

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

2017

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Witches' Walk fundraiser



In these straitened economic times we are loathe to make unnecessary demands on parents. Unfortunately we do not have enough money to cover the day to day running costs of the school. We need every family and members of the wider community to help us out with this. Thank you to all parents who have returned the sponsorship cards. Our target for this fundraiser is €8,000. Everyone is invited to come to the school on Friday October 27th at 1.00pm to witness the walk. Because of the build the walk will happen in the field. Children are encouraged to bring in wellies or old shoes as the pitch may be wet. It is not necessary for parents to be spending money on outfits. The children will be making headgear and masks as part of their art classes.



Volunteers

We have had a generous response in the junior classes to our requests for volunteers this year. Each parent is encouraged to volunteer in some capacity or another. Please send a note to your child's class teacher if you can volunteer. Give some idea what time would suit you.

Ms. Prendiville will contact you to arrange an activity. All volunteers are being asked to sign the volunteer charter at the beginning of their work. This commits people to being Garda Vetted.

More men! We hope to have more men involved in the volunteer program this year. Research is showing that children need the experience of positive male role models and benefit from it.



Appointments

Now that things are settled down, teachers and children are trying get on with the work in class. Too many interruptions do not help this work. Children should be dropped at their classroom door and should go into the class themselves. If you have a matter worrying you about your child, please write a note to seek an appointment. This helps the teacher to plan so that class work is not interrupted.

AGM outcomes

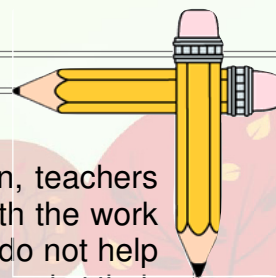
188 parents attended a meeting with their child's teacher on October 3rd 2017. This equals a 46% attendance, an increase of 10% on last year when 128 parents attended equalling 36% of parents attending.

A smaller number attended the AGM at which the focus was Healthy Eating and the hidden sugars in food.

The importance of exercise and being active was also highlighted. Thanks to each parent who took the trouble to attend. We are grateful to all of those who attended or who sent apologies for being unable to attend.

We encourage those families who did not attend to make a note to attend next year's meeting.

Copies of the Chairperson's Report, the Principal's Report and the Treasurer's Report can be viewed on our website www.scmj.ie under School News.



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Security in the school

In the interest of security we ask parents to bring the children to the outside doors of their classrooms. We are appealing that parents do not walk through the school building.

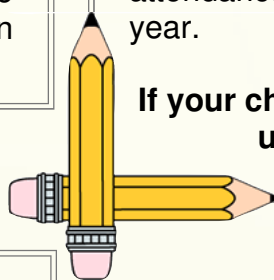
Too much traffic through the building will only help a stranger to go through unnoticed.

Parents doing this on a regular basis are not being fair to other parents and children as they pose a security risk.

School attendance

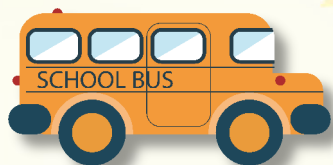
It is now a legal requirement that parents send a note to school explaining their child's absence. Research is showing that there is a link between the levels of attendance of pupils in school and their success or failure in school. If children are missing school their right to an education is being denied. We will be acknowledging the children who had full attendances last year during assemblies this year.

If your child is absent or late please send us a note explaining why.



School closures

School will close on **Friday October 27th** at normal times and reopen on **Monday November 6th**.



Headlice

We have been advised that some children have headlice. Please be vigilant by checking the children's hair on Day 1,5,9 and 14. We will run our letter campaign after the November break.

Traffic monitoring scheme

Concern about the safety of the children at drop off and collection time took up a lot of both Principal's time over the last month.

Please do not park in the bus car park.

Parking here poses a danger to those children as they walk to and from school.

Collection of children

It is school policy that children in the infants class be collected by an adult.

It is important to let us know if you are delayed or change the collection arrangements for your child.

