



Newsletter

Welcome back to you all after what I hope has been a refreshing and restful summer break. I extend a special welcome to our nine Primary One pupils and their families who joined us on Tuesday.

This newsletter contains information that I hope you will find useful and interesting. Please keep it safe so you can refer to it throughout the coming months.

Uniform



It is a pleasure to see pupils so well dressed in their school uniform. I expect this high standard to continue through the session and would greatly appreciate your continued support. Further items can be purchased from Scotcrest in Alva. Please label all your child's belongings clearly. If in the coming weeks property is not labelled I intend to initial items with a permanent marker. If you have any objections please contact the office.

Milk and Fruit

If you would like your child to receive milk or fruit in the morning please send in £1 for milk and £1 for fruit every Thursday, beginning 27th August for distribution the following week. Milk is given daily and fruit three times a week All Primary 1/2 pupils receive free fruit.



Sporting Activities

Our P3/4 and P4/5 classes start swimming lessons on August 28th. Basketball (P1-4) and Racquet Sports (P5-7) are on offer to all from Sports Development as an after school activity. We hope to send an upper school team to Soccer Sevens at the end of this month.



PE lessons will normally take place every Wednesday and Friday and pupils must bring their kit – again clearly labelled please! However from August 28th – 13th November P1/2 and P6/7 classes will get all their PE time on Wednesdays to accommodate the swimming classes.

Upper school toilets

The total refurbishment of the toilets in the upper school should be completed by the beginning of next week.

Music tuition



Forms to apply for instrumental tuition are available from the school office. Places are limited and tuition cost approx. £72 per term.



Hand washing

The importance of good hand hygiene is reinforced in all classes and pupils have ready access to warm water and soap.

Dinner Money

We are busy looking for an efficient way to collect dinner money as the present system is demanding of office and support staff time and interrupts pupil's learning. Until we solve this please could you place payment in an envelope marked with your child's name and class and the days they wish a school dinner. Change, if necessary, will be given back to your child in a sealed envelope.



Traffic

Following on from the successful Safe Summer campaign, our community police will be outside the school to ensure pupil safety at drop off and pick up times. Please do not use the staff car park to drop off children as this too is a hazard.

Dates for your diary

August
Friday 28th- P3/4 and P4/5 swimming classes begin until 13th November excluding 6th November

September
Thursday 3rd- School Mass at 9.30 in the Church. Please join us if you can.
Tuesday 7th- Parent Council AGM and meeting for all parents in the school. 7pm
Monday 14th – P1 pupils in full day

October
5th - Monday holiday
Friday 9th- October holiday begins
Monday 19th- Pupils return to school

Parents Meeting

On Tuesday 7th September at 7pm there will be a meeting in the school for all parents.

It will be an opportunity to come and meet me over a cuppa as I begin this new post. I will outline plans for the school and hope to gather your views on the future of St Bernadette's. I will be joined by colleagues in Sports Development to share information on opportunities for our pupils in the coming session.

Following this, the **Parent Council AGM** will commence and a new committee will form to take the school forward in partnership with parents.

I look forward to meeting you all then.

Donations needed!

As you know we have been so unlucky with the weather since our return to school and the pupils have had little time enjoying the outdoors.

In order to make their "wet playtimes" more enjoyable we need to re stock equipment.

If you have board games or DVDs (Certificate U Only) that your child no longer uses please hand them into the office.

A variety of games / lego / jigsaws in good condition (with all the pieces) would make a huge difference and give our pupils a varied selection.

Thank you.

School Improvement plan

As you know, schools plan a number of actions to continually improve the education we provide for our pupils. The SIP for the session 2009/10 has been submitted to the local authority and a full version of the plan will be available for parents in the office by the end of September. This session there are four main focus areas as detailed below.

Planning improvements.

Expected Outcome:
Curriculum planning takes full account of the principles identified in A Curriculum for Excellence

The four capacities .

Expected Outcome:
Development of four capacities identified in teaching and learning of mathematics and literacy and English

ICT.

Expected outcome:
Throughout the school core ICT skills are used to enhance learning and teaching across the curriculum

Parental involvement.

Expected Outcome:
Develop Parent Council, parental involvement and consultation procedures within the school

I will discuss these in more detail when we meet on Tuesday 7th but, as you can see, we will not be able to achieve the last target without you!



Attached

Please find attached the calendar for this academic session Attached too, are forms for medication in school. If relevant to your child please complete the form and return to the office as soon as possible to update our records.



Back to the rain!

Please encourage your child to bring a waterproof jacket daily to school. If the rain is not too heavy they will be outside at break times to get some fresh air and some space to run.

Healthy Habits

As you know we are a Health Promoting School and hope to enhance our accreditation this session. Pupils will be involved in all aspects of developing health and well being of themselves and others. You can help by providing water bottles so they have access to water throughout the day and allowing your child to bring a healthy snack to school. If you would like some new ideas on healthy snacks and packed lunches there are leaflets available from the office.

...and finally

On a personal note, I would just like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my first week! The pupils are wonderful and all staff hardworking and supportive. I am looking forward to a very successful session.

Regards,

Tina O'Neill
Headteacher (Acting)