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October Newsletter

Attendance

Attendance for the month of September ran at 94.4%. The best class for attending in September was 2nd Class. Well done!

I cannot stress highly enough the importance of maintaining attendance for the whole year. If you are planning holidays, please go during school holidays. Good attendance in school will stand to your children right into their adult lives.

Please note that the school will be closed for the Presidential Election on the 26th of October and will remain closed the following week for the mid-term break. School will re-open on Monday November 5th.



Anti-bullying weeks

There was a very successful anti-bullying fortnight in the school recently. We had a variety of activities including, in class lessons using the anti-bullyingcampaign.ie resources, poster and slogan competitions. Well done to all of the children who took part in these. The victors were: Cion in juniors, Calvin in Seniors, Jan in First Class and Jia Jia in 2nd class. The following slogans were chosen as the best in each class and were really well thought out. ***Cyber-bullying is not cool, in fact it is cruel,*** Ben in 3rd class. ***'If you see it, stop it,'*** Ronan in 4th class. ***'Record it, report it, do not support it. Don't type it because people don't like it.'*** Scott in 5th class. ***'One mean text really affects'*** Aaron in 6th class. Well done boys!

School Self-evaluation

The School Self-evaluation process has restarted. We have decided to focus on maths as our area of development for this year. We are currently reviewing assessments and our own practises. Shortly, we will be looking for you to complete an online questionnaire around your impressions of how your son is learning maths. We would be most grateful for your cooperation. On a similar note, we have begun a new approach to teaching maths in the Infant classes called Ready, Set, Go- Maths. This is an approach to teaching pre-number skills as well as consolidating their understanding of numbers through fun activities and interactive games. We look forward to reaping the benefits of this into the future.

Parents anti-bullying workshop

Last Wednesday there was an anti-bullying workshop for Parents ran by assistant psychologists in the HSE. We had a really strong turnout which was great to see and shows the interest that parents have in this topic. By increasing the awareness of the issue, we hope to reduce its impact on our pupils.

Food Dudes

Food Dudes will be running in the school for the next 3 weeks. This is a department led programme that encourages children to eat more fruit and vegetables in their diet. Older classes will have 8 days of it while Junior Infants to 1st class will have 15 days in total. The idea is that you continue to provide fruit and vegetables to your children in the lunchboxes they receive after the programme has finished. A monitoring system will be in place in school to reward

those that continue to eat fruit and veg. It has to be noted that in general lunches are very good in the school and this is just a measure to encourage this even further.

Parking

Can I please remind you of the importance of respecting local residents when dropping and collecting your children at the front and rear of the school. Residents need to be able to leave their homes without being obstructed

Parents' Association

The Parent's Association AGM on Thursday the 18th October at 7pm. We are always looking for new people to get involved in school activities and events, even in a small way. We would be delighted to see you on the night.

Sport

Our u13 and u11 football team are in the middle of their leagues at present. As well as being a really health activity, it is great to see so many toging out in the green jersey supporting their school. Training takes place every Wednesday and many thanks to Mr Ryan and Mr Shanagher for training the teams.

Sacramental Dates

The Confirmation will take place on the 6th of April at 10.30am while the First Holy Communion is set for the 18th of May at 11am.

Sensory Room

Recently we opened a new sensory room in the school. This is a fantastic resource to have for our pupils and is used to develop one's sense through special lighting, music and objects. It is also a timeout area for children who learn to relax in a calm environment. We have many pupils who benefit from it and we are grateful to our SNA Ciara O'Dwyer for spearheading the project.



Art/Crafts Money

Sincere thanks to all who have paid their fees for the year. It is greatly appreciated and contributes to the increasing costs of trying to run a school. If you haven't paid thus far, would you please do so at your earliest convenience.

McCarthy Cup

It was a great honour to have the Liam McCarthy Cup visit the school last month. We were delighted to welcome local hurler and team member Gearóid Hegarty and Na Piarasigh's Shane Dowling who brought the cup. The excitement witnessed has been unseen in the school for many years. We thank Eamon Phelan and all the St Patrick's GAA club officials for their continued support of hurling in the school. Beautiful class photos of the event were emailed out to all parents who have provided email addresses. If you have not provided an email address to the school, please do so and we will forward these.



Enrolment

The closing date for enrolments for next September is the 16th of January 2019. Will you please ensure that forms are with the office by then. Application forms are available from Cliona in the office or on our website www.stpatricksboysns.com.

Sincerely,

Anthony Liddane, Príomhoide