



## St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School

### November 2020 Newsletter



**Staff** – We welcome Mrs McGirr and Mrs Smith back to work. Mrs McGirr has taken on the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. She will be taking groups and individual children for some specialised support. This is part of the Engage programme launched by the Dept of Education.

Mrs Smith has returned to teach P6.

We welcome Miss Rachel Melarkey who is working as a classroom assistant in P5.

**School Development Day** – School will be closed for pupils on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**Confirmation** – Bishop Duffy will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in Holy Cross Church. Children will wear school uniform and a special collar supplied by the parish.

**First Penance** takes place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in Holy Cross Church.

**First Holy Communion** takes place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 11am in Holy Cross Church.

**Parent – Teacher Meetings** – will be conducted by phone call this year over a two-week period starting 16<sup>th</sup> November. As there are large numbers in each class, each call will last no more than 10 mins. Further details on what day each class teacher will hold their meetings will be communicated by teachers through learning platforms SeeSaw or Google Classroom.

**Regulations** – The Department of Education has advised that parents do not gather in large groups in or around the school grounds. Whilst in the school grounds a mask must be worn and adults must maintain a 2m distance from others.

**Make your Own Choices Day** - Children were disappointed that they could not dress up in costumes before the extended mid-term break. We will have the Make your Own Choices Day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. There will be no uniform that day and children may wear their own clothes. Please be advised of suitable footwear while children are out playing and suitable clothing for the time of year. Forms can still be returned with money if not already done so.

**Gaelic Coach** – Mr Keith Reilly has started Gaelic skills coaching again on Mondays. With the onset of winter, the weather may not play its part in facilitating coaching outdoors. Children should come to school with a coat and suitable footwear.

**Musical Pathways** – We welcome back Mrs Grainne Kirk (Education Authority Music Service) to work with P3 and P4 pupils on Tuesday afternoons.

### **Safeguarding Team**

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Hughes.

The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mr McGrath.

The Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Maria McKenna.

**EA Youth Service** – Miss Meadhbh O’Goan will host a 6-week programme for P7 pupils aimed at building resilience, mental health and well-being. This is a very important development in the senior school and will help children to acquire and use strategies to deal with their own well-being.

**Anti-bullying Week** – takes place 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November. Children will take part in lessons with the theme this year ‘Change Starts with Us’.

**Odd Socks** - Children are encouraged to wear ‘odd socks’ on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November as a way of showing diversity and respect for all. Each person is different and each person is unique.

**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.

**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 that an electronic absence note can be found on the school website. [www.stronansps.com](http://www.stronansps.com) - Parents - Pupil Absence Form.

**Coats** - Please send children in with a coat as the weather becomes colder and more inclement.

**Admissions 2021** - Parents of children who are due to start Nursery or P1 in September 2021 are advised that enrolment opens on the Education Authority website ([www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)) on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021.