

Thursday 18th September 2014

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We have been back at school for almost 4 weeks already. Everyone has settled back into school routine and the Junior Infants class has settled into a full infant day very quickly.

**Possible additional new class teacher for next year.**

We are very close to the number of pupils required to be able to appoint an additional new class teacher for next year. If we make the magic number of pupils by the end of September this year, we will be granted an additional class teacher for the next school year in time to move into our new school building. We would then have 5 class teachers instead of the 4 we have at present. This means that the number of pupils in each classroom would drop significantly, especially in the two older pupil classrooms. Your child would be in a class of 20, which is a very small class size in this area. Therefore, your child/ren would greatly benefit from this. Infants are in a class of less than 20 to ensure that they get a really good start.

If you know of any 4 year olds, perhaps you could encourage them to come to school by the end of September this year. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Inspection Visit**

We had a very successful incidental inspection last week. The Inspector highlighted a list of over 20 different areas in our school which were commended, highly commended and praised. Here is the list:

- Aistear (Infant Classes).
- Reading Recovery (Learning Support).
- Literacy Lift Off (1st Class).
- Mata sa Rang (Maths 1st - 6th Classes).
- Ready, Set, Go (Infant Maths).
- 1st Steps (English, Senior Classes).
- Incredible Years (Behaviour Management Programme).
- Learning Support - 3 Stages Approach (Class by Class).
- Differentiation.
- Pupil Tracking.
- Assessment.
- School Self Evaluation - Literacy & Numeracy Strategy.
- Self-Assessment Folders for Pupils.
- Jolly Phonics (Infants).
- Team Teaching.
- Station Teaching.

- Amount of Continuous Professional Development staffed engaged in.
- Copybooks.
- Use of concrete manipulatives in maths lessons.
- Use of Intern in school.
- All Flag Programmes:-
  - Green Flag.
  - Blue Activity Flag.
  - Yellow Health Promoting Flag.
  - Irish Traveller Movement Diversity Yellow Flag.
- Welcoming atmosphere in the school.
- Caring & positive atmosphere & inclusion of pupils of various ethnic groups including travellers.
- Co-operative, pleasant teaching staff.

This is quite a long list!

I would like to take this opportunity to say very well done indeed to all our conscientious and hardworking staff members!

#### **Healthy School Lunches**

Remember we have a healthy school lunch policy. This is part of our Healthy School Yellow Flag Programme & is recommended by the Department of Health for school children. Reusable lunch boxes / drinks containers are best of our reduce, reuse, recycle Green School theme & tin foil is not good as it is not biodegradable, therefore, we do not allow tin foil.

#### **School Gates**

Please remember to close all the school gates behind you when leaving school grounds and don't be afraid to remind other to do so too. We need to keep our pupils safe and away from the busy main road.

#### **School Subscription**

Thank you to everyone who has paid so far. We accept subscriptions on an ongoing basis.

#### **Contact Details / Collector Forms**

Thank you to everyone who has returned their completed forms. There are some still outstanding. Remember if we don't get the update details we can't contact you in the case of an emergency or even if your child is sick. It is your responsibility to ensure we have up to date working contact details. Thank you for your co-operation.

#### **Used uniforms & school books**

Thank you to everyone who donated used uniforms & school books for others to use.

With kind regards,

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Ann Middleton  
Principal