

St. Aidan's N.S. Newsletter 1 2019/2020



Welcome to a new School Year

As this is the first newsletter of the 2019/2020 School Year I would like to extend a warm welcome to pupils, staff, parents, Board of Management, Parents Association and all involved in our school. We look forward to a great year ahead for everyone and wish that we all enjoy good health and happiness both in school and out.

Notice of my Retirement

I have notified the Board of Management of my intention to retire in December. In October, I will celebrate 40 years of service in my teaching career, 37 of which have been in Kiltimagh. It has been a truly enjoyable and rewarding career and has afforded me many great opportunities as a Classroom Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Special Duties Post Holder, Deputy Principal and now Principal. I would like to acknowledge the huge honour it is to spend the last 4 and a half years of my career as Principal of St. Aidan's. I extend my sincere thanks to the whole school community – staff, Board of Management and you the Parent Body, for supporting me as I carry out the many different duties attaching to the role. While I look forward to enjoying my retirement, I am in no doubt that I will miss the routines of my working life. *Anne Cunnane*

Junior Infants

A total of 31 new Junior Infants started school on August 29th. They have settled in very quickly and have been so busy in their first 3 weeks learning rhymes and songs as well as doing lots of pre-reading, pre-writing and pre-number activities. The Principal has been invited to visit the Junior Infant room on a number of occasions to hear and see the various activities.

Sympathy

We offer our sincere condolences to the extended Byrne family on the passing of Gretta, mother of Tadhg, 6th Class on August 1st
May she rest in peace.

Book Bills and Insurance Forms

Sincere thanks for the prompt payment of book bills in the last week. We would encourage outstanding payments to be made before month end please as our suppliers have to be paid.

PLEASE RETURN all Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Application Forms 19/20 by Friday, Sept 27th. Thank you

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The wearing of the proper school uniform is school policy and all pupils and parents are expected to co-operate.

All pupils must wear their full school uniform to school each day and their school tracksuit should be worn on PE days.

Please note: Logoed sportswear and tops other than the crested sweatshirts are not acceptable.



SAFETY, SECURITY and CHILD PROTECTION

We are continuing to take measures to improve the **Safety and Security** of the whole school community.

All changes are as a result of recommendations made to ensure Child Protection and Safety in the school.

- The Safety Barrier on the avenue has been widely acknowledged as a positive safety measure. *Line markings will be added shortly and cones will be removed*
- The buzzer system in place on the front door to monitor visitors to the school daily is now well established and working well
 - Access to the school building in the morning- Adults may access the building during a period of 15 mins approx from 8:50am to 9:05am after which the doors will be locked. You are encouraged to inform the secretary if the purpose of your visit is to arrange a meeting with a staff member
 - All access after this time will be via the main entrance when visitors will request access via a buzzer/intercom panel located on the wall to the right of the front door. This buzzer is linked to the Secretary's Office.
 - **Pupils who arrive late must also use the front door.**
 - **Pupils who arrive late or leave early must be signed in/signed out** by the parent/guardian accompanying them. The Record Book is located at the window of the Secretary's Office.

All vehicles entering the school grounds

- **PLEASE NOTE** The Speed Limit is 15 kilometers per hour on the avenue
- The **RESERVED PARKING** is **STRICTLY** for use by those with prior permission.
- There has been a very significant reduction to the number of cars driving into the school grounds. We appreciate your co-operation with encouraging older pupils to walk up from the gate.

New safety measure from Monday next, Sept 23rd.

Pupils who have left the school grounds and have forgotten items of clothing or books etc **will not be allowed back into the building after 3pm** to pick up these items from classrooms. **It is ok to return between 2:40pm and 3pm.**

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See www.kiltimaghns.ie for all other news

Pupil Illness and Medication Reminder

If your child requires medication during school hours, you are required to write to the BOM and you must sign a disclaimer form indemnifying the school of any responsibility. A child who is unable to administer his/her own medication should have the medication administered by a parent.

NUT ALLERGY ALERT

Please note that pupils should avoid bringing nut based foods to school for break/lunchtime

There are a number of pupils in the school with nut allergies and nut based foods can trigger serious allergic reactions for these pupils which could have serious complications.

School Self Evaluation

As part of our continued **School Self Evaluation**, and following comprehensive staff discussion, we are currently targeting **Oral Irish** as our focus area. The survey sent home to all households towards the end of last term regarding spoken Irish has been very informative. **Our sincere thanks to all those who took the time to return these completed forms - your support in our efforts to enhance your child's learning experience is greatly appreciated.**

The results have been analysed and from those results we have recorded the following data.

- 62% of parents felt it was important for children to learn Irish in school.
- 42% of parents had difficulty helping their child with Irish homework.
- 10% spoke Irish informally at home.
- 68% of parents would find a chart of simple Irish phrases useful to have at home.

With this in mind we will be sending home a chart containing everyday phrases that may be used by both parents and children at home in the hope of reinforcing, continuing and developing your child's learning at home. Your help and co-operation in this endeavour would be of great help to all concerned.

Ms Vivienne Lee is co-ordinating this process in the school. Thank you Vivienne.

Cross-Country

4 teams (2 x boys and 2 x girls) represented St. Aidan's at the Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Championships in Swinford, on Thursday September 19th. They competed in glorious sunshine with teams from all over East Mayo for places at Stage 2.

Well done to all the pupils and sincere thanks to Mr Donnellan for organising the school's participation!

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Team on an outstanding performance - Liam Smyth, Mikey Kearney, Cillian Walsh, Riain Freeman, Cathal McNicholas and Brendan Duma. The team was placed 2nd overall and will be competing again at Belleek in Ballina on Thurs. Sept 26th.

Congrats also to Tom Smyth and Ava Mitchell 4th Class who have also made it through to the Mayo Trials.

Start of year School Mass

Due to the heating system upgrade in the church at the minute we do not have a date for our New Year School Mass as of yet.

Please Note: Communion Date for 2nd Class - May 9th, 2020



Healthy Eating

We have a **HEALTHY LUNCH POLICY** here in St. Aidan's N.S. We encourage our pupils to eat healthily and to be mindful of what they bring in for break and lunch.

The **'How Much Sugar is in your Lunchbox?'** display board on the corridor makes for very interesting, yet concerning reading.

The traditional packed lunch has been under attack for quite a while from a range of convenience foods. Parents and teachers are concerned about this trend but some find it difficult to come up with popular healthy alternatives.

We ask you to encourage a healthy lunch right from the start. Also, please, only give your child something you feel he/she can easily manage to eat.



Lots of information and tips are available on the

Safefood website www.safefood.eu

Annual Sponsored Walk

**will take place
on Sunday, October 13th**

Details and Sponsorship Cards will be available early October. This is a long established and successful fundraiser for the school each year. Your support is very important to us.

USED CLOTHES COLLECTION in aid of St. Aidan's

**Starts again on Oct. 1st -
runs until end of November**

We appreciate your efforts to help us raise money for our school. Tell your family and friends too! Bags can be left at the school any time in the 2 months.

Assembly and Dismissal

I would like to draw your attention once again to the following

The school doors open at 8.50 am and parents/guardians are requested not to bring/send pupils to school before this time as they are not covered by the school's insurance.

It is very concerning that an increasing number of pupils are on the school grounds from 8.25am onwards having walked to school or been dropped off by parents/guardians. **We cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children at this time.**

It should also be noted that schools are not party to the School Transport System and the fact that pupils are conveyed to or from school by bus does not impose any additional obligations on the school or teachers.