



October Newsletter

October at Hope

October has been another big month for us here at Hope. Some new staff, new activities, new lessons learned and new colours on the leaves. By now the children have by and large settled in well to their school regime and most are making great progress either meeting short term goals in their educational programs, improving their communication skills or simply learning to cope and manage their behaviours when things get a little stressful or frustrating. We hope all the parents reading this Newsletter are as proud as we are of all the fantastic work their littles ones have done in their first two months of school.



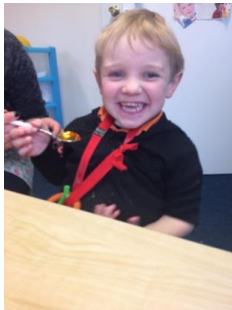
New Staff

There have been some changes to our teaching team in Mountview with Sarah leaving to work elsewhere and Gareth joining us to replace her in the Buttercups classroom. So far Gareth is settling in well and getting on really well with all the kids who are making him feel most welcome. Hopefully he'll be with us for plenty of time to come.

New Assistant Head Teachers

We're delighted to congratulate Siobhan Blackwell, Enda McHugh and Grace Okoh on

their promotions to the position of Assistant Head Teacher at the Inchicore, Mountview and Fortlawn centres respectively. These new assistant head teachers will ensure the smooth running of the schools, help in the on-going training of the new teachers, organise activities such as swimming and kids cook and generally help the school keep ticking along. It's a lot of responsibility but so far they're all doing a great job and all the staff and children are making them feeling very welcome in their new roles.



Kids Cook continues

Kids Cook continues on from September with all the children from Inchicore having their Kids Cook class on Wednesday and the children in Mountview and Fortlawn getting their turn on Thursday. Kids Cook provides the children with a wonderful opportunity to explore the tastes, smells and textures of various foods. Some of the children are still a little shy about engaging fully in all the activities but all the more reason to keep at it and help them learn how much fun it can be to explore and experiment. The vast majority of the children also really enjoy having the chance to make a huge mess in their classroom, some of the teachers are less enthusiastic about that but all in all there are plenty of smiles to go round when it's Kids Cook day. For our last Kids Cook before the Halloween break we made rice krispie cakes and apple slices with melted chocolate and sprinkles, a delicious treat for all concerned.



Swimming Lessons Start

Arguably the highlight of October in Hope has been the start of swimming lessons. Every Tuesday the kids board buses from Mountview, Inchicore and Fortlawn and head to the National Aquatic Centre in Blanchardstown. Once at the pool, the kids practice kicking their legs, blowing bubbles, splashing their hands and generally getting used to moving about in the water. After the lesson ends, there's even time for a quick visit to the pirate ship pool with slides and fountains. Though some of the children were a little hesitant to get into the water at first almost all of them have grown to really love the life aquatic. The teachers really enjoy their day out as well, though it is sometimes a Herculean task ensuring that everyone goes home wearing the right pair of shoes.

Football

A big thank you goes out to Andrew and Claudia Gelling. Thanks to them Hope is teaming up with the Professional Footballers Association of Ireland as its official charity. At the start of the month all the children in the school received a free PFA football kit each just in time for Goal Jersey day. In the next few months we will also start a football training PE program where the children will hone their skills with the help of professional coaches in a training regime specifically tailored to their needs and abilities. Needless to say we're all very excited and expecting to have a great time all round.



Halloween

Of course, October would be nothing without Halloween to round it all off. All the children are very excited about the prospect of spooky goings on and lots of sweets! We've been doing our best to encourage this excitement with plenty of Halloween related arts and crafts activities and games during our last week of school before the mid term break. Hopefully everyone will be just as excited about coming back to school in November.



Hope Masquerade Ball

Our annual (now in its second year) fundraising Masquerade Ball was held on the 29th of October at the Castleknock Hotel and Country Club. By all accounts it was a tremendous success with 11 tables of fundraising party-goers who all had a fantastic night of fun. A huge thank you goes out to our special guest Jenny Dixon (of Fair City fame), to the PFAI for donating a signed Ireland Jersey for our raffle and to all the wonderful parents who were relentless in their support towards the success of the event. We hope to see you all there for more good times and Champagne next year.



Fundraising

Many thanks to Fiona and Ray Haynes who organised a fundraising pub quiz on the 16th of October to the tune of 1,845 Euros. By all accounts it was a 'great evening' fun in aid of a very worthy cause. Needless to say all of us here at Hope are extremely grateful for such generous efforts helping to keep the show on the road. We would also like to say a big thank you to Lydia Bonner for raising the sum of 239.64 with Lennox and Lindsey Lee for raising the sum of 235.26 with Tesco.