

Newsletter – September 2023

St. Mary's C.B.S

Scoil Mhuire na mBráithre

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NUAHTLITIR – MEAN FOMHAR 2023

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2023

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A thuismitheoirí, a chaomhnóirí, a chairde,

A warm welcome back to everyone. We hope that your child is settling back into a routine after the summer holidays and we look forward to working with you during the coming year. We extend a special welcome to our new students, in particular to the new first class and their families and our new enrolments in Cherry Blossom ASD Preschool. We hope they enjoy their time with us here. Welcome to Ms Aoife Hickey who has joined the staff this year and is working in Learning Support. We are also looking forward to resuming all our usual school activities over the coming weeks and will be in contact with more information in due course. Tús maith leath na hoibre!

Aladdin App

Our school is using the Aladdin Connect App. This year we should see the full benefits of the app. For the moment it is important that everyone has downloaded the app and please ensure notifications on your phone are turned on. Important information such as the newsletter and other correspondence with home will gradually move to the app and away from text and email.

Cleaning

Special mention to Lucy, Eileen, Wiktor and Pat for all their hard work during the summer months to clean and tidy the school. The school looked so well when everyone returned last week

School Accounts

Aladdin Epayments is a brilliant feature of the app which is now available to the school. While it is still possible to pay using cash in the office, this Aladdin EPayments on the app is a much more convenient. Reminder emails will be circulated over time. The Book rental fees vary from class to class. Insurance is €9, Swimming is €20. The fee for Art and Craft/photocopying for this school year is €40 per

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child/ €50 per family. Parents who wish to pay in instalments should be able to do so on the Aladdin App.

School Times

Class starts officially each day at 9.00am. All children should be in school and ready to begin work by that time. Please be aware that school insurance only covers children on the premises from 8:50a.m, the time which the gates open. If your child arrives at school after 9:00, please enter via the front door beside the office and sign in at the office. School finishes each day at 2.40 except for first class on Friday who finish at 12.45

Football Training

It is hoped that Brian White, football coach, will visit the school each Friday. All boys will get to play football with some classes doing football on a Thursday. Please ensure boys have mouthguard with them in school for football. Mr Leahy will be visiting 3rd to 6th classes over the coming week to gauge interest in after school training.

Mass

The boys from the school will attend mass next Friday, 15th September to celebrate the start of the new school year.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Application Form 2023/2024

Allianz personal Pupil Accident insurance is being promoted in St. Mary's CBS this year. All are encouraged to sign up Anyone who wishes to join the policy should pay the €9 on the school EPayments link. Pupils may also pay the €9 in cash to the office. Full details on the scheme is available from the school office.

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Absences

If your child is absent from school please let us know via Aladdin Connect. It is extremely important to keep the school informed of reasons for absence

School Savings scheme

The school savings scheme, in association with our local Post Office, will run again this year. The minimum amount which can be lodged each week is €1. Withdrawals can be made three times a year – just before Christmas, Easter and Summer. Pupils are issued with a savings books and lodgements are taken on Mondays only. This scheme is totally optional.

Eadaí Scoile/School Uniform

Full school uniform should be worn at all times except on the day when a child has Physical Education for which PE uniform is worn. These days may change throughout the year.

Please, please, please ensure that your child's belongings, especially jumpers and coats, are clearly marked with your child's name. If your child inadvertently brings home the wrong jumper please return it to school.

If anyone has old uniforms they wish to donate to the school, we would be most grateful.

Healthy Lunches

As part of our Healthy Eating Policy we encourage pupils to develop healthy eating habits for life. You are asked not to bring the following to school:

- Chewing gum

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- Fizzy drinks in cans, etc.
- Any drinks in glass bottles
- Any type of crisps
- Cereal bars/Chocolate/Sugary snacks
- Peanut butter
- Nuts and nut products including Nutella, because of nut allergies of our pupils

We have drinking water available in all of the classrooms. Please use a reusable water bottle. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Reminders: Nut Allergy

As some children have severe allergies to nuts we ask children not to bring them as part of their lunch. Thank you for your cooperation.

