

*'PREPARING
TODAY'S CHILDREN
TO BE TOMORROW'S
ANSWER'*

- Parents Association Meeting—3rd October at 7.30pm all welcome.
- School closed—Friday 29th of October to facilitate staff training
- School Mass—11th of October at 11.00am. Refreshments provided afterwards.
- P1 Parents and relatives dinner—11.45am—school canteen.
- Parents Meetings Tue 17th & Wed 18th of October. School closed at 12 noon each day.
- Big Breakfast—Sunday 22nd of October at 9.00am—1.00pm.
- Friday 27th of October—Halloween Fancy Dress. No masks.
- School closed for the Halloween break—30th October—Friday 3rd November 2017.

MEET OUR SAFE-GUARDING and CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

Miss Mairead Cunningham: Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection

Mrs Marie Molloy: Deputy Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Mrs Aimee Quinn: Designated Governor for Safe Guarding and Child Protection

Mr. Brian Mc Guigan: Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Mr Paschal Diamond: Principal

St. Eoghan's Monthly

SEPTEMBER 2017

A Big Welcome to all our new P.1's

We would like to extend a very warm welcome back to our families and children. We especially welcome all our new Primary 1 children – all sixteen of them Mikey, Nicole, Caleb, Holly, Miya Rose, Shannon, Lucy, Barrie, Niamh, Carrie, Caoimhe, Anna, Caothan, Daragh, Emma and Anna.. We also would like to welcome Joseph P2 and Nicole P.3. We send our good wishes to our former P7 pupils who start secondary school. We also welcome Miss Glass to our school. She will be teaching the P4/5 children until Mrs Bannon returns from maternity leave.

SCHOOL TIMES

At 9.10am the first bell rings and this signals that all should children proceed to their classroom. Class commences for all pupils at 9.20a.m and this is signalled by the second bell. It is of the utmost importance that pupils arrive for school punctually. The habit of punctual attendance will benefit pupils throughout their lives and it is easier to instil this habit when the child is just commencing school. **Children are permitted to enter school now at 8.40am. Due to**

Insurance reasons we cannot permit children to enter the school premises before this time. If children are coming to school early – they must bring with them a book to read to the assembly hall whilst they are being supervised.

PLEASE NOTE

All children must enter the school via the side doors. The Front doors should only be used by Parents and visitors to our school.

PUNCTUAL PICK UP

We would ask all parents and guardians to collect their children punctually from school at **2.15pm and 3.15pm.** At 2.15pm – **Mrs Herron has other duties to attend to whenever the P1 and 2 children leave for the day and is not available to supervise any children.** Any children that are not picked up punctually can be collected from the school office. If for any reason you cannot collect your child up from school please let us know so we can put alternative arrangements in place.

Due to our Child Protection procedures – we will not permit any child to leave the school with anyone not on our list of those with responsibility.

Inform the school by phone or writing if you want to change your contact list.

CHILD PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

In the era we live in, increasing emphasis has been placed on ensuring that all children are safe and protected from any type of harm. The school has a number of policies in place to ensure this happens. Three policies that are particularly relevant to this are, our Child Protection Policy and our Pastoral Care Policy, ICT and E-Safety Policy Copies of these are available from our school office and the school website.

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**25th of
September
— full day
for P1
children—
2.15pm**

We are a Health Promoting School

HEALTHY EATING

As our school is a Health Promoting School we would encourage the children to bring a piece of fruit, vegetables or bread items for their break or packed lunches. Please note crisps, sweets or fizzy drinks should not be brought to school.

UNIFORM

All children must wear the correct school uniform to school. It is part of our Positive Discipline Policy. We are very much aware that the onus on the correct usage of the uniform lies with the parents. **As part of our uniform, we have a P.E. kit which the children are also required to wear.** This has been successful as it

alleviates the pressure on the children to have the latest football jersey.

Please Note – last year we found that some children wore incorrect foot wear – namely boots. During adverse weather conditions, children are permitted to wear wellingtons to school and then change into their correct school shoes/trainers once inside school.

Operation Christmas Child

Once again this year we would like to help children in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet States who are suffering through war, poverty and natural disasters. The impact of this scheme is impossible to describe. Suffice to say that these gift filled shoe boxes are a source of joy in a life of pure misery.

Your response

over recent years has been tremendous and we would hope that this will continue. Your child will have a leaflet home with them outlining the appeal etc.

PLEASE NOTE

The shoe boxes will be lifted on Friday 8th of December 2017.



Accelerated Reading is Working!!

It is over a couple years since we introduced, 'Accelerated Reader' (AR) into our school and it has been a fantastic success. The children are really enjoying it and the benefits are enormous. In our recent assessments held at the end of June last year we have noticed that the children's comprehen-

sion scores have increased. It is extremely popular within our school. This programme does not replace our current reading provision but runs alongside it and enhances it. Your child's guided reading group/book is heard as normal. Accelerated reading makes essential reading practice more effective

for every student. It also personalises reading practice to each student's current level. At the start of the programme each year the children partake in a computerised reading test. The outcome of this test sets the level at which the children can choose books from a pre-levelled library. Chil-

Developing life long readers!

dren are then given individual targets/points to achieve. Whenever a child has read a book then they complete a computerised quiz. This quiz is actually a comprehension of the reading material and gives them a score as a percentage. When a child has reached their target they can go on to a new level and when a child has reached their individual points target they can trade them in for fantastic prizes such as Hurling Helmets,

Gaelic Tops, cinema tickets etc.

