

## September 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Guardians

We hope you and your children have made a good start to the new school year. Our new Junior Infants are settling in well and getting used to the routines of 'big school'. We hope they will enjoy their time here.

Here are some important reminders for your attention. Please take the time to read through them as they are important to keep things running smoothly in the school.

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

As you are aware, under the Children First Act 2015 and effective since March 11<sup>th</sup> 2018, each Board of Management has a statutory obligation to prepare a **Child Safeguarding Statement** which includes a written assessment of risk of potential harm and the procedures in place to manage that risk. These documents are available on the school website and on display near the office and must be reviewed annually by the Board of Management.

Under the Act, all teachers registered with the Teaching Council are now **Mandated Persons** and have two **legal obligations**:

- To report any reasonable concerns of harm above a threshold to Tusla
- To assist Tusla if/when requested

**With the new regulations in mind, we ask that from now on if you take photographs or videos of school events, in which a number of pupils other than your own are involved, not to post them on social media sites without permission from the children's parents.**

Your co-operation in this regard is much appreciated.

### **PARENT ASSOCIATION**

**N.B. Please see letter in your child's schoolbag.**

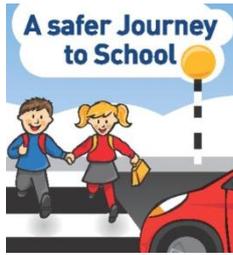
### **SUPERVISION REMINDER**

The school opens at 9.20am each morning for class. Class will end each day at 2pm for Junior and Senior Infants and at 3pm for all other pupils. The school cannot accept responsibility for supervising children before 9.20 am or after 3pm.

A number of children are dropped off at the school well before 9.20am, some as early as 8.45am. The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for the supervision of these children before 9.20am, neither is the staff obliged to take responsibility for children outside the school at the end of the school day. It is the responsibility of the parent / guardian who brings a child by car, to personally see the child safely inside the school gates. Parents who feel that their children may need to be escorted to cars or buses should make arrangements to ensure that some escort is provided. Your cooperation in these matters is greatly appreciated.



Our curriculum is a busy one with a lot for each class to cover in many different subject areas. We ask that you make every effort to have your child in school on time every day. Classes start at 9.20am. Children who are often late miss an important start to the day.



**Tusla** ( The Child Welfare Agency )

As you know we are bound by law to report absences totalling 20 days or more to Tusla. Please bear this in mind when planning family holidays. It is important that you inform the class teacher in writing of any absences and the reason why. A note in the pupil's Homework Diary is sufficient. Also please let us know in advance if your child will be arriving late. Otherwise, due to the electronic roll system, your child will be marked absent for that day. If you are collecting children early, please call to the office to sign them out.

## **SAFE PARKING**

Parking in front of the school in the morning and afternoon is an ongoing matter of concern. It is very difficult for parents and children to use the pedestrian crossing safely due to careless parking.

**PLEASE DO NOT DOUBLE PARK ON OR NEAR THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING** because you are obstructing the view. Small children cannot be seen behind parked cars and cannot see cars coming either. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE BUS BAYS EITHER.**

Children need to get on and off the bus safely. By parking a short distance away and walking your children to the gate, or allowing older pupils to do so themselves, traffic congestion will be relieved and our children will be safer. **Please inform whoever collects your child of these important procedures.**



**Text-a-Parent** This year we will continue to use our Text-a-Parent service to inform you of special events, match fixtures, unexpected closures etc. Please ensure that any changes to your mobile numbers are notified to Nuala in the office.



## **Healthy Lunches**

Thank you for your support with our Healthy Lunch Policy. The children enjoy their treat on Friday but try to keep it a **small** one. In line with our Green School Policy we ask the children to bring all packaging and leftovers home and to use a clearly labelled lunch box.

**Please remember not to give your child nuts of any kind.**

We strongly recommend water as the healthiest option for your child's drink.

**Head Lice:** Unfortunately, wherever children gather, headlice can too. We remind you to check your children's hair regularly and treat if necessary. Your pharmacist will advise you on appropriate products.

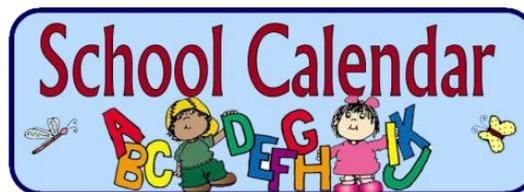
### **Birthdays**



We would like to remind you that birthday party invitations are not to be given out at school. It has caused considerable problems in the past. It can be very upsetting for children who don't receive an invitation and don't understand why. The Junior Infant parents have received a class list of mobile numbers for this purpose. Thank you for your cooperation.



**Sport** The boys and girls Gaelic football training is in full swing at the moment with some matches already played. Please encourage your children to take part. Many thanks to the teachers who volunteer their time training teams and attending matches. Sport is a great addition to our school and to the pupils' general fitness and wellbeing.



### **Dates for your diary:**

**Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – the school will be closed for a staff planning day for the new Primary Language Curriculum authorised by the Dept. Of Education and Skills**

**Friday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> – school closed for the Presidential Election**

Mid-term break – Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Parent-Teacher Meetings –  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and  
Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 3.15pm to 6 pm

Confirmation – Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2019

First Communion – Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2019



### **Website**

We hope you will log on to our website regularly to keep in touch with your child's activities. We try to keep it updated with news, photographs, videos, art work etc. that the children would love you to see.

## Children's Choir



We are hugely indebted to Paul and Claire for the continued success of the children's choir, whose music adds greatly to parish celebrations. According to Child Safeguarding guidelines, a ratio of one parent to eight children is now required at choir practice on Tuesday nights. It is hoped that a rota could be set up so parents could take their turn and the burden would be shared. Please consider volunteering so that the choir can continue to function.

**Lost Property:** Please mark all of your child's clothes and belongings with his/her name.