**Palmerstown Library Digital Hub – June 2017 to December 2017**

Up to the end of December 2017, Palmerstown Library Digital Hub has been open to the public for 54 days – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 8pm. It is staffed during this time by 2 library staff.

The number of visitors to the Hub since its opening on June 20th up to December amounted to 8,659 – averaging 160 per day open. This is not broken down by adult and junior but staff on the ground suggest that there are more children than adults visiting, and the space is well used by parents with their children.

Staff in the Hub have registered 324 new patrons who had no library card. This breaks down to 59% adult, 38% junior and the rest were young adult. Many patrons visiting the Hub do have a library card – either from Ballyfermot (a Dublin City library) or a South Dublin library card.

During the 54 days up to the end of December, 6,578 items were borrowed by patrons. This is approximately 122 items for each day of opening. 54% of all transactions were carried out on the one RFID machine, from September to December when it was installed. 348 reservation holds were placed.

Currently there are 3,534 items in stock.

The Hub has registered 704 PC sessions on the in-branch PCS.

In addition to the 5 adult and 2 junior public access PCs, there is also a Sprout Immersive computer, which does not require patrons to login. It is very well used throughout the day, mostly by children, to do virtual jigsaws, stencilling, drawing, and play a virtual piano, amongst other activities.

The Hub has 2 Wi-Fi access points – one is internal and patrons login with a library card and the other external and requires logging in via Facebook. There have been 20,080 Wi-Fi sessions up to the end of December.

**Events and Activities**

The Hub participated in the national summer reading scheme for children, Summer Stars. 20 completed cards were returned by 14 different children, all of whom received a certificate of participation, a medal, and various smaller prizes such as wristbands, bags, pencils and stickers.

The local crèche (Kids Inc.) visit the Hub every day that it’s open – 2 or 3 staff members and between 6 and 10 children. A staff member will read stories to them, and the children also colour pages and use the Sprout computer.

Children’s author Oisín McGann visited the Hub as part of the Children’s Book Festival and the event was attended by a class of 28 children from Lucan ETNS. During Science Week, a class of 30 from St. Lorcan’s Boys NS visited for Junior Einstein’s. Staff visited St. Lorcan’s Boys NS in Palmerstown – Mr. Egan’s 3rd class – to promote the library to the pupils – a number of pupils from that class have since become members in the Hub.

For 2018, a playgroup for 22 pre-schoolers run by a local woman has visited on two Tuesday mornings from 11.00 to 11.45 in January, and there are another four visits scheduled up to the end of March. For one of the playgroup’s visits in February, the Cool Food School will also be in the Hub as a special treat for the playgroup. Other events lined up between now and the end of March include:

28th February – 3D printing workshop for TY students – Engineers’ Week – class visit

5th & 9TH March Creative Writing Workshop with author Colm Keegan with local secondary school students

7th March – LEGO workshop for Seachtain na Gaeilge – class visit

7th March – eBook clinic for Adult Learners’ Fest – open to the public

13th March – Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Unit – drop-in health checks for the public

14th March – LED card-marking workshop for St. Patrick’s Day – class visit

All of these events have taken place or will take place while the Hub is closed to the public.

**3D Printing**

A 3D printing service was rolled out in September, and has proved hugely popular, particularly with children. Items printed at their request include Hallowe’en and Christmas decorations and Christmas presents, and also a working light sabre. Local historian and former fireman, Las Fallon, used the 3D printer to print off sets of letters – DFB – to replace letters lost from old Dublin Fire Brigade helmets. Figures for Mr. Egan’s 3rd class nativity scene were also printed on the 3D printer and delivered to the school along with approx. 300 flyers advertising the Hub as the pupils’ local library.

Overall the concept of a Digital Library hub is working well. Additional events and learning have taken place outside of the regular library opening hours, allowing the use of the library space to be maximised.