

## September Newsletter

24/09/20

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As the school year has started we are delighted to have all the children back. The sound of happy, chatty, giggling and noisy children in and around the school after months of almost silence, is just wonderful. A school should always be a place full of energy and noise.

I would like to thank you all for your amazing co-operation so far in helping to make the return to school successful. We thank you for the way in which you all have respected the new procedures and routines in place. Our children have demonstrated a great attitude to sanitising and washing of hands as well as social distancing in the classrooms.

I wish to thank the staff for their hard work in getting everything ready for the new school year. There is a lot of hard work in making sure that everything was in place for the beginning of the school year. I wish the school and its community every success and God's blessing for the year ahead.

The children have adapted so quickly to life back at school. We have been really encouraged by their ability to re-engage with their learning. Every effort has been made to ensure that we make up for the time spent out of school. The teachers have and will continue to work hard to make sure that any learning missed will be covered. They will monitor closely all the children in every aspect of the development and learning – academically, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude for the enormous and kind welcome that I have received from pupils, staff and parents since I have started. I felt comfortable immediately and I look forward to working with you all in year ahead. I have attached some key information on events taking place in the school as well as the school calendar for the year ahead.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Patrick Crean

## **Voluntary Contribution- Benefits to you and school**

We wish to thank all the families for the voluntary contribution that we have received so far. This contribution is necessary for photocopying, Arts & Crafts, administration, educational resources and pupil personal insurance. An electronic receipt via our new Aladdin Software has been issued to those, who have paid thus far. All families that pay are automatically added to the 24 hour pupil personal insurance, which covers children 24 hours for medical, dental and other injuries. See the list of benefits on <https://www.allianz.ie/pupil-personal-accident/cover-info/>

## **First Communion**

First Holy Communion will take place in Holy Cross Catholic Church on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am. We know that this has been a long wait for the boys and girls of 3<sup>rd</sup> class and we wish them all the best on their big day. Please make sure to check out the videos to refresh your child's mind on the Kerry Diocesan website. **Rehearsals will take place in the Church next Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am and next Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11am. We would ask that children be collected by parents at 10:45am from the school.** Ms Brosnan and Ms Mahony will accompany the children in the church on both days.

## **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Confirmation for our departed 6<sup>th</sup> Class will take place this Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. There are also some videos to explore the Sacrament of Confirmation on the Kerry Diocesan website. Ms O Sullivan and Mr Crean will be present on the day for the children receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## **Stay Safe Programme**

Teachers have started teaching the Stay Safe Programme. Stay Safe is a primary school based approach to the prevention of child abuse. The aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of a personal safety education programme for children at primary school level, continuing professional development for teachers, training for Boards of Management and information sessions for parents.

The Stay Safe programme itself is a personal safety skills programme designed for use with primary school children from Junior Infants through to 6th class. The programme seeks to enhance children's self-protective skills by participation in lessons on safe and unsafe situations, bullying, inappropriate touch, secrets, telling and stranger danger.

The programme aims to give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse/victimisation and teaches them that they should always tell (an adult that can help) about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening, dangerous or

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abusive. If you have any queries on this programme and wish to speak with the class teacher; please email or contact the school office.

## **Communication with the School**

The school wishes to maintain and improve the current channels of communication with parents. In the previous years; teachers have voluntarily given their own personal mobile numbers to families. However we would appreciate if contact could be made in a more formal manner regarding school business going forward.

A school voicemail/messaging service has been set up in the office (064 6642244), where a teacher will return your call within 48 hours.

We would ask all families to email the school ([cahirschool@gmail.com](mailto:cahirschool@gmail.com)) with their email addresses so that letters or school information can be sent directly, thus eliminating photocopying and notes being sent home.

Key information, school updates etc will be uploaded to our website or sent directly via the Aladdin text system.

## **School Calendar/ Half Day**

A copy of the school calendar for the year has been attached to this newsletter. **Please note that the school will be close at 1:30pm on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> to facilitate a staff planning meeting.**

## **School Calendar 2020-2021**

### **Half Day- Oct 6th**

School will close at 1:30pm on Tuesday October 6th to facilitate a staff meeting.

### **October Midterm Break 2020-**

School will close at 3pm on Friday, October 23rd and will reopen on Monday, November 2nd

### **Christmas Holidays**

School will close on at 12noon on Tuesday, December 22nd and will re-open Wednesday, January 6th 2021.

### **February Midterm**

School will close at 3pm on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and reopen on Monday February 22nd.

### **St Patrick's Day**

School will be closed on Wednesday March 17th 2021.

### **Easter Holidays 2021**

School will close on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon and will be re-open Monday, April 12th

### **May Bank Holiday**

School will be closed on Monday the 3rd of May.

### **June Bank Holiday**

School will be closed on Monday the 7th of June.

### **Summer Holidays**

School will close on Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12noon.