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Scoil Eoin Baisde Cailíní Naoidh  
Bóthar Ghort na Mara  
Cluain Tarbh  
Baile Átha Cliath 3

Principal: Dearbhla O'Driscoll  
Acting Deputy Principal: Fiona Gearty  
Chair, Board of Management: Paul Nolan

## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2018

Ath Bhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir! Wishing you all a very happy New Year on behalf of the Board of Management and staff.

I wish to thank the school community and the community of Clontarf for the warm welcome that I have received upon my appointment as Principal of St John the Baptist Infant Girls' School, Belgrove. It is already apparent to me that this is a welcoming, caring environment with a strong sense of community and school pride. I am proud and excited to begin my role as Principal of this great school. I have a deep interest in and considerable knowledge of Early Childhood Education. I have had a full and varied teaching career to date. Although I have taught all class levels and I also have experience in both Learning and Language Support, the majority of my teaching career has been dedicated to teaching children in the junior classes. I completed a Master in Education Degree specializing in early childhood education and I believe strongly that a good quality Early Childhood education is key to successful life-long learning.

Pupils are at the centre of the education process. At St John the Baptist Infant Girls' School we will continue to ensure that each pupil's intellectual, moral, emotional, social and physical potential is developed to its maximum, that they feel secure and supported in school and are helpful and kind to each other.

I look forward to continuing to build strong relationships with staff, parents, pupils and the wider community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Ms Patricia O'Donoghue well on her retirement.

Is mise le meas,

DEARBHLA O'DRISCOLL  
Principal

### **Congratulations**

A huge congratulations to Ms Ruth Shannon and to her husband Ross on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Alannah.

/continued overleaf ...

## Seasonal influenza 2017/2018

In accordance with the HSE advice please do not send your child to school if she has any of the symptoms of flu. We have placed hand sanitisers at the entrance doorways of the school and we would encourage parents and children to use them as required. The following link contains advice for parents in relation to symptoms and treatment. If your child is sick with flu she should stay home for five days from the onset of symptoms.  
<http://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/influenza/seasonalinfluenza/guidance/schools/FAQ%20for%20parents%20flu%20revised%2026072017%20%20v1.5.pdf>.

## Upcoming Events

**Enrolments:** The closing date for enrolments for Junior Infants for the school year 2018/2019 is 31 January 2018. Enrolment application forms will be posted out on request. The Enrolment Policy is available on the school website.

### **Science Week**

We are all looking forward to our annual Science Week which will start on 29 January. We aim to provide many learning activities during this week to promote curiosity and enjoyment and to cultivate a lasting interest in science among the children.

The First Classes will have sessions in computer programming using 'Scratch' for four days during this week. Using *Scratch* children can program their own interactive stories, games, and animations. *Scratch* helps young people learn to think creatively, reason logically and work collaboratively – essential skills for life in the 21st century.

First Class children will also be introduced to Science, Technology Engineering and Maths using the Little Bits STEM education kits provided by the Parents' Association. Over the course of five classes, our pupils will be engaged in problem solving, creative thinking, and collaboration through invention-based learning.

We would like to invite parents who feel they have expertise in the area of science and would like to get involved in Science Week, to please give your name to your child's teacher and we will contact you. You may also like to view [www.primaryscience.ie](http://www.primaryscience.ie) to get an idea of work that can be done at home.

**Catholic Schools Week** will take place from 28 January to 3 February. The theme for the week is "*Called to be a Family of Families.*"

### **Head Lice**

In order to stop the spread of head lice we are requesting all parents to check their children's hair this week and take action if head lice are present. Washing the child's hair with lots of conditioner and then using a fine comb has proven to be successful in the past. Also as a preventative measure, you may wish to tie back your daughter's hair and give her a bandana to wear in school.

### **Guide Dog Visit**

Mr Pat Costigan will be visiting First Classes with his guide dog on 25 January.

**GAA Coaching** for the Junior Infants will start again on Thursday of this week (weather permitting). Coaching is provided free of charge to the school, sponsored by the GAA.