St. Luke's National School

NEWSLETTER September 2016

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais! Welcome back after what I hope was a restful and enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to a very busy autumn term.

We extend a warm welcome to all new pupils (Hannah, Adele, Ariel, Heidi, Emer, Sam, Logan, Martha, Hugo, Jody, Sebastian, Oliver, Chris, Max, Scott, Caitlin, Evelyn, Noah, Thomas, Robin, Harry, Andrew, Isabel, Alex, Talitha, Charley, Luke, Anabella) and their parents. Please note that Junior Infant pupils will finish at 12noon each day until Friday, 16th September. From Monday, 19th September Junior Infants will finish at 1.10pm. We also welcome Ryan, Stanislav, Miglena, Jamie and Ashleigh to St. Luke's School.

We welcome a number of temporary teachers:- Ms Dermody as 4th Class teacher and Ms O'Toole as 3rd Class teacher. We also welcome Ms Aoife Quinn as shared resource teacher .

Our new soft surface play area was completed over the summer. This is a wonderful resource which will be of great benefit to all pupils. Raising the money to fund this project was a big undertaking and I am particularly grateful to the Extended Play Area Sub Committee who took this on and completed it so efficiently. Thank you to Suzanne Dennison, Belinda Williams, Jackie Whittaker and Annika Frank for the incredible work they did. Through the support of parents, BOM, and the local community, a total of €49,710.40 has been raised to date.

I am aware of the impact of continuous requests for money towards this project over the last school year and I thank parents for their support and generosity. The pupils of St. Luke's will benefit from this area for many years to come.

I also wish to thank Liam Ryan of SuperValu (our main sponsor) whose team completed extensive groundwork preparation including removal of trees and laying of tarmac. Without this input, the project would have cost the school considerably more and would not have a coloured surface. A special thank you also to all companies and parents who donated towards the project or sponsored equipment. Please support these companies and businesses over the coming years. The area will be officially opened in October. Details will be available closer to the time.

A particular thank you to all parents whose help was invaluable during the busy end of last term. In particular, thank you to Christine Eckersley who prepared the library for the new school year. Also, to members of the Parents' Association (Joanne McCarthy, Pauline Hay, and Diane Fehilly) who organised and washed the fruit for Sports Day. Thank you also to parents who gave so generously to the end-of-term service collection in aid of the Extended Play Area. A total of €337 was raised.

It is important to keep informed of class and school activities during the school year. Please check your child's schoolbag each Thursday for notes. Text reminders will be sent for important events or in the case of unexpected changes to scheduled activities. Please also check the website **www.stlukesschool.ie** for school newsletters and upcoming events.

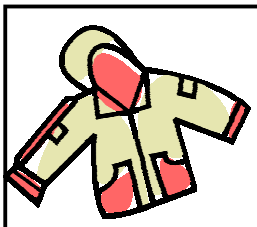
Our school app can now be downloaded free from the App Store (available for iphone and android). This is available for parents, grandparents, childminders etc and will include all newsletters and notifications. The aim is to eventually phase out the use of paper communication thus reducing costs.. All information is available on the school website.

School Calendar—Autumn Term

31st October– 4th November: Mid-term break

Thursday, 22nd December: School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays

(Full calendar available on school website)



Please label all items of school clothing and property with proper labels and renew as necessary. Please take particular care to label coats, jumpers and sweatshirts clearly. This ensures that clothes are returned to their owners. All unnamed/ unclaimed items are added to the secondhand uniform store or donated to charity.

Parent -Teacher Meetings

Parent-teacher meetings will take place in mid November. In September teachers (Senior Infants—6th) will issue a list of class routines for their class (available next Thursday). Please read these carefully and retain for reference. Junior Infant parents will be invited to an information afternoon in late September.

Full details in relation to parent-teacher meetings will be available in early November.

Classes 2016 -2017

Junior Infants:	Mrs Colton	Senior Infants:	Ms Joyce
1st Class:	Bn Uí Mhathúna	2nd Class:	Mrs Bryan & Mrs Egner
3rd Class:	Ms O' Toole	4th Class:	Ms Dermody
5th Class:	Mrs Coulter	6th Class:	Ms Guinane
Learning Support:	Ms Stoutt	Resource:	Ms Wilson
Learning Support (shared):	Mr O'Shea	Resource (shared):	Ms Quinn

Special Needs Assistants: L. Hancock, G. Hehir, I. McCarthy, D. Hodnett.

Pupils must have written parental permission to walk/cycle home alone. If you wish for your child to go home alone after school, please send a letter stating this to the School Office immediately.

Tracksuit Days

6th: Wed & Fri
5th: Wed & Thurs
4th: Tues & Wed
3rd: Wed & Thurs
2nd: Mon & Tues
1st: Tues & Fri
S.I. Mon & Fri
J.I. Tues & Thurs

Illness: If your child is ill, please keep him/ her at home until fully recovered. If the illness is contagious, it is necessary to consult with your GP before returning to school. Remember to send an Absence Note on return. Blank Absence Notes are available in the back of homework diaries.

