



September 2013

Newsletter



During the first week back we prayed the following prayer led by Sr. Eileen Murphy our school chaplain.

Jesus said “ with what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all seeds on earth; yet when it grows up becomes the greatest of all the shrubs, and puts forth large branches, that the birds of the air can make nest in its shade”

Invitation:- School Open Night Tuesday October 8th at 7.30 pm.

A chance to meet your child’s teacher in the classroom in which they will work for the year.

There will be inputs on where your money goes; The new Self Assessment Learning Folder which your child will have this year; Reading with your child; and parents will be taught how to play a maths game with your child.

There will be a Mother’s and a Father’s nomination for the Board of Management.

We would like to see every family attend. Please try to come.

It will finish by 9.15 at the latest.

Prayer service:

A celebration will take place on **Friday October 18th** at 12.00 to mark the beginning of the school year. It will be in the church **and all parents are invited to attend.**

We will be remembering Ger White who worked in our Parents Room. Ger passed away during the summer RIP.



Staff Meetings: As part of the Croke Park Haddington Road Agreement staff will be working outside school contact time for staff meetings; planning meetings and parent teacher meetings this year.

A list of dates for these meetings are posted on the school website.

Board of Management News:

The Board of Management meet last Tuesday September 17th. It normally meets once a month. If you have an issue or concern that you would like raised contact the school secretary by phone 045 432400 or email noreen@scmj.ie and she will arrange for you to talk to the appropriate person.

Thanks is due to Niall Byrne who has served as father's rep for the past two years. As he is no longer a father in the school he has to be replaced. Paula Quinn has served as mother's representative. Because of commitments abroad she is not in a position to attend meetings. Her position is open also.

John Comerford has stepped down as the community representative after six years of sterling service as treasurer of the BOM. We will be seeking a replacement community representative.

Staff changes:

Josie Devine and Fiona O' Loughlin who have both retired are replaced by Gemma Swords and Laura Heavey in a permanent capacity. Michelle Glynn and Ciara McCormack have been approved for career breaks, while Sally Anne Kavanagh is on exchange with a school in Galway. Sarah Dillon joins the team in a temporary capacity while Siofra Dempsey; Michelle Egan; Orla Ahern; Cliodhna Byrne; and Triona Raymond are working as substitutes with us. Leonie Murphy has retired as an SNA and we have appointed Jess Curran, Trish Moorehouse and Niamh Metcalfe as Special Needs Assistants.

Enrollment:

We currently have 431 pupils on the roll. The Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn has indicated that he intends to increase the number of pupils in each class in the budget. If he does we will lose a teacher next year.

The INTO is organising a **rally in Marlborough St Dublin on Wednesday October 2nd at 4.30** to let the Minister know our concerns. We need as many parents as possible to attend the rally. If we get enough of people willing to travel a free bus can be provided. Please let us know if you can attend by sending a note to your child's teacher or calling the school. The bus will leave at 3.00 and return to the school by 6.30.



School Improvements:

Over the summer we got approval to resurface the infant yard. This is a lovely improvement to the play facilities for the children. We also undertook the painting of two classrooms, rooms 3 and 4 which is part of our annual maintenance programme to keep the school looking clean and bright for the children.

Music train: The RTE music train comes to Newbridge on Monday September 30th 2013. The children from 1st and 2nd class are going down to the Railway Road to welcome the arrival of the train and its musicians. The train arrives at 11.00 am and the children will be back to school by 12pm.



Volunteers:

The children benefit greatly from the generosity of the volunteers who work with us. Listening to children talk and read is very valuable. Helping with their artwork, giving support with computer work, being an extra pair of eyes at swimming, supporting school tours are all ways that volunteers can help. Teachers will use our new database facility to text you about this during the week. Please send your child's teacher a note to let them know if you can volunteer for any periods of time during any week or in any term. As part of our Child Protection Policy volunteers are asked to sign the 'Charter for Volunteers' which commits them to behaving appropriately. Volunteers will be given a Garda Clearance form to fill and they will be vetted during this year.

Grants:

The Department of Education and Skills make a sum of money available every year to give support to needy people in providing for their children's learning materials. If you are living on a lone parents allowance or if you are on unemployment benefit you are entitled to support from this grant.

If your family is on low income and you have more than two children at primary school you will also be considered for assistance. The levels of grant are €35 and all grants applied for to date have been approved. A grant form is available at the office or from your child's teacher. The final closing date for applications is October 3rd.

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Globe day:

The school has a policy of teaching children to help others.

Friday is Globe day. The money raised goes to help children in poorer countries. Last year we collected €196.05 for third world charities.