



St. Aidan's N.S. Newsletter 2 - October/November 2019

SAFETY, SECURITY and CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE

Health and Safety: To quote from the HSA, Health and Safety Guidelines'- The Board of Management is responsible for managing safety, health and welfare in the school. All members of the school community, including teachers, SNA's, pupils, parents and visitors have a role to play in securing their own safety, health and welfare and that of others'.

In an effort to maximise pupil safety at assembly and dismissal times it was necessary to take measures around traffic management at the school

The new traffic arrangements on the school grounds came into effect on April 1st. With these came some new arrangements around the assembly and dismissal of pupils.

The targets set have now been achieved and we are satisfied pupil safety is secure.

At all times, the parent body was made aware of what we were trying to achieve

Some feedback received

- The addition of the safety rail on the avenue has been widely acknowledged as a very positive safety measure.
- The DROP and GO System keeps traffic moving constantly and no problems have been reported on very wet mornings when there is a greater flow of traffic
- The addition of the line markings identifying the pathway, the zebra crossing and set down areas is very clear and has been welcomed
- Evening time is more difficult to manage but even on the worst day everyone had left the school safely inside 10 mins.

The final measures have now been put in place

- pupils will line up opposite the zebra crossing at the end of the day and **may only cross to a waiting car via the pathway**
- Pupils leaving the grounds with after-school personnel will wait at an identified area

Your co-operation with all the changes is appreciated. *Thank you*

Parent-Teacher Meetings

The 2019/2020 Parent-Teacher Meetings take place on Tues-Nov 19th, Wed-Nov 20th and Thurs-Nov 21st. You will receive your appointment time the week before.

This meeting is very important for both parent and teacher.

In the event that you may wish to speak to the teacher again at another time this year on a matter of concern or otherwise, please ring the secretary and arrange an appointment. Likewise, should a teacher wish to speak with you, the secretary or teacher will ring you and arrange an appointment

Swimming for 6th

A block of 6 lessons for the pupils of 6th began on Tuesday, Nov. 5th and will run each Tuesday until Dec. 10th in the Claremorris Leisure Centre. 5th Class will follow for the next 6 weeks.

PLEASE NOTE: Swimming Lessons are arranged as part of the PE Curriculum. It is mandatory to take part in the programme.

Parents Association AGM - October 17th

Chairperson, Irene Henaghan welcomed all present. Secretary, Dimps Smyth read the minutes of the 2018 AGM and Treasurer, Sharon Mulderrig presented the Financial Report.

Anne Cunnane, Principal was then invited to speak. The following is taken directly from her report:

I want to begin by sincerely thanking you all for your commitment to St. Aidan's. You are a very active group with the best interests of the school at the heart of all that you do. I would like to acknowledge your support throughout the year for the many different occasions and events that you were only too happy to be a part of. The success of the Sponsored Walk on Sunday last was a fine example of your voluntary input and that of the parent body in general. Two of your goals last year were to target a growing concern around internet safety and to arrange for the making of 'buddy benches' for the school. Well done on the success to date of both projects'

Anne continued with a look back to the 18/19 school year before talking about the following areas relating to the current school year 19/20

- Enrolment, Attendance and School Calendar
- The Literacy Lift-Off Initiative and Irish Review
- Active Flag Renewal
- Sport - Cross Country, Mini 7's
- Maths Week/ Science Week/Book Week

See new Parents Association Committee listed further on in this newsletter.

The following were prioritised by Anne (a) Update on 'Health and Safety' measures (See update on Pg 1) (b) Update on the planned replacement of all windows and doors (DES funding recently secured through the Summer Works Scheme) (c) 2019/2020 Fundraising initiatives (See last page)

Parent feedback and suggestions submitted by the parent body to the PA earlier in the year were then addressed by Anne under the following headings

- Acknowledgements
- Internet
- Wellbeing
- Fundraising
- Safety
- Uniforms
- Miscellaneous

The meeting concluded with Irene inviting any parent present to give his/her name to the committee if interested in being included on this year's committee or back-up team.

2019/2020 Start of Year School Mass

Due to the work being carried out to the heating system in the church since August we were unable to have our Annual New School Year Mass in October. As the work is still on-going Fr.

