

We wish to welcome back all our pupils and their parents and, in particular, those who are starting in our school for the first time this year. We hope you enjoyed your summer and that we can look forward to a happy and fruitful year.

Newsletters will issue every two to three weeks and will contain important information such as dates for events and activities in the school as well as details of what has been happening.



We remind you that a full uniform should be worn every day and that the school tracksuit be worn on PE days. *Dark-coloured (black or navy) shoes or runners should be worn with both uniform and tracksuit.*

Staff Changes

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Reilly who has joined the staff as a Resource Teacher this year. We would also like to welcome Linda Garrigan and Teresa Hendrick who have also joined us in Special Needs Assistant positions. We hope they will be very happy in our school.

NEWB Reports

Under the National Education Welfare Act schools must make returns each quarter for all pupils who have been absent from school for 20 days or more. The National Education Welfare Board must be notified regardless of the reason for the absence.



If your child is absent it is not necessary to telephone the school. However, it is necessary to send a written explanation to his teacher explaining the absence on his return. This is an Education Welfare Act requirement.

(Please Note – a verbal message is not sufficient and in such a case, a child's absence must be recorded as “unexplained”, until the written explanation is received by his class teacher).

School Immunisation and Screening Programmes

The HSE have notified us that they intend to carry out the following programmes this year:-

- Booster of 4/1 (Diphthera/acellular pertussis/tetanus/polio) to all Junior Infant pupils.
- MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella) to all Junior Infant pupils.
- Vision screening for Junior Infants and Fifth Class.

Further details will be notified to parents of these classes when they are made available to us.

School Times

Please remember that the school day *commences at 9.20 a.m.* Children should be brought to school as close as possible to this time. While there is frequently supervision from 9.10 a.m. the Board of Management cannot take responsibility for the safety of pupils before school starting time at 9.20 a.m.



We particularly ask that pupils do not arrive late for school and this is a good time of the year to establish and emphasise good habits with them.

As part of a healthy lifestyle, we strongly encourage all children to *walk to school*. (Park & stride and cycling are also strongly recommended).

On *wet mornings the shelter* will provide cover for pupils until we open the P.E. Hall when supervision becomes available after 9.10a.m. Entry will be **ONLY** through the door at the shelter on these wet mornings.



Note: With so many pupils to accommodate, we cannot allow adults to accompany the boys into the hall as there is simply not enough room!

School Security Procedures

Last year the Board of Management improved safety and security in the school by installing a secure entry access system. The next phase of this safety programme will be implemented from Monday 1st September as follows:

- All visitor entry to the school must be through the Main Entrance via reception.
- Any person having official/approved business in the school will be required to sign-in and will receive a Visitor ID.
- If any member of staff encounters an adult/visitor without the required Visitor I.D. he/she will be requested to go immediately to the Reception Office and to sign-in.
- Children arriving late, being collected for/returning from medical appointments, etc. will be administered via the office. The adult collecting will be required to wait at the seating area in the entrance foyer.
- If anyone seeks to enter via another door perhaps where a class is entering, they will be refused entry and be asked to go through the main entrance.

These new measures will greatly improve the security and safety of pupils and staff as well as reducing interruptions to class teaching. We look forward to your co-operation and support in their smooth implementation.

(Note – It will be important that children arrive to school on time and enter in the line with their classmates).

Bus Safety



If your son travels to/from school by bus, please talk to him about the need for top class behaviour on the bus. The alternative is... having to walk!!

Holidays during School Term

We remind parents that withdrawing children from school for holidays during term time is strongly discouraged and we encourage families to plan holidays around school breaks.

Please Note: In the event of a pupil being withdrawn during term, teachers should not be asked to prescribe work for the period. Parents may wish to make their own arrangements to obtain the homework through other children in the class, on an ongoing basis, during the absence.

Resource Books

If, by any chance you find labelled supplemental readers at home, could you please return them for attention Ms. O'Connor. Many thanks.

Free English Language Classes

Where: Salesian College, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.
When: Each Tuesday from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Commencing: Tuesday 10th September, 2014

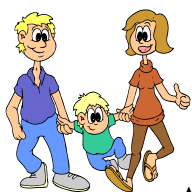
For further information telephone Tony Field (087) 2418168 email tfield99@gmail.com or visit www.thirdageireland.ie

Can you help?

Do you have any Lego, Wooden Blocks, Meccano, K-Nex, Polydron, Stickle Bricks or 3D Construction Toys which your son has finished with?
If you do we would be delighted to take them off your hands.



We would also greatly appreciate donations of jigsaws (up to 50 pieces, complete sets only), chess, snakes and ladders and scrabble. All of these construction toys, jigsaws will be used in the Infant Classes, while board games are used as lunchtime “Wet Day” games throughout the school. Thank you.



Morning Lines

The Junior Yard is designated as a children only area in the morning before school.

This allows space for the children to play and assemble and to line up safely when the bell goes, while at the same time giving a clear line of vision to the school staff who are supervising them.

Adults accompanying children to the school are asked to remain on the senior yard (i.e. the far side of the white line).

Your co-cooperation and continuing support in successfully implementing this child friendly routine is appreciated.

Dogs



“Dogs are a man’s (boy’s) best friend!” However true this may be, unfortunately, the school playground is not the best place to bring a dog. While most of the children love to see them and most are extremely friendly, there is always a chance that excited or exuberant children may frighten a dog with undesirable consequences. We have to err on the side of caution, so we must ask that ***dogs are not brought onto the playground.*** (If you do take the opportunity to bring the family pet for his ‘constitutional’, perhaps you might tie him securely at the extremities of the premises.) Naturally, guide or assist dogs are exempt.

