



St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School

September 2021 Newsletter

Welcome – We welcome all children and staff back to school. We pray for a calmer year with less disruption. We welcome Miss Chloe Judge to St Ronan's PS. She will be teaching P3/4. We also welcome back Miss Power to the Nursery.

A big welcome to Evie McCaffrey and Saoirse Logan who are joining P4EMG, Odhran Rice who joins P4CJ and Jackson-Peter Smith who has come to P2DK.

Congratulations to Mrs Boyle (nee Quigley) and her husband Oisin on their wedding in early July. We wish them well in married life.

School Development Day – there will be no school on Monday 27th September.

Covid 19 – We are keeping many of the mitigations against the spread of Covid in school as cases in the community are quite high. This is aimed at continuing to protect children and staff. The guidance around self-isolation has changed. If your child experiences symptoms it is recommended that they stay at home and book a PCR test. Once the test comes back negative, children can return to school. We ask for your continued support in this matter.

Parents are reminded to wear a face covering while in the school grounds and to maintain social distancing. When dropping off / collecting children we ask that everyone disperses as quickly as possible.

Car Park – This area will be closed from 11:00 – 11:15am and 12:50 – 1:10pm. We ask that parents / visitors, particularly those in Nursery not to arrive before the designated pick-up times.

Musical Pathways – began on Tuesday 31st August for children in P3SMD, P3/4CJ and P4EMG. Music teacher is Mrs Grainne Kirke from the EA Music Service. There is no charge for these lessons.

Waiting Room – The school will facilitate children in P1 and P2 who wish to stay for a full day (until 3pm). The cost is £1.50 per day. Please contact the office in advance to book children in. P1s may stay once their full day sessions begin.

Sport – Mr Keith Reilly will begin GAA Coaching Skills for P5 – P7 pupils on Wednesdays. Please ensure suitable clothing and footwear are worn.

Mr Ross Belshaw from '4 Corner Coaching' will provide PE sessions for P1 – P4 every Friday morning. Children should come to school in suitable footwear.

Dinners – Cost is £2.60 per day (£13 per week) and should be paid at the beginning of the week. For those entitled to free meals, parents need to register again on the EA website. The link is [Apply for Free School Meals / Uniform Grants | Education Authority Northern Ireland \(eani.org.uk\)](https://eani.org.uk) (Control and Click to access the website)

The Dinner Menu can be viewed on the school website www.stronansps.com – Parents – Dinners

Healthy Eating – the school promotes healthy eating which is important for mental and physical development. We strongly advise parents against sending sugary drinks, chocolate and sweets for break and / or lunchtime. The food value in these items is small and does not add to a balanced diet. Children may bring a water bottle to school. This can be topped up each day with water.

A reminder that the school is a Nut Free Zone. Children must not bring food items to school containing nuts. This includes spreads such as Nutella.

Absence – A reminder that we have moved to an online method of recording absence for parents. This can be found on the school website www.stronansps.com – Parents – Pupil Absence Form

Updating information – If you have changed address or telephone number please contact the School Office so that details can be updated. Sometimes an irate message can be received but it is not our fault as we have not been informed of changes to mobile numbers. The school continues to send text messages and it is up to parents to read them. We are moving towards reducing the amount of paper going home. Text messages and the school website are our primary means of communicating from now on. Some messages will be posted on social media. Messages and postings will be closely monitored. Negative messages about the school and of any individual will not be tolerated and action will be taken in line with our Social Media Code of Conduct which parents signed up to in 2019/20. Social media is not a platform to degrade any organisation or person. The school operates an 'open door' policy and even through Covid restrictions we are always willing to engage with parents in a spirit of positivity for the good of all the children.

Contact – If you have any concerns over your child, you should contact the class teacher in the first instance. This person is best placed to discuss any issues from a pastoral and / or academic point of view. For any queries regarding Special Educational Needs, our SENCo Mrs McGirr will be available to discuss any issues arising.

Our Safeguarding Team for 2021 / 22:

Designated Teacher	Mr Eamon Shannon
Deputy Designated Teachers	Miss Power, Mr McGrath
Chair of Board of Governors	Mrs Anne Hoogerboord
Designated Governors for Child Protection	Mrs Maria McKenna

Blended Learning – Teachers have been setting up learning platforms for this academic year (Seesaw or Google Classroom). This work must continue so that we can keep continuity of learning in the event of a class being sent home to isolate or a lockdown happens. Some homework exercises will be uploaded. This allows children and parents become familiar with the workings of such platforms.

Swimming – Mr Foy's P7 class will go swimming at the Lakeland Forum during Term 1 once everyone has returned to school. More details to follow.

Uniform - A reminder to label all items of uniform, coats, bags, lunchboxes and water bottles. Uniform items can be impossible to identify when not labelled.

Thank you to children, parents and extended family members who have been so co-operative in the current surge of Covid infection which is sweeping throughout the school. We all appreciate and understand the upheaval this has caused to many families. It has caused much disruption to learning as children were settling back into school. Please God this current wave in the area subsides soon so that we can all resume learning and a more normal way of working.