Accelerated Reading Material

The resources for this programme as well as the programme itself have cost a considerable amount of money. Could we ask you to ensure that all materials are treated with the most utmost care as the books have to last a very long time. Accidental damage can occur from time to time but this must be reported the school/teacher immediately so that resources can be maintained.

Towards the end of last term, the children were able to trade their points for some fantastic prizes. These prizes were purchased out of our Parents Association Account. We also purchased a wide variety of new books for the Accelerated Reading library across all levels. We hope to add to these throughout the year. This year we are going to hold a number of themed days entitled, 'Accelerated Reading Aid', children will be permitted to wear clothes related to the theme instead of their school uniform.

Come and join our Parent's Association

Over the past number of years since the formation of this group, the children in this school have had varied and exciting extra curricular opportunities that they may not otherwise have been able to avail of.

This Association have been responsible for many fund raising activities within our school. The money has gone towards the purchase of new equipment, new items of furniture for classrooms, cover of transport for school trips, The main constitution and

function of the Association is as follows

- To raise the profile of the school.
- To fund raise for the school.
- To provide assistance for the teaching staff at functions e.g. school plays, sports days, Confirmation/ First Holy Communion Teas and refreshments.

Meetings are kept to a minimum of three per year

(possibly a little more frequent if fundraiser is being organised). Information will be shared with the wider school audience via our school newsletter. The group is made from a wide spread of children from P1 – 7.No one is committed to being a life long member as annually members may step down and we need to recruit new members. The principal is also a member of the group acting in an advisory capacity e.g. needs of the school, ideas for projects etc. The first meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd October at 7.30pm**

FREE SCHOOL MEALS/ UNIFORM

If you feel your child may be eligible for free school meals or school uniform, please **TEL: 02825661355** or obtain an application form from the school office. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS IS DONE IMME-**

DIATELY as there is already a waiting list in County Hall Office, Ballymena. If you have applied for Free School Meals, you will be notified by the Education authority (EA). Until both you and the school receive this notification, you must pay €2.60 for school meals.

The Education Authority (EA) has introduced a new, online process for parents applying for home to school transport assistance. Applications for transport assistance to all schools, primary and post primary should be completed online via the EA Website at www.eani.org.uk/transportapp. **This needs to be completed ASAP.**



**Start of year
Mass—
Wednesday 1th of
October—
11.00am. Tea
afterwards**

Accidents Happen

If your child has received a bump to the head we will send home an incident report note to inform you. If a bump or cut is judged to be more serious, we will telephone you.

Play time

When outdoors, we expect all pupils to treat each other with respect. We have a friendship stop in both the senior and junior playgrounds where pupils can go

to if they feel they need someone to play with.

We expect all pupils to listen to and respect all adults in the playground. A pupil should only have to be spoken to once. If inappropriate behaviour is repeated the pupil will be asked to consider his/her actions in a 'cool off' zone in the playground. All pupils go outdoors at break and dinner playtimes in all reasonable weathers, where there are

always staff on duty. Hence a coat is appreciated! If your child has been very unwell and you request (in writing) that your child does not go outside, he/she can remain inside the building in the school foyer.

We have purchased new play equipment for the both playgrounds and we would like you to emphasise to your children the importance of not breaking the equipment and playing safely.

Anti-Bullying Measures

The school operates an Anti-Bullying Policy. If there are any problems, parents and children should inform the class teacher or Principal immediately. We do not tolerate bullying. We hold an Anti-bullying Awareness Week in November. We ask parents to support their children and the school by:

- o Watching for signs of dis-

stress or unusual behaviour in their children, which might be evidence of bullying;

- o Advising their children to report any bullying to their class teacher, principal or the listening box and explain the implications of allowing the bullying to continue unchecked, for themselves and for other pupils;

- o Being sympathetic and sup-

portive towards their children and reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken;

- o Informing the school of any suspected bullying, even if their children are not involved.

You can view our antibullying policy on our website:

www.steoghanscom

Your Child's SAFETY is Paramount

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents about our school parking arrangements which are included within our Health and Safety Policy (This can be viewed on our Website). Parents are **NOT PERMITTED** to drop off or collect children from the school gates unless this has been arranged with the prin-

cipal/chairperson of the BOG. **Children who walk home from school should not be collected from the front of the school. This has been put in place for the safety of your children and other road users.**

We would encourage you to exercise great care in the mornings and in the eve-

nings outside the front of the school and in An Rath Dubh Car. **The speed limit is 5 mph in the grounds of An Rath Dubh. Please be aware of traffic and children at all times. Before you pull off, please check your mirrors and check over your shoulder for on-coming traffic.**

Mobile Phones/Electronic Devices

Pupils are NOT allowed to have such devices in school. (See **Mobile Phone/Electronic Devices Policy on website**)

Complaints Policy

The school's Complaints Policy is available on the school website and should be adhered to.