Sick Children

If your child is unwell, please do not send them in to school, they will not be up to the usual school day activities. Under Child Protection and Health and Safety guidelines we cannot oblige requests to allow pupils stay in the building during the breaks. In particular, as all staff are either having their lunch or supervising on the playground, there is no supervision available.

Parents’ Association

On behalf of all the parents, the PTA would like to thank the Book Rental committee and volunteers for their continued work in providing books for the pupils in the school again this year. The cost savings have been greatly appreciated by all the parents of the school.

A big Thank You to all the parents and school staff involved.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Morning Club

Morning club will resume on Monday 1st September, 2014. This is a supervised facility available from 8.00 a.m. onwards. Children are welcome to participate in play, reading, drawing and other games and activities. There is a small fee – weekly rates, daily rates and reduced rates for multiple members in a family are all available. New children welcome. If you are interested, please contact Ms. McMahon (4th Class) or Ms. Dunning (Senior Infants).

After School Club 2-3 p.m.



The facility for pupils from Junior and Senior Infants to remain at the school from 2-3 p.m. continues this year. Children can be booked in to Jen’s Den by term, by week or on a casual day to day basis. Costs are: daily rate €5.00. If you would like more information or would like to book a place please contact Jennifer Kelly on (086) 3854958. *Fully insured, Garda clearance and member of the I.P.P.A.*

[Note: While Junior Infants are on the ‘short’ day, until Friday 12th September, this service will be available from 12.15pm]

After School Club 3-6 p.m.

This new facility is available for primary school children of all ages – Junior Infants to 6th class. “The After School” is open from Monday to Friday and children can be booked in daily, per week or by term. Rates or further information available from Lisa Coonan on (087) 8557478. *Fully insured, Garda clearance and member of the I.P.P.A.*

Healthy Eating Policy

We encourage children to eat a nutritious lunch. Crisps, chewing gum and glass bottles are not permitted. As part of this policy school milk is available. Money is collected at the beginning of each school year and milk is supplied to children at lunchtime.

"Junk Food" is discouraged. A treat may be included with Friday lunch.

Peanut Allergy



There are a number of children through the school who are allergic to peanuts. If they are exposed, or come into close proximity to peanuts or peanut products, the consequence can be very serious and even life threatening. Consequently the Board of Management has banned all peanuts and peanut products from the school. We ask you to be particularly vigilant in avoiding these products in your son's lunch.

Pupil Belongings

We would like to remind you of the importance of labelling your child's belongings, items of clothing in particular. Unmarked coats, jumpers, tracksuits, etc., can be very difficult, (if not impossible), to locate and return to its owner.

Note: Iron-on name tags have proven to be a very popular solution. The school does not recommend any provider in particular, but the following companies provide this service:



mynametags.ie
namelabels.ie
mystuff.ie

Dalkey, Co. Dublin.
Naas, Co. Kildare.
Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.

Roll Call

The rolls are called in each classroom at 9.45am. The numbers are then collected centrally and entered into the school's book. This is a DES requirement. Once a pupil is marked absent, the Roll Book cannot be changed. Therefore a pupil who arrives late cannot have his attendance record amended.

Note: If you son has a planned appointment, such as a medical/dental appointment in the morning and will be coming to school afterwards, please notify the teacher in writing, in advance, and his attendance can be recorded.

Board of Management Report

The current members of the Board of Management are:-

Mr. Tom Ashe	Chairperson
Fr. Liam Rigney	Patron's Nominee
Mr. Peter Coakley	Principal
Mr. Cathal Fenton	Teachers' Nominee
Mr. Aidan O'Hora	Parents' Nominee
Ms. Hilary Qualter	Parents' Nominee
Ms. Susan O'Regan	Community Representative
Mr. Senan Griffin	Community Representative

Safe Parking Initiative

There has been increasing concern regarding the increasing unsafe and illegal parking around the lay-by/drop off area to the front of the school. There has been an alarming decrease to safety of pupils, pedestrians and motorists due to the thoughtless, selfish and downright dangerous behaviour of a very small number of individuals.

Currently we have:

- Disabled parking spaces (absolutely necessary for particular families)
- A bus bay essential for safe access to the children travelling by bus
- Emergency Services Access points (gates) which should never be blocked

Reckless parking:

- *Prevents users getting in and out of the Disabled Parking Spaces*
- *Prevents the buses from parking in the Bus Bay*
- *Blocks the Emergency Service Access routes to the school (recently during a Fire Drill both gates were blocked by parked cars!)*
- *Causes a danger to children and adults outside the school*

We ask that all motorists collecting children from the school, observe fully the rules of the road. We particularly highlight the following in relation to the lay-by area:

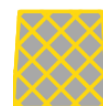
Double Yellow Lines – no parking

Yellow Boxes – No parking in these areas (They are necessary for Emergency Services Access Routes and also to allow buses to turn safely onto the Moyglare Road.)

Disabled Parking Spaces – you must have a disabled parking badge to use these. These spaces outside the school are intended for the use of parents (disabled badge holders) who are picking up children from this school.

Bus Bay – no parking from 8.30am – 9.30am
and 1.30pm – 4.30pm

School Gates – should NEVER be blocked. These are the Emergency Services access routes.



Letters from the School

We regularly receive requests for letters confirming attendance at the school. As the office can be extremely busy, we require **a week's notice** for such requests.

Milk

We have just received details of this year's milk scheme. The cost for the entire year will be €38.00. Application form is listed below. Please send this back as soon as possible, preferably by Friday 5th, but no later than Monday 8th September.



Child's Name _____ Class _____

Class Teacher's Name _____

I wish my son to participate in the school milk programme and enclose the sum of **€38.00**.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____