

News update- Principal's Post 17/10/2023

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

A whole school assembly welcoming new staff and pupils took place on Friday, 29th September. This assembly was organised by Mrs Farnan.

IEP meetings are taking place at the moment. Thank you all for your participation in this process. Please ensure you make an appointment with the class teacher for either a face to face or a phone call if you have missed a previous appointment. Pupil Personal Plans are also being updated by SNAs in consultation with class teachers at present. These are an annual requirement for the NCSE, where applicable.

We have 2 school choirs who meet and practice every week, either on Thursdays or Fridays depending upon age and availability. Thank you to Ms Naughton, Mr McGorman and Joan for leading the choirs. All pupils were given an opportunity to join. The pupils of St. Benedict's class have helped organise the arrangements for these choirs.

Fr. Cornelius celebrated Mass for the New school year on 9th October here in the school.

Ms Heffernan, specialist PE teacher and the Active School Flag Committee have organised a 'Table Tennis Take Over' event which will take place tomorrow, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October. All classes will have an opportunity to participate.

The Creative Schools committee are meeting with the Creative Schools Associate, Mr Brian Cregan, tomorrow at 11am to facilitate an Art workshop. We are delighted to continue our second year participating with the Creative Schools Initiative and thank Mrs Farnan, the schools Creative coordinator and the team of staff who volunteered for the Creative Support committee.

Gaisce- we are delighted to offer the school leavers an opportunity to participate in the President's Bronze Gaisce Award. It was a great success last year. Thank you to all who turned up for Eve O'Brien, Gaisce leader's presentation on Tuesday, 10th October and to all those who returned their forms with their expression of interest. Thank you also to the staff and pupils of St. Benedict's class for hosting the coffee event after this presentation. Thank you to Ms Gleeson for coordinating the Gaisce process and to all staff who volunteered to become PALs.

This week is 'Maths Week' and our theme is 'Measures' and 'Maths Chat/Language'. Thank you to Ms Karen Quinn and the class of St. Vincent's for leading many of the activities for this week. The new Primary Maths Curriculum has been sent to all schools this month and inservice for staff will be arranged.

Thank you to the staff and pupils of St. Brendan's class and St. Patrick's class who hosted coffee events for bus escorts and drivers, and parents/ guardians on 4th and 5th October, as part of their JC2 curriculum. They raised just over €610 and this money will be used for the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. If any family would like to donate a shoebox with items suitable for this cause (E.g. stationery, gloves, socks, small toy, hairbrush/ toothbrush etc.),

please send them in before 10th November and we will ensure they are part of the schools donation to Team Hope.

Please advise the school if you child has any change to their medical or dietary needs/ requirements.

Thank you to all using the Aladdin Connect app to communicate absences etc.

Outstanding school fees to be paid as soon as possible.

There are 2 lunch clubs operating at this time. The 'Harry Potter (and the Chamber of Secrets) bookclub takes place every Tuesday and Friday and the Lego club which takes place every Wednesday and Thursday. Thank you for all donations of Lego. The creativity and talent of our pupils for building, designing and discussing their creations is amazing.

Our pupils took part in the 'Food Dudes' programme again this year. The junior classes received fruit and vegetables for 16 consecutive days while the senior classes received it for 5 days. This initiative began on 2nd October. There is very little waste, so well done to all pupils for participating in this healthy eating programme. Thank you to Ms McLaughlin for leading this initiative.

Junior Cycle School certificates and results are being released tomorrow. Well done and good luck to all the pupils who completed all aspects of the Junior Cycle curriculum last June. Thank you to all teachers involved, especially Ms Muldoon (JC2 coordinator and class teacher) and Ms Wilkinson (class teacher).

We thank the Board of Management for their service for the past 4 years. We now need to commence the process of electing Parent Nominees on the Board for the next 4 years of service (2023-2027). The elections for the mother and father Parent Nominees will take place in the school next Monday, 23rd Oct at 7:30pm.

Our annual Halloween Walk will take place on Friday 27th October. All parents/ guardians are welcome to join us on our walk to the Phoenix Park. Pupils are encouraged to dress up on this day. Sponsorship cards were distributed today and all monies raised will continue to go towards the cost of outdoor gym exercise equipment and installation of same.

Staff have commenced professional training in the area of Restorative Practice to assist in the management of restorative and relational practices/ reflections as we work with and assist pupils with behaviours which impact negatively on the pupil, other pupils and/ or staff.

We continue to try and recruit teachers. We still have some unfilled maternity leave positions.

We will finish up here next Friday 27th October for the mid term break (30th Oct- 3rd Nov. inclusive).

Le meas,

Sharon Gorevan

