



## St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School

*May 2021 Newsletter*

**Bank Holiday** - A reminder that school is closed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

**Covid 19** – We ask everyone to continue to adhering to restrictions which have been put in place to minimise the spread of Covid 19. For parents we ask that face coverings are worn in the school grounds and that you maintain 2m distance from others. We also request that there are no gatherings of adults in the school grounds.

If children are feeling unwell they must not come to school. If children show symptoms in school we will make a call for the child to be taken home and you will be advised to book a Covid test. We would like you to continue to support our work in minimising the risk to each other by following our guidance which is in line with Public Health Agency directives.

**Sacraments** – Congratulations to the P4 children who celebrated their First Penance recently.

Congratulations also to the P7 pupils who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation last Saturday.

First Holy Communion takes place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in Holy Cross Church at 11am for Miss Bradley's Class and 2pm for Mrs McGloin's class.

**Baby Girl** – We extend our congratulations to Mrs Catherine Maguire and her husband Eoghan on the birth of a baby girl.

**Safeguarding** – The members of our Safeguarding Team are:

Mrs Anne Hoogerboord – Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Mrs Maria McKenna – Designated Governor for Child Protection

Mr Eamon Shannon – Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mrs Annette Hughes – Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mr Brian McGrath – Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

**PE** – Matty McConkey will attend school on Friday mornings to continue PE with P1 – P3 pupils. All classes have been asked to timetable PE provision for at least two hours per week as per instruction from the Department of Education.

**Love for Life** - As part of our RSE programme, children in P7 will take part in a talk and workshop on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 9:15am - 12:15pm.

**The Big Pedal** - A big well done to all the children who took part in the 'Big Pedal' by walking, cycling or scooting to school. It was fantastic to see so many children taking part in this worthwhile initiative. Many thanks to teachers, classroom assistants, PTFA and parents who helped out along the way over the two weeks. It was encouraging to see so many.

As the two-week period ends, the emphasis is now on keeping the momentum going by encouraging children to walk / cycle / scoot on a regular basis. This helps children in promoting a healthy lifestyle by keeping fit. It helps the environment also with less traffic on the roads, fewer emissions from vehicles and less congestion on roads and in the car park. It would be great to see a walking group continue from the different areas in which children live.

Well done to Dara (P1) for naming the mascot 'Wheeley' and to Fianna (P5) for winning the renaming slogan competition. Her entry goes forward to the national competition.

Finally, a big thank you to Mr Foy who organised this event and kept momentum going during the fortnight.

**Road Safety Competition** - Congratulations to Oisín Kelly (P5) who is through to the regional final of the Road Safety Poster competition. He is one of 8 children selected across N. Ireland. The prize giving ceremony takes place online on 10<sup>th</sup> May and his class will join him in the event. Good luck Oisín!

**Remote Learning** – Children, parents and staff members have all adapted quickly to remote learning. While it has encountered some minor difficulties along the way, there is no one method which has suited everyone. The skills gained by everyone has been beneficial and while it does not replace face-to-face teaching, there are merits in maintaining learning platforms going forward. Teachers will continue to use the learning platforms in some form for homework or submitting work. It is important to keep upskilling in this area as the future still remains uncertain.

I take this opportunity once again to thank parents for their support of learning while children have been at home. Well done to the pupils for maintaining their learning and for engaging in the learning platforms and for many taking part in live lessons. Thanks also to the staff for

supervising key workers daily throughout this period of closure and for their planning, engagement and follow up work.

**Outdoor Play** – The school is planning to enhance its outdoor play provision for Nursery and Foundation Stage pupils. An ambitious project is in the planning stage for the green area in front of the Nursery building. A plan is also being formulated to make the most of space for Foundation Stage pupils also. As with everything, the financial costs will dictate the pace of implementation. A letter to parents, which is on our school website, details some of the everyday / household items which we would welcome as a donation. Please see letter for further details.

**Dance** - P6 and P7 pupils are taking part in Hip-Hop dance on Tuesday mornings for a five week period.

**Standardised Tests** - These will take place end of May and beginning of June and will assess children in Reading, Spelling, Literacy and Maths. As not everything has been covered in this academic year, we still need to assess children so as to plan ahead for the next academic year. Please children attend school during this period unless they are feeling unwell or self-isolating.

**Behaviour** - I ask that parents discuss with children the importance of listening in class, following the school rules and interacting politely with others during school time. Disruption to learning not only impacts on own learning but also impacts negatively on the learning of others. Continued disruption will lead to calls to parents to discuss the situation further.