Michael has agreed to say the Mass in the School Hall on Tues. Nov. 19th at 11.15am

We apologise that for this year we cannot accommodate the large number of family members that may wish to be in attendance.

Parents Association

Committee 2019/20

Chairperson : Irene Heneghan

Secretary: Dimps Smyth

Treasurer: Sharon Mulderrig

Sinead Conlon

Deirdre Sheridan

Angela Leonard

Fiona Walsh

Ann Marie Kane

Hazel Cosgrove

Caroline Cotter

Natalie Gill

Orla Freeman

Annette Geraghty

Sarah Morley

Paula Dunne

Caroline Campbell

Christina Walsh

A number of other parents have given their names and offered their support and help to the committee when required.

Thanks to everyone!

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Sonia Gilmartin and Liesel Ward. Both served on the PA for a long number of years and stepped down at the AGM in October.

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Parents Association of St. Aidan's

Maths Week

Maths Week Ireland ran from 12th-20th Oct. and was co-ordinated by Orlene Mooney. All classes were very busy taking part in a variety of maths experiences. Pupils took part in Maths Stations and had lots of fun with maths games. Some classes looked at Maths in other subject areas e.g Maths in Art or Music. 5th Class took part in the Mangahigh Challenge and enjoyed the challenges and games online. 3rd Class enjoyed a Maths Trail Activity. We looked at the Maths Week Target Boards and it was very interesting to see how many different ways we found to find the target number each day. Entries for the national **MATHS EYES Competition** were received too. Well done 3rd Class for the greatest number of entries!
Well done everybody, it certainly was a busy week of Maths!

The Active Committee has been working very hard on our Active Flag Renewal over the last number of weeks.

***Spooky Stations** took place in the hall prior to our Halloween break where each class completed physical activities based on Halloween

*The Senior Classes are currently completing the **60 Minute Physical Activity Challenge** each night for the coming month

*The Junior Classes are completing **Active Homework** on the night they have PE. They choose one activity from their Homework grid and colour it in.

*A **PE equipment audit** is taking place next week

*2 staff members will be attending the **Physical Literacy** Courses in association with PDST in the coming weeks

* 4 **Fundamental Movement Skills** have been chosen to work on for the year to come

* The **Active School Walkway** is now ready to go! It is located around the roundabout and basketball court and teachers will use this as an opportunity to keep their classes active throughout the school day

*Please check out our school website to keep up to date with our renewal

Aisling Nyland 4th Class Teacher and Michelle Rushe 3rd Class Teacher are overseeing this initiative. Thanks to both.

New Board of Management 2019-2023

The current Board of Management will finish their 4 year term on Nov. 30th. The process to set up the New Board for the next 4 years has begun.

A School Board of Management is made up of the following – Chairperson, Principal, Staff Representative, 2 Parents (one a mother and one a father), 2 Community Representatives and a Bishop's Nominee.

St. Aidan's Fundraising 2019-2020 (Sept - Dec)

- **Annual Sponsored Walk**: Fundraising for this school year got off to a great start on October 13th. This event organised by the Parents Association raised a total of **€2773**. Sincere thanks to parents, pupils and staff. Special thanks to the PA for the refreshments in the school hall following the walk.

The PA was able to promote the walk via their recently created Facebook Page - **Parents Association of St. Aidan's N.S.** This page has been set up to support the involvement of the PA with school events and activities. They aim to keep the Parent Body informed and up-to-date on their work throughout the year.

- **PA Table Quiz on Thursday, Nov 14th in the Cill Aodain Hotel at 9pm**
Quizmaster - Gerry King. This promises to be a most enjoyable night. Your support is important to the PA
- **Used Clothes Collections**: A collection is currently taking place and will finish on November 30th

Bags of unwanted clothes can be dropped into the school during any day

'Cracking Christmas Raffle'

arranged by Anne Cunnane on the occasion of her **RETIREMENT**.

Anne has enjoyed over 40 years of service and plans that this monster raffle will have over 40 prizes.

Fabulous prizes have already been secured

Full details will be available shortly

We appreciate your continued support and generosity. Please continue to support the various fundraising initiatives organised by the Parents' Association and ourselves. All monies raised are used to maintain and resource the school to the highest standards as well as subsidise and/or fund many of the activities organised for the children throughout the year.