



Scoil Mhuire na nGael September 2019

Dear Parents,

Our summer holidays are merely a distant memory and staff and pupils have now settled back into our school routines.

School Expenses

Thank you to all parents who have paid our school expenses so promptly. If you have difficulty in paying our school charges please contact me (principalsmg@gmail.com) or by phone (087-1619333) and we can set up a meeting to discuss same. This matter will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Lunches

Please ensure your child brings a healthy lunch to school each day. We ask that all children have sandwiches/crackers as part of their lunch.

As some of our children have severe food allergies our school is a **NUT FREE ZONE** and foods such as **Nutella, Kinder Bueno bars, chocolate spread and foods containing nuts are not allowed in our school. The following foods are NOT PERMITTED in our school – fizzy drinks, crisps, popcorn, yogurts, raisins, sticky chocolate bars or fruit winders.**

“Drop & Go”

I thank parents for their co-operation with our ‘Drop & Go’ routine in the school yard in the mornings. Our junior infants have been wonderful. They have become very independent too and they say ‘goodbye’ to their parents at the emergency door as they head off into the hall in the mornings. We are very proud of them!

Attendance

The school is obliged to communicate with The Child & Family Agency (Tusla) with regard to pupils’ attendance at school. On our annual returns last June I noted that a number of children had significant absences over the course of the year. I appreciate that many children were absent due to illness but I remind parents that the school is obliged to report all absences in excess of 20 days to Tusla. You will receive an automated courtesy text from the school advising if your child has missed 15/20/25 days from school. Parents of pupils in 1st-6th classes must advise the class teacher in writing of the reason for your child’s absence – templates for recording absences are available in the back of your child’s homework notebook.

Punctuality

Regrettably there is still a small cohort of pupils arriving late for school on a consistent basis. While I appreciate that occasionally a parent may get delayed, it appears that some children are habitually late. This is unfair on the child and it is also disruptive for the class and the class teacher. **Children who arrive after 9am must enter the school via reception and sign the Late Arrivals book.** Our teachers also record late arrivals on our Aladdin database and this will be noted on your child’s end of year report. We will monitor all children’s attendance and punctuality throughout the year and parents will be contacted if these become a concern for us.

Appointments with Class Teachers

Our parent teacher meetings will take place on Wednesday November 20th (2.30pm – 4.30pm) and on Thursday 21st November (2.45 pm – 5.15pm). However, should you wish to meet the class teacher at any other time please contact the school office and we will arrange a suitable appointment for you. Our teachers are always happy to speak to you about your child’s progress or to address your concerns, but appointments must be made for such meetings in advance. This allows us arrange supervision cover for the class and the class teacher can be prepared for the meeting.

Clothing Collection

Our next clothing collection takes place on Wednesday 2nd October. As this is our main source of fundraising in the school I earnestly ask that **every family** support this initiative. Take time to clear out your wardrobes and fill your clothing bags with unwanted clothes, shoes, belts, curtains, bed clothes (no duvets or pillows accepted). The proceeds from our clothing collection and annual Sportathon are used to provide free activities for the children and resources for our school. Our senior infants to sixth class pupils recently enjoyed a free trip to Rampark/Slieve Gullion playgrounds. Our 3rd – 6th classes attended free online safety workshops and we hosted an Information Evening for parents. All classes will enjoy a science workshop with Scientific Sue on Friday 11th October and all classes will attend Jazzercise classes (5 weeks) during the course of this school year.

The more money we raise in our clothing collections, the more opportunities we can offer your child. As one supermarket chains says “Every little helps”!.

Intergenerational Project

Ms. C. Rafferty’s 5th class paid their first visit to St. Oliver’s Community Hospital on Monday morning. Thank you to the parent volunteers who accompanied us on our visit. Check out our photos on www.bayestatens.com We are very grateful to the Dundalk Society for Older Persons and for Underprivileged Children who are the main sponsors of our project.

Achievements

We started the year off with great success. Congratulations to Veronika Bogdanova, Terina Kelly and Sineida Lambergá who were all winners in the Louth County Council Safe Cycling poster competition. The girls received prize vouchers and RSA goodies from Adrian O’Sullivan, Road Safety Officer, Louth County Council at a presentation in the school last week. Thank you to Dundalk Sports Partnership, Dundalk Library & Louth County Council who sponsored the prizes for our students.

Book Fair

I have received many enquiries from parents about our book fair. We will also host an Evening Book Fair for parents on Tuesday 12th November and our infants - 4th classes will visit the Book Fair on Wednesday 13th November – Friday 15th November. Once again we will offer exceptional value with almost all books just €2 each. Get your Christmas shopping off to a great start and pick up new, quality books by Julia Donaldson, Michael Morpurgo, Roald Dahlfor just €2!! We will have Harry Potter and David Walliams books on offer for just €4.

School Garden

Our school garden and outdoor classroom was completed over the summer holidays. We look forward to planting bulbs in our raised beds in the coming weeks and hopefully we will have a blaze of colour in the Spring.

Dundalk F.C.

Congratulations to Dundalk F.C. who are the SSE Airtricity Premier Division winners I know we have many loyal supporters among our staff, parents and pupils. We wish the team continued success as they play in the FAI Cup semi-final against Sligo Rovers on Sunday. We hope that the team will visit us in the future with all their silverware. C’mon the town!!!

Kind Regards,
Martina Rafferty.