Headlice: Parents are asked to check their child's hair for head lice regularly and inform the class teacher if your child is infected. All pupils in the class concerned will receive a letter stating the procedure to follow. It is most important that all pupils are treated immediately once a note is received.

Extra curricular activities

Swimming for 3rd-6th classes begins on Monday, 5th September. Swimming for Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd classes will begin on Friday, 9th September. Pupils involved in swimming classes can be collected at 1.40pm. All swimming classes take place in Douglas Swimming Pool.

Soccer for pupils in 2nd-6th classes will recommence on Tuesday, 6th September @ 5pm in Garryduff Sports Centre

Hockey: for pupils in 3rd-6th classes will recommence on Wednesday, 14th September @ 2.30pm in Garryduff Sports Centre. **Please note change of day.**

Choir: for pupils in 3rd –6th classes will recommence on Tuesday, 20th September @ 2.10pm in the school hall.

Cúl Moves: Classes begin as follows: Mon, 12th September - JI & SI
Wed, 14th September - JI & SI 1.10 - 2pm
1st & 2nd 2.10—3pm
All classes take place in the Canon Packham Hall. Registration Mon 5th Sept 1.30-2.30pm
Please note that this is a six week term.

Art and Craft: Classes for pupils in Junior Infants - 4th classes begin on Thurs, 15th Sept. @2.10pm in the school hall

Tennis: Classes begin as follows: Tues, 13th Sept - Junior & Senior Infants 1.10-2.10pm
1st– 6th 2.10—3pm

French: Classess for Junior and Senior Infants begin on Thursday, 22nd September 1.10 –2.10pm.

Nut Allergy: Three pupils in the school have a severe allergic reaction to nuts. To help minimise the risk to these children we ask that you:

Do not give children nuts in school lunches

Do not give peanut butter sandwiches or other spreads containing nuts eg 'Nutella'

A 1st class pupil has a severe allergy to kiwi fruit. We ask that pupils in 1st class pupils do not bring kiwi to school.

A large number of secondhand uniforms are available in the school for parents to take. These are located next to the disabled toilet, off the school corridor. Please ask in the school office. Parents are asked to leave a donation in lieu of payment.

School Health Service

Screening

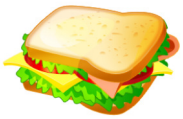
Children in the following classes will be offered screening by the Public Health Nurse as follows:

- Junior Infants: Vision
- Senior Infants or 1st Class: Hearing
- 6th Class: Vision testing has been discontinued.
- 6th Class; Colour Vision has been discontinued.

Milk for the term (Sept—Dec is available at a cost of €15 per child. If your child (1st—6th classes only) wishes to take milk, please order through the School Office.

We encourage as many pupils as possible to walk or cycle to school. A bikestand is available to the right of the school gate.

In the interest of safety, please do not cycle in the school yard.



Healthy Eating

We operate a Healthy Eating Policy in the school. The aim of this policy is to ensure that children eat a healthy, well-balanced lunch during the school day. This helps concentration and helps to promote a healthy lifestyle. **Thursday is No Wrapper Day!**

End of Year Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils to whom prizes were presented at the end of term service in June:

Val Jago Shield (History Group Project & Presentation): Isobel Kingston, Amy Dunne, Kian Donovan, and Morgan Holbrook

Runners-Up: Léon Sahm, Sophie Marry, and Christabell Ibebugwu

Flack Trophy for Handwriting: Julia McCarthy & Eoin Gallagher

Gash Squaddy of the Year: Nathan Carlaw & Cian Dorgan

Bean Uí Chaoimh Shield (Gaeilge): Lucy McManus

Coombes Shield for Sportsmanship: Isobel Kingston & Ella Marry

Gradam Mháire Roycroft (Pupil who Contributed Most to School Life): Charlotte Greene

Andrew Chambers Memorial Award (Most Promising Junior Hockey Player): Sam Dale

September is a particularly expensive time for many families. If you are experiencing financial difficulty paying for school trips, books etc please do let me know, in confidence.

A limited fund is available to help parents with the costs of these items/activities.

Punctuality

Please make sure that your child arrives in the schoolyard by 8.25am. Parents are responsible for supervising their own child(ren) in the yard before the school bell rings. To foster independence, parents are asked to leave the schoolyard as soon as the class teacher arrives.

Good punctuality is the responsibility of all parents. Pupils are expected to be in their class lines when the bell rings. Pupils (or parents, in the case of infants) who arrive late are required to sign the 'Late Book'. A pattern of late arrival and/ or collection will be brought to the attention of parents with a view to resolving this issue.

Wishing you all the very best for the 2016-2017 school year.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Olwen Anderson

Príomhoide