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October Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Mid-term break: Please note that school will be closed from Monday the 26th October until Friday 30th October. We will reopen on the 2nd of November.

Digital Platforms: We have been doing quite a lot of work in the school to ensure that in the event of a class closure or a national lockdown, we will have the necessary preparations done to ensure the continuity of learning for all pupils. We have two online platforms that we are working from in the school. Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class are all working on Class Dojo. Your teachers are working with you to ensure that work is being submitted on the portfolio section of the site.

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes are using the Google Classroom Platform. A lot of time has been spent training teachers and pupils in using this platform since September. Teachers will be asking pupils to submit work online using this platform regularly from here on. A photograph or scan of work can be taken on a mobile phone/tablet and this can then be uploaded to your child's account. A training video has been posted on Class Dojo and is also available on our website to help you do this. It means that a child can complete his work in his copy or book and the only requirement for a device is to photograph/scan and upload using a mobile phone or tablet. Please click here to view a short video tutorial on how to do this.

Please be aware that homework requested to be submitted on Google Classroom or Class Dojo is not optional and should be treated in the same way as you would your normal homework.

Maths Week: We had a very active maths week in the school last week. There were daily tasks for all pupils including maths trails, quizzes and colouring competitions. Pupils were challenged to use their maths 'eyes' to find patterns and other maths related items in their environment. Many thanks to Mrs O'Sullivan for organising a really enjoyable week.

Halloween dress up day: There will be a costume/colours day this Friday. All pupils are encouraged to dress up in a Halloween costume. There will be a €2 charge per child for the day. Proceeds from the collection will be donated to the family of Rian O'Halloran, a past pupil of the school who is currently undergoing intensive cancer treatment. Unfortunately, Rian lost his leg to the cancer already, and now the family are in the process of remodelling their home to adjust to Rian's changing needs. A charity event has been setup by his school, St Clement's College to help raise funds. For more information, please go to https://www.gofundme.com/f/miles4rian

Green Flag: Congratulations to Miss Williams and her dedicated Green Schools' committee who worked really hard to achieve the Water flag over the course of last year. We will have a ceremony to raise the flag on Thursday morning at 10.45am to celebrate the achievement. The event will be hosted on Zoom for all the

school to view. The committee includes Eoghan Mitchell, Seán Coughlan, Adam Hinchy, Aaron Cowhey and Calvin Peters. Well done to everyone for their hard work.

Discovery Primary Science & Maths: More good news this month with notification that we have achieved the Discovery Primary Science Badge of Excellence. Well done to Miss O'Grady for coordinating our submission for this very prestigious award. Only 20 schools in the country were selected to go forward to achieve the badge of excellence. Many thanks to all the pupils and teachers who helped in any way with the project. The full project is available to view by clicking here.

Twitter Account: The school has recently taken to twitter under the name @StPatricksbnslk. This will be used to communicate news and events that take place in the school. We would be delighted if you would follow the page to keep abreast of weekly school activities.

Epayments: Sincere thanks to all who have paid their arts, crafts, photocopying, book rental and school insurance fees for the year. It is greatly appreciated and contributes to the increasing costs of trying to run the school. We also really appreciate the vast number who used the epayments via our Aladdin database. It greatly reduced the administration time and improved the safety and hygiene in handling large sums of cash. Many thanks.

Attendance: While it may have been a shorter year than usual, well done to the following boys who did not miss a day up to the 12th of March in the 2019/2020 school year. There were, Adam Piotrowksi, Aaron Kennedy, Mohammed Barry, Conor Feehan, Odhran Yanto, Jia Jie Ruan, Patrick Kelly, Farooq Muniru, Thierno Dially, Zixuan Cai, Tadhg O'Brien and Cameron Phelan. Well done boys!

Enrolments: Enrolments for next September are now open. We would appreciate it if you would send in any sibling enrolment forms at your earliest convenience.

Parent Teacher Meetings: We are awaiting further advice from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to Parent Teacher Meetings. However, given the move to Level 5, they will not be taking place at the usual time at the end of November. As always, for any immediate query, please feel free to communicate with the teacher via class dojo or to arrange a call back. Only where absolutely essential, will we hold face to face meetings during Level 5 restrictions.

Wearing of masks: Again, we strongly recommend that along with maintaining 2m physical distance from others, that any adult dropping or collecting a pupil wears a face covering on the school grounds. We have seen record high incident rates of the virus in the locality and need to do as much as we can to protect our school community.

Sick pupils: We appreciate your cooperation with regard to keeping children who are sick at home. Please note that if a member of your household is being tested, you should not send your child to school until results are returned and you receive further advice from your doctor. This is so important to the welfare of all the children in your children's classes and we urge you to continue to be vigilant. Information can be found on the HSE website or by clicking here.

Sincerely,

Anthony Liddane, Principal