

St Paul's SNS

Newsletter September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A big welcome back to all our pupils and staff in St. Paul's. A special welcome to our 3rd Classes and new pupils who have joined us for the first time. We are very happy to be back in school after such a long absence and we are settling in very well. A lot of work was carried out over the break to follow guidelines for a safe return to school. The entire building was given a deep clean, classrooms were cleared and furniture rearranged, hand sanitizers were installed, new routines and procedures were organised etc and we thank everyone involved for all the hard work. Thank you also to our pupils and families for your cooperation, patience and support since our return. Below are a few reminders of our new procedures, and hopefully things will continue to go smoothly.

- ❖ To facilitate social distancing in the mornings and at home time, we have staggered opening times. **3rd and 4th Classes begin school at 9:00 am and go home at 2:40pm.** 3rd and 4th Class pupils should assemble in their class lines from 8:50 am, where they will be met by their teachers.
5th and 6th Classes begin school at 9:15am and go home at 2:55pm. They should assemble in their class lines from 9:05 (after 3rd and 4th Classes have gone inside).



- ❖ Please remind your child to **bring a coat/jacket to school every day** as they will be outside for all breaks unless it is raining heavily.
- ❖ Due to Covid related restrictions, **parents may not come to school without first making an appointment** by telephone. Class teachers have set up a Class Dojo so that parents/guardians and teachers can message each other. Please sign up to your child's class dojo if you have not already done so and always let the teacher know if your child is absent from school due to illness. It is very important to notify the school straight away if anybody in your household, or a close contact, has tested positive for Covid-19 or is awaiting a test or a result.
- ❖ The **Book Rental fee** remains at **€55 per child** for this school year. Thank you to those who have paid already. An online payment system was set up in July and details on how to pay are on our school website. If you are unable to pay online, please send the exact amount in an envelope with your child and it will be collected from the classroom. All payments should be made by September 30th 2020. All the children have been given their books, workbooks, copies etc and they keep them in individual cubby holes/baskets in their classroom. Due to current restrictions, it is not possible for children to share books or equipment so it is essential that children have their own pens, pencils, eraser, parer, ruler and colours with them every day. There will be no homework given for the month of September so children may leave all books and equipment in school.
- ❖ Please see the back of this newsletter for the proposed holidays for this school year. Let's hope for the best!

- ❖ Eilish and her team in the **Breakfast Club** are doing a wonderful job to ensure that pupils can have Little Lunch and Big Lunch each day while adhering to Covid restrictions and safety guidelines. However, due to these restrictions and our staggered opening times, it will not be possible to serve breakfast until after Halloween at the earliest. If your child is going to the Breakfast Club, it would be very helpful if you would send payment in at the beginning of the week. Little Lunch is €1 per week (20c per day), Big Lunch is €4 per week (80c per day) and it costs €5 (€1 per day) for both.

Mr. O’Connell is Retiring!

After 38 years in St. Paul’s School, Mr. Denis O’Connell has decided to retire from teaching at the beginning of October. He has been a central figure here since the school opened in 1982, always dedicated to the education and wellbeing of the many children who have come through our doors. Denis will be a huge loss to our school community. We will greatly miss his hard work, enthusiasm, energy, organisational skills, good humour and sense of fun and we wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

School Calendar 2020 - 2021

School re-opened on Monday, August 31st 2020.

Halloween Break	Mid-Term	Closed for the week beginning Monday October 26 th . Re-opening on Monday November 2 nd .
Christmas Holidays		School will close on Tuesday December 22 nd at 12 noon and will re-open on Wednesday January 6 th 2021.
February Mid-Term Break		Closed for the week beginning Monday February 15 th . Re-opening on Monday February 22 nd .
St. Patrick’s Day		Closed on Wednesday March 17 th .
Easter Holidays		School will close on Friday March 26 th at 12 noon and will re-open on Monday April 12 th .
May Bank Weekend	Holiday	Closed on Monday May 3 rd and Tuesday May 4 th
June Bank Weekend	Holiday	Closed on Monday June 7 th and Tuesday June 8 th
Summer Holidays		School will close on Wednesday June 30 th at 12 noon.