Special Needs

Pupils identified with learning or behavioural difficulties will be monitored carefully. These pupils will be placed on the school's register to ensure that we help them surmount any barrier they may have to learning.

The school's *Special Needs Policy* and *A Parent's Guide to the*

Stages of the Code of Practice will be available shortly on the school website

Coffee Morning

We are holding a Coffee Morning and Non Uniform day on Thursday the 28th of September in aid of Cancer Focus. The coffee Morning will start at 9.30am and finish at 11.00am. Children are asked to bring in a voluntary donation of £1.00. We will also provide a donation bucket for the An Rath Dubh Carpark at 2.30 and 3.30pm.

How is your child's attendance?

Please have a look at the table to your right. One day absent from school here and there soon adds up! Please refrain from picking your child up early from school as this affects their afternoon attendance. Children must be on site until 3.15pm.

Working Together

We are committed to achieving a first class education for all. We trust that we will have a very rewarding year and look forward to your continued support.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days Absence 1 week and 4 days of	Satisfactory
90% attendance	19 days of Absence. 3 Weeks and 4 Days of	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence. 5 Weeks and 3 Days of	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence. 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence. 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed.	Unacceptable

Attendance Matters To Us

We remind you that it is very important that your child attends school each day. When attendance falls below **90%** the school will issue a letter to encourage improved attendance. When attendance falls below **85%** the Education Authority demands that pupils are referred to the Education Wel-

fare Officer and a home visit may follow. The Education Welfare Officer also has central access to all pupils' attendance data. We remind parents that late attendance in the morning or leaving early in the afternoon also impacts on your child's attendance figure as registration takes place twice a

day. We strongly recommend that holidays are not booked during term time. Please remember to contact the school by phone or in writing to explain your child's absence so that the appropriate attendance code can be recorded.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

The first round of parent/teacher meetings this year took place on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday the 18th of October. These meetings are very important in order that parents and teachers can pass on relevant information in respect to how individual pupils are progressing. The staff of the school is appreciative of all the parents who ensured that they attended these important meetings. However, these meetings are extremely confidential and the information can only be relayed to and by a parent or another person with legal parental responsibility i.e. guardian. If in the event that you are unable to attend, we will try to accommodate you at another time. We look forward to your continued support during the year. Timetable will be sent out shortly so that you can reschedule work commitments.

Student Council

Elections for the student council will be held during Term 1. The council will represent the views of the student body to the staff and assist staff in raising standards of educational attainment among the student body. The student council will meet with the student council teacher, Mrs Herron on a regular basis to

progress their work. We wish the student council every success in their work.

Changes in Home Circumstances of our Children

Parents are asked to inform us personally and quickly of any changes to the living arrangements of any of our children. Sometimes changes can occur suddenly for a variety of reasons and the child/children can be confused and give us incorrect information. If any of your contact list changes we need to know in order to update our records. **THIS IS VITAL FOR OUR TEXT MESSAGING AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION.**

Water Bottles

We encourage pupils to drink lots of water throughout the day. All pupils in Years 3-7 should have their own water bottle. There are water fountains in school for the junior toilets. Going to the school water fountain can be disturbing lessons hence the pupil's own water bottle is preferable.

Some General Information

Nut Allergy

There are a number of children in the school with a nut allergy. We would remind parents of the seriousness of this condition. Under no circumstances should nuts or foods containing nuts be brought into the school by any child.

Positive Behaviour

Programme

As part of our Positive Behaviour Programme, each teacher will discuss with you during the Parents Meetings their classroom discipline plan. We would then like you to discuss it with your child, sign and then return it to the school. We would appreciate your support in encouraging good behaviour at all times.

School Absences

If your child is off school for any reason – please send in a note or

ring outlining the reason for absence. This information is required by DENI.

Credit Union Savings

Savings are collected on a **Tuesday** and any child can save. This is a very worthwhile exercise as it teaches children that it is sometimes necessary to save their money. New members are always welcome and our local Credit Union provides a starter pack.

School Mass

The School Mass to celebrate the start of the academic year will take place on Wednesday 11th October at 11.00am. The P.1's will be introduced to the wider school community. Everyone welcome.

Homework

Homework extends class learning. It provides you with the opportunity to

support learning. It is important to establish a good routine early. If for any reason homework cannot be completed, please inform the class teacher. Learning homework's are often regarded by staff as the more critically important homework. Ensure these are given adequate time. Please see the Homework Policy which can be found on our Website.

First Holy Communion

The first, '**Do This In Memory Of Me**' Mass will take place on 1st of October at 12 noon in the Holy Rosary Church, Draperstown. More details to follow about the programme later.

Twitter

You can follow us on Twitter

@steoghans