

# St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

September 2015



I warmly welcome all involved with St. Brendan's PS back to school for the academic year 2015 / 2016. I welcome our new staff members Ms. Yvonne Ryan (2nd class teacher), and SNA's Mrs Valerie Maher and Mrs Mary Gorman. We say welcome back to Ms Pilkington for another year and to Ms. Egan covering parental leave.

We will also welcome back 210 boys for the year ahead. We welcome new pupils from Galway / Lithuania / Canada / Dublin / Tullamore and Poland among others. We especially welcome 2 new pupils to the school who have enrolled in our new ASD class and we hope they settle well at school here.

On a staffing front I must sadly inform you that our secretary Delia Naughton has informed the BOM of her intention to resign on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September due to family circumstances at present. We wish her and her family the best of health and happiness for the future and we will thank her in due course for the invaluable contribution she makes to the school on a daily basis. There is an expression which I shared with her last year. Think she enjoyed it ..

If the principal is out , nobody notices