



St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School

October 2020 Newsletter



Mid-term break - School will be closed 26th - 30th October inclusive. Reopening again on Monday 2nd November.

School Mass - Canon Jimmy will celebrate Mass for the beginning of the new school year on Friday 23rd October at 10am via webcam. A small number of children will be in attendance. Families and parishioners may view the Mass online at <https://lisnaskeamaguiresbridgeparish.com>

First Holy Communion - Congratulations to the P5 pupils who celebrated their First Holy Communion last month after a lengthy delay. They all looked fabulous. Many thanks to Canon Jimmy for celebrating the Mass and for his diligence and preparation of the children before First Penance and First Holy Communion. Thanks also to the teachers and classroom assistants in P4 and P5 who all contributed hugely to preparing children for the sacraments. The wonderful music was provided by Rhona and Olivia. It added so much to the celebration.

Staff - We extend our good wishes to Mrs Christine Kelly on her retirement after 37 years of dedicated service to St. Ronan's PS. Mrs Kelly has been a very respected member of the teaching staff and also in her role as SENCo. Her talent and professionalism will be greatly missed. We thank her for all the work she has given over the years to the locality of Lisnaskea and to the wider educational community. We wish her health and happiness in retirement.

Congratulations to Mrs Smith and her husband Johnny on the birth of a baby boy during the lockdown period.

Congratulations also to Miss Laura Power and her fiancé Conor on a birth of a baby boy in early September.

We say goodbye and a huge thank you to Mrs Ellen McManus, classroom assistant. Ellen is taking up another job in late October. We thank her for her dedication to the school and wish her well in her new job.

Flu Vaccination - The vaccine will be administered in the school on Thursday 15th October. Any outstanding forms should be sent into school as soon as possible.

Restrictions - Thank you to everyone for abiding by the current restrictions and changes we have made to the school day. As the situation continues to evolve we are monitoring our processes and procedures. We recognise the diligence parents have taken when it comes to

symptoms occurring in households. We ask parents to continue to be vigilant and to continue working with the school as we make our way through the autumn and winter months.

Hallowe'en - The PTFA has been working hard to have another 'trail' as last year's Scarecrow Trail was such a success. Businesses have been asked to carve pumpkins and display them in their windows. Again this initiative is in conjunction with Moat PS. As we cannot have shared classes this year we are finding innovative ways of coming together.

Make your own Choices Day - is on Friday 23rd October. There will be a number of different choices available. Full detailed will be sent home asap.

Walking - October is 'Walk to School Month'. Since we returned to school there has been an increase in the number of children walking to school. This is very encouraging as it is good exercise, promotes a healthy way of living and reduces congestion in the car park. It would be good to see more children walking, bearing in mind all the safety precautions when walking on footpaths.

Parent - Teacher Meetings - The Dept of Education has recommended that Parent Meetings should take place online where possible. This proves to be a huge task with over 230 families in the school, connectivity issues and completing the task in a timely manner. We will try to work out the best way of doing this so that all parents can be accommodated. Meetings are provisionally set for Friday 20th November. Further details will be issued in due course.

Maths - Maths Week Ireland takes place 10th - 18th October. We will be giving children opportunities, as always, to explore Maths in a range of ways. www.mathsweek.ie

Healthy Eating - We are promoting healthy eating in school. We therefore ask parents to choose a healthy option for their children for mid-morning snack and for lunch. Chocolate, sweets, energy drinks and fizzy drinks are not encouraged. It is great to see so many children availing of a healthy option.

Blended and Remote Learning - The school is contingency planning in the event of a class being closed down or a partial / short closure due to the pandemic. All teachers have been organising online platforms such as those used during the March - June period. It is essential that all parents engage with this process. Registration details have been sent to most households with the remainder being sent out in the coming days. We urge you to engage in this process as we aim to have some continuity of learning going forward. Teachers will be uploading some activities for completion. Other teachers will use it more extensively for

homework purposes. If you are having problems with accessibility, please let the school know. Learning packs will also form part of the process so that children can still have some access to written activities. We aim to be more prepared going forward so as to reduce any learning loss as a result of further closures.

Dinners - The menu which is on the school website for September will continue into October. Dinners cost £2.60 per day. A sandwich option will now be available.

Free School Meals / Uniform allowance - Any parent who is eligible for free school meals and clothing allowance should contact the school asap for an application form. These forms need to be completed by Thursday 8th October. Even if your child does not want to take dinner, please complete an application as higher numbers is beneficial to the school budget overall.

Contact details - Please ensure all contact details are up to date. The school app can be downloaded from the main page on the school website.

Absence Note - A reminder than an electronic absence note can be found on the school website. www.stronansps.com - Parents - Pupil Absence Form.