



Scoil Mhuire na nGael
August Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents,

Our summer holidays are drawing to a close and our thoughts are turning to uniforms, lunches & homework!!!

Returning to School: School will reopen on Thursday 30th August for all classes. Tony our caretaker will open the front gates at 8:35am. Pupils from senior infants –6th classes will be supervised by staff in the junior playground. Our junior infant pupils go directly to their classrooms until further notice.

The B.O.M. does not accept liability for children on the school premises before 8:35am or after 2:30pm unless they are partaking in a supervised after school activity.

Nut Free School: As we have a number of children attending the school who have nut allergies the school is a nut free zone. Nuts or foods containing nuts are not allowed in the school. This includes Nutella, Kinder Bueno bars and cereal bars.

Healthy Eating: We also encourage healthy eating in our school. Your child should have sandwiches or crackers for lunch daily. **Crisps, yoghurt, raisins and popcorn are not allowed as spillages of these items cause hygiene issues.** All our carpets have been professionally deep cleaned over the summer and we wish to maintain them as best we can over the coming year.

Book Lists: Please ensure your child has all his/her books upon return to school. All class booklists can be accessed on our school website www.bayestatens.com

School Expenses: Thank you to all who have paid the school expenses to date. Please be mindful that the final dates for payment of milk & pupil personal accident insurance are as follows: • Milk - Friday 7th September • Pupil Personal Accident Insurance - Friday 21st September **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** We would appreciate if all other payments were made by Friday 28th September.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance: While participation in this scheme is optional, the B.O.M. strongly recommends that all children avail of this 24 hour/365 day insurance cover. Many families benefitted from inclusion in the scheme in recent years and were in a position to recoup the €100 A&E charge.

School Uniforms: Your child should wear his/her school uniform daily. The class teacher will advise the children about their "P.E. Day" when children may wear the school tracksuit. Please ensure school jumpers, tracksuit tops and coats are clearly labelled with your child's name so they can be returned to their rightful owners if your child mislays same. Thank you to the parents who donated school jumpers and tracksuits to the school.

Contact Details: It is imperative that we have the correct address & contact number/s for your child. If you have changed contact details over the summer holidays please inform the office of same.

Travelling to School: As you are all aware there is considerable traffic outside the school at peak school times (8:30am – 9am, 1:20pm – 1:40pm & 2:20pm – 2:45pm). To help alleviate the congestion we ask that all motorists adhere to a voluntary one way system at these times. We ask that you approach the school from the Avenue Road direction and proceed past the school via Willowdale. Please drive slowly and be mindful of children crossing the road. The safety of our children is paramount. Parents are not permitted to drive into the carpark without special permission.

Respect for Local Residents: Once again we ask that you have consideration for local residents when you park outside the school. Please do not block driveways or double park preventing the free flow of traffic through the estate.

After School Activities: You have already received details of our after school activities by e mail. Please contact the tutor directly if you wish to enrol your child in any of these classes. Bookings cannot be made through the class teacher or the school office.

Art Competitions: Our pupils have a great record of success in local & national competitions. Each year we set up a new database of children who are interested in entering art competitions. Many children have already signed up for competitions this year. Is your child a budding artist? If you would like to receive competition details please forward your child's name & class level to me at principalsmg@gmail.com. I will e-mail all competition details to you, and your child can complete their entry at home and return to me for inclusion in these competitions.

Clothing Collection: Our senior classes are looking forward to a trip to Slieve Gullion Adventure Playground/ Rampark Playground in the coming weeks. These trips will be funded from the proceeds of our June clothing collection. We will have another clothing collection in late September/early October. Please keep all unwanted items (clothes, towels, bed clothes (no duvets), shoes, handbags etc.) for us. Clothing bags will issue nearer to the time but as always all bags are acceptable.

Intergenerational Project: Ms. Sloane's 5th class will visit the elderly in St. Oliver's Community Hospital as part of our school's intergenerational project this year. They will visit the hospital every 3 weeks and organise a range of activities for the older people. If you have any unwanted gifts at home (ladies & gents' toiletries, purses, wallets, pictures, scarves etc.) which we may use as birthday presents/Christmas presents or prizes at bingo/table quizzes please send them to me. I would be delighted to receive same.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back at school on Thursday 30th August.

Enjoy the last few days of the holidays!!

Kind Regards,

Martina Rafferty
Principal