

03/09/2019

Dear Parents,

A big welcome back to everyone after I hope was an enjoyable break for all. The school is extending a special welcome to our new intake of students. We hope that our new infants; Matthew, Jamie, Gearoid, Evelyn, Erin, Lauren, Katie, Áine and Aimee and also Grace, Lily and Michael will enjoy their time here in St. Finian's.

During the summer, Ms. Masterson tendered her resignation to take up a job-sharing position elsewhere. While we were sorry to see her leave, we are delighted to welcome Miss L. Gillic to the school as a temporary teacher for 3rd/4th class.

Just a reminder that Junior and Senior infants will go home at 12.30pm until September 9th when they will revert to 2pm as normal.

The election of new members to the BOM will be due to take place in October. I would like people to think about the two parents nominees that will have to be elected and consider whether they would be interested. We have been very fortunate in the past with active and helpful parent representatives and I would hope that this would continue. I will be giving more details in the coming weeks.

Many thanks to the mass servers who kept going over the holidays. We will be looking for new volunteers for the coming year.

Just to remind everybody to continue wearing the full school uniform including tie. Please remember plimsolls are to be worn as indoor shoes. We have great compliance from everyone in this area and I hope it continues. The PE tracksuit is only worn on PE days with runners. If for any reason you are unable to confirm with this please contact the principal.

There will be a staff meeting on September 12th. All children will go home at 12.30pm on this day.

We will be continuing with gardening in school for 5th / 6th class children.

We are introducing a new initiative this year as part of our Digital Learning Strategy. To reduce paper and ink all notes / messages will now be by e-mail or text apart from specific consent forms. To this end, we will need two e-mail addresses for all families. Please send these in as soon as possible. Newsletters will be available to be viewed on the school's website also.

Paired reading is starting on Monday, September 2nd and thanks to Mrs. E. Halpin, Mrs C. Ging and Mrs J. Victory for volunteering for that.

Speech and Drama will start again on September 4th. The cost per child will be €13.50 for this term (10 weeks). Please send money in an envelope with the child's name clearly marked on it. Receipts will be issued in due course. Cheques to be made payable to Ms Scully.

The voluntary parental contribution will be €75 as per last year (cheques to be made payable to St. Finian's N.S.). There is also a voluntary €12 request for photocopying (€12 per child with a maximum of €30 per family). Please send money into school in an envelope with child's name on it. Pupil Personal Accident Insurance forms are being enclosed with this letter. The cost is €6 (school activities only) and €9 (24 hour cover). Please send back to the school before September 11th.

Our overall attendance last year was 95%. There was a significant drop in attendance in the month of June. We would like to remind parents that it is important that the pupils attend school for the entire school year. If you are going on holidays the school should be furnished with the dates of the holiday and that you as parents / guardians are aware of the potential detrimental effect this absence could have to your child(ren)'s education. Our attendance policy ensures that you will be kept up to date with the amount of absences your child has. When a child has reached 10 days absence, you will receive a letter stating this, on reaching 15 days you will receive a phone call. Upon reaching 20 days the school is legally obliged to report this to Tulsa Child & Family Agency. If a pupil is late for school or if a pupil needs to leave school early for any reason the parent / guardian should go to the relevant classroom and complete the sign in / sign out sheet.

The free school journals are due to arrive this week. I have enclosed a sheet of absence notes, which are to be used from now on. These are the only absence notes we will be accepting. Please supply these to the class teacher on return to school following absence.

We are all aware of the annual problem of headlice. They generally make their appearance within the first month of school. I have sent numerous documentation on the correct approach to treating headlice. I can only reiterate that continuous fine-combing combined with treatment if necessary and constant vigilance is necessary. It can cause parents a huge amount of stress if they are treating and clearing the problem only for it to reappear again some time later in their child's hair. All children with long hair **MUST** wear it tied up while at school as a preventative. Also, please remember that while the live lice may be eradicated there is still the problem of the EGGS, which stick to the hairshaft and are **EXTREMELY** difficult to remove. Thus, vigilance and wet fine-combing is a must.

Supervision Policy

The school will be open to receive pupils at 9.05am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9.20am. No pupils should arrive later than 9.10am.

Classes end at 2pm for infants and 3pm for all other pupils. Children leave the school building and depart from the school gate in an orderly manner. Parents who wish to have their child escorted home should make their own arrangements to have their child met at the school gate. The person to escort them should be at the school gate not later than 3pm, as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

In the case of children travelling by school bus parents must make their own arrangements to ensure supervision is provided.

Pupil Personal Accident Application forms have been distributed today. If you wish to avail of this service, please return form and payment by Monday, September 2nd.

Many thanks,

Jane Burke
School Principal

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Name: _____

Child's (children's names): _____

e-mail address 1: _____

e-mail address 2: _____