



St Ronan's Primary and Nursery School

October 2021 Newsletter



Mid-term break - School is closed 28th October - 3rd November inclusive. Re-opening Thursday 4th November.

Sacraments 2022 - The following dates have been decided for sacraments during 2022. All are subject to change if public health restrictions are in place. As numbers receiving sacraments are large, there are times when two dates are given. Each class will be assigned a date.

10th and 11th November: Confirmation Enrolment, 7pm, Holy Cross Church

9th and 10th March: Service of Light (P7), 7pm, Holy Cross Church

4th April: First Penance (P4), 7pm, Holy Cross Church

14th May: First Holy Communion (P4), 11am and 2pm, Holy Cross Church

29th May: Pledge Sunday (P7), 11am, Holy Cross Church

A date for Confirmation will be announced as soon as we receive it.

Staff - We welcome Miss Louise McGorman to St Ronan's Primary and Nursery School. Miss McGorman will be working as our 'Engage' teacher, supporting children in their learning due to the impact of school closures across two academic years.

Hallowe'en - Children may come to school dressed in Hallowe'en costume on Wednesday 27th October. No masks please as these can be upsetting for younger children.

Homework - Teachers are reporting a consistent number of children in each class not completing homework. This work reinforces what has been done during the school day. Records of work not completed are being kept by the school. Please ensure your child completes homework and that parents / carers sign the homework diary.

Photographer - Lafayette Photography will be present at the school on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th October.

Anti-bullying programme - started in the school last week. This will run over four Wednesdays and is aimed at P6 and P7 pupils.

Our draft Anti-bullying policy will be uploaded to the school website. There are some important changes which have come into effect under the 2016 Anti-bullying Act. A leaflet for parents / carers summarising the main changes will also be produced.

Counselling - Shine Play Therapy will work with the school (half day per week) over the course of the academic year to provide support for children. Discussion on referrals will be made with parents before any sessions begin. This is important work and a facility which is very much vital in the school at the moment. The views of the school are contained in a report published by Pure Mental NI (Twitter @PureMentalNI) which has been presented to the Dept of Education ahead of their roll-out of funding to support counselling services in primary schools.

PE - The Dept of Education has recommended that children should have 2 hours PE / physical activity per week. We have set out a timetable to ensure that we fulfil this obligation. As PE is part of the statutory curriculum there is no opt out for this subject. Physical activity is essential for healthy living and promotes positive well-being.

Parent - Teacher Meetings - Advance notice that Parent Meetings are scheduled for Friday 26th November. More details later.

Active Week - The school is running an Active Week from 11th - 15th October. The focus will be on fitness and becoming active daily. Events for all classes will run throughout the week and will be in keeping with our message 'Keep fit, don't quit'.

Ditch the Dark - We are organising a 'Ditch the Dark' event. As the days become shorter, it is important we continue to be aware of road safety messages. One of the messages is to be seen when walking on roads and pavements. On Friday 15th October children and parents are invited to assemble at Castlepark (carpark) at 8:45am dressed in bright clothing. Please be as creative as you like! You can also bring your bicycle or scooter all decorated for the event also. This will also be a non-uniform day. A donation of £1 is requested so as to fund and purchase resources for further road safety initiatives.

Maths Week Ireland - Saturday 16th - Sunday 24th October. Events will take place in all classes during the week. More information at www.mathsweek.ie

Hip-Hop Dance - continues every Tuesday after school (3 - 4pm) for children in P5MS.

Free School Meals / Uniform grant - A further reminder that parents can apply to the Education Authority online for Free School Meals and support for buying uniform. Even if your child does not take up the school meal, it is important to register as the numbers taking free meals helps the school financially. www.eani.org.uk/fsm

Reminders - The school buildings, grounds and areas around the main gates are a smoke free zone. Parents / guardians and visitors must not smoke in the grounds. As a school we promote healthy living and as such, adults seen smoking in the grounds does not support our policy. Anyone seen smoking will be asked to stop and remove smoking litter from the premises. Please also note that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.

Nut allergy - The school is a Nut-free Zone. Children must not bring nuts or foods containing nuts (including Nutella) to school. There are a number of children with nut allergies currently in the school. Your co-operation is essential. Thank you.

Ongoing:

Tuesday	Hip-hop (P5MS)
	Musical Pathways (P3 - P4)
Wednesday	GAA skills
Thursday	Play Therapy
	Clarinet tuition (P5)
Friday	PE (P1 - P4)