENTING THROUGH STRESSFUL TIMES

Designed to support parents in recognising stress and understanding its impact, this course also provides practical tools and strategies to help manage stress more effectively in everyday family life. It is a self-directed e-learning programme, allowing parents to complete the modules at their own pace and at a time that best suits their schedule from home.

Facilitator: OneFamily Location: Online course

Registration: onefamily.ie/courses



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