



## **St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School**

*September 2020 Newsletter*



A digital copy of this newsletter can be accessed at: [www.stronansps.co.uk](http://www.stronansps.co.uk)

**Welcome back** – A huge welcome back to all our pupils. Everyone has settled in very well and become familiar with new procedures very quickly. We welcome 48 pupils to Nursery and 48 pupils to P1. We also welcome Macey Campbell to P3 and Sheree Maughan to P5.

**School Development Day** - School will be closed to pupils on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**Staff** – Congratulations to Mrs Smith and her husband Jonny on the birth of their baby boy. Mrs Smith returns at the end of October. We welcome Miss McShea to P6.

Congratulations to Miss Power and her fiancé Conor on the birth of a baby boy. We welcome Mrs Fitzpatrick to the Nursery.

We welcome Miss Quigley to P2, Mr Foy to P5 and Mr Hanna to P7. We wish Mrs McGirr a speedy recovery.

**New procedures** – Details of new procedures are posted on our school website. By the end of August the document had been viewed 647 times! A quick reminder of some of the procedures:

- Staggered start and finish times – this is working well so far and we ask parents to keep to the times
- Different entrances for classes. This prevents mixing of classes
- Children stay in their class 'bubbles' – learning together, playing together at break and eating together in the canteen at lunchtime
- Handwashing 5 times a day
- Children use their own equipment (pencils, erasers, sharpeners, rulers, etc.) No sharing
- Track and Trace procedures for adults entering the building

**Symptoms** – A number of parents have called regarding symptoms and what to do if their child feels unwell. The school is following Department of Education and Public Health Agency guidelines. In all cases we air on the side of caution. Symptoms of Covid include any of the following:

- A new and continuous cough
- High temperature / fever
- Loss of taste and / or smell

**Absence** - We have moved to an online absence note reporting system. If your child is off school you must complete a note explaining the absence. This can be found on the school website [www.stronansps.com](http://www.stronansps.com) - Parents - Pupil Absence Form.

**Distancing** – As per restrictions from the NI Executive, we remind parents / adults who are dropping off and collecting children not to gather in groups. A distance of 2 metres must always be observed.

**Play** – We are utilising all the space available on the grounds to ensure children have a safe playtime. The car park area is being used as a play area. Therefore the school gates will be closed from 10:55am – 11:25am and from 12:55pm – 1:30pm. There will be no access for vehicles during these times.

**Food / Dinner** – A reminder that grapes should be cut into smaller pieces for ease of eating by children.

There are children in the school who have an allergy to nuts. **Pupils must not bring any food with nuts contained in them.** This includes spreads such as Nutella.

Well done to the pupils who have been choosing a healthy option for break and lunchtime. This is very positive to see. We encourage this throughout the school and appeal to parents to choose a healthy option for their children.

**Dinner Menu** for September is available on the school website. [www.stronansps.com](http://www.stronansps.com) – Parents – Dinner Menu. Dinners cost £2.60 per day. Pupils in P1 – 3 may bring their money to school in an envelope with name, class and amount of money enclosed. A member of staff will help with loading money onto the scanner machine. P4 - P7 pupils will have a time allocation to put money onto the scanner system.

**First Penance** – Well done to P5 pupils who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Any child who was absent, Canon Jimmy will celebrate the sacrament before First Holy Communion day. Thank you to Canon Jimmy for celebrating the sacrament and making the children feel at ease.

**First Holy Communion** – will be celebrated on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Children who were in Miss Bradley's P4 class last academic year will celebrate at 11am and those who were in Mrs McGloin's P4 class last academic year will celebrate at 2pm. Due to Government restrictions, numbers are limited in Holy Cross Church. Parents and siblings may attend only.

**Free School Meals / Uniform** – Applications may be made to the education Authority. We urge parents to do this as soon as possible and to avail of uniform grants and access to Free School Meals. For more details go to <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants> or call 028 82411411.

**Flu Vaccination** – The Department of Health is rolling out the flu vaccination programme in October. Letters will be issued to parents shortly. The vaccine will be administered in school on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**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 last year. 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.

**Blended Learning** – One of our priorities this year will be to continue upskilling children for online learning. Some classes will use See-Saw and others will use 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 local lockdown happens. Over the next few weeks details of online learning will be sent home and some homework exercises will be uploaded.

**Education Restart** – We are currently finding a baseline for each child so we can successfully help all children progress and succeed once again. We will focus on consolidating learning from pre-lockdown and prioritising learning from Term 3. We welcome support from parents in helping us achieve for all our children. We will not assume what any child learned or did not learn during the period of closure.

**Thanks** – We sincerely thank parents for their home learning efforts during the period of closure. It was not an easy time for anyone. We welcome the support and hugely positive comments which were received since we reopened. A lot of work and effort has been put into procedures and risk assessments in order to make the transition back to school as smooth as possible. It is inevitable there will be ‘bumps’ along the way and we will have to adjust and work together to overcome them. I ask for everyone’s continued support in the weeks and months ahead.

## Milk and Snack

Milk and snack money (fruit) is now due for classes P2 - P7. The cost will be £6 for milk and £6 for snack. This will cover from Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Sept to Halloween. If you would like your child to take milk and / or snack place the correct money in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class, whether they are taking fruit, milk or both.