Boil Water Notices

Currently, boil water notices can be issued at a moment's notice. As a precaution we ask that each child brings their own water to drink in a reusable bottle until the matter is resolved fully. Thank you for your cooperation.

Administration of medication

If your child needs administration of essential medication during the school day e.g. epipen, insulin, inhalers etc please inform the school. The principal will ask you to complete the relevant appendix on the Administration of Medicine Policy and return it to the school.

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Parent Teacher meetings

Our Parent teacher meetings will be held on the week commencing November 27th. Details on how to book meetings through the Aladdin Connect App will be available nearer the time.

Secondary School Open Nights – Over the coming months information on Secondary schools' Open Nights etc will be shared with us and the boys in school. Parents of 6th class boys should be thinking about the options for secondary school

Jewellery - Due to health and safety reasons children may not wear rings or earrings. Children who wear them will be asked to remove them and parents can collect them from their class teacher at the end of the day.

Code of Behaviour – The school policy on behaviour places a big onus on the children to take responsibility for their own actions. We have asked the boys that “If somebody does something to upset, anger or hurt you, then you must make this known to a member of staff.” We would ask all parents to remind their children to do this also. Any boys who are disrespectful or deliberately ignore instructions of staff members will be sent to detention. We expect full support of all parents in the school's efforts to create a happy and safe learning environment. We have been focusing in a particular way on boys remaining quiet in their lines and in the corridors. It is having a huge impact in that boys are now entering school much calmer and ready for their classwork. It is also allowing them time to reflect. Recent scientific research suggests that even short periods of quiet time can lead to increased sleep, happiness, and self-confidence, as well as improved academic performance.

Busy Bees After School and Breakfast Club

We are delighted to continue to have Busy Bees in St Mary's.

They offer an Afterschool service each day until 6.15pm. All information available from our school website

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PE Timetable

1st Class – Ms Peters – Wednesday, Friday

1st Class – Mr Grace – Tuesday, Friday

2nd Class – Ms Powell – Tuesday, Friday

2nd Class – Mr Power – Tuesday, Friday

3rd Class – Ms Healy – Tuesday, Friday

4th Class – Mr Leahy - Monday, Thursday

5th Class – Ms Stewart – Monday, Friday

5th/6th Class – Ms Traas – Monday, Friday

6th Class – Mr Morris – Monday, Thursday

Swimming

Each class will attend a swimming block in Clonmel Swimming Pool. The cost of the swimming lessons, €20, can be paid through Aladdin EPayments. There will be three different groups

Swimming Group 1 starting Wed 6th Sept at 10.50 – 6th (Mr Morris), 4th (Mr Leahy), 2nd (Ms Powell)

Swimming Group 2 starting Wed 25th Oct at 10.50 – 5th/6th (Ms Traas), 3rd (Ms Healy), 1st (Mr Grace)

Swimming Group 3 starting Mon 6th Nov at 11.45 – 5th (Ms Stewart), 2nd (Mr Power), 1st (Ms Peters)

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School Calendar 2023/2024

School will open on: Wednesday 30th August 2023

Mid-Term Break: Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November 2023

Christmas holidays: Closing on Fri 22nd December 2023 at 12.00

Re-opening on Monday 8th January 2024

February Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 5th February 2024

Mid-Term Break: Closed Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February

St. Patrick's Day: Monday 18th March 2024

Easter Holidays: Closing on Friday 22nd March 2024 at 12.00 noon

Re-opening on Monday 8th April 2024

May Bank holiday: Closed Monday 6th May 2024

June Bank holiday: Closed Monday 3rd June 2024

Summer Holidays: Closing Friday 21st June 2024 at 12.00 noon

In the event that there are unexpected prolonged closures during the school year e.g. due to weather these dates may be adjusted.