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NEWSLETTER - March 2021

Welcome to the March 2021 Newsletter.

We are delighted to be welcoming back all of the boys in 2nd class on Monday, 1st of March. It is a unique time in Harold Boys' as this class will be on their own in the school for two whole weeks. Our priority is to ensure a safe return to school for all pupils. In particular, please:

**Avoid congregating at the school gates.

**Do not have playdates or organise after school activities e.g. birthday parties which involve social mixing.

We thank all parents for cooperating with these requests from NPHET. It is essential that these public health guidelines are followed at this crucial time.

Our senior classes, 3rd-6th, will remain in 'remote learning mode' until Friday 12th of March. There will then be a **full return to the school** with all pupils being welcomed back on Monday, 15th of March.

For the senior classes, this remains to be a challenging time. We know online learning can be very stressful at times, trying to juggle and balance all our commitments and responsibilities. We are only human and can only do our best in our own unique set of circumstances. Should you have any difficulty with the online learning please contact the relevant class teacher.

I wish you all a safe time during this restricted period, and look forward to welcoming back all of our remaining pupils on Monday, 15th of March. Until then, keep up the great efforts from home and please see the website for examples of the boys' fantastic online learning. Enjoy the newsletter.



Voluntary Contributions: Many thanks to all who have contributed so far this year. It is much appreciated. There has been a phenomenal increase in parents paying online. This has made the administration so much easier for Ms Doyle. Thanks to all. 😊



Internet Safety Tip For Parents:

- Constant monitoring and discussion are necessary to keep your child safe online.



World Book Day 2021: This year's World Book Day will take place on Thursday, 4th of March. The boys in 2nd class will celebrate the day in school - dress up day, book reviews, book cover competition. While our older classes, 3rd-6th, will celebrate at home.



Sad News: It is with great sympathy that we inform you of the sudden passing of our chess teacher Mr. Michael Crowe.

Mr. Crowe was a valued member of the school community and contributed so much of his time and energy to the ever-popular chess club on Thursday afternoons. Mr. Crowe had been teaching chess at Harold Boys' N.S. for many years, since the 1990s. During that time, he instilled an interest in chess among the club members by sharing his knowledge and love for the game. He led our chess teams to many great successes over the years, particularly the All-Ireland Online Chess School Championships, which were held in April 2020. The school team managed to finish in 3rd place in Section C of the *Comhair Linn Chess Challenge 2020*. Each player received a medal and were very proud of their achievement!

Most people involved in chess in Ireland would have met Michael Crowe in at least one of his many roles - that of an arbiter, organiser, ICU officer, player or coach. He also used to edit the 'Irish Chess Journal' for many years. Over the years, he introduced thousands of children to chess - through his work with the ESB Checkmate, Chess for All and his private teaching. Michael Crowe's influence on Irish chess was enormous and it will be felt for many years and he will be sorely missed.

Ar Dheis Dé go Raibh a Anam Dílis - May he Rest in Peace.

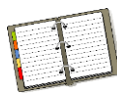


Green Schools' News: Green Schools Ireland have launched a Global Goals Book Club on their website. Each month they choose a new book related to one of the Global Goals to help you learn about that global goal. This is an important part of our work toward our next flag, Global Citizenship - Energy, so I would encourage you to go to <https://greenschoolsireland.org/global-goals-book-club/>, select one of the Global Goals and sit back and listen to the story which will be read to you! There will be a new story each month too. Also make sure you continue to check our Green Schools section on our school website for news and photos of our work on the Global Citizenship - Energy flag.



Seachtain na Gaeilge - We are hard at work preparing for our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations (1ú - 17ú Márta, 2021)! Beidh na ceiliúrtha ar súil sa scoil don Rang a 2, ach beidh Rang a 3-6 ag ceiliúradh ar líne. Beidh a lán eachtraí ar súil i rith na seachtaine, m.sh. ciorcail cómhra, ag léamh leabhair Ghaeilge le chéile, lá na leipreacháin, dánta, cluichí teanga, amhráin, 10@10 trí Ghaeilge, tráth na gceist, comórtas ealaíne is corpoicheachais trí Ghaeilge. Táimid ag tnúth go mór leis na himeachtaí go léir.

Many thanks again to our Parents' Association for funding the prizes for our celebrations. 😊



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 1 st	School Reopens for 2 nd Class Only
March 15 th	School Reopens for 3 rd - 6 th Class
March 17 th	Public Holiday, School Closed
March 26 th	12 noon to April 12 th 8.50 a.m. - Easter Holidays

Le gach dea ghuí,

Teresa Buckley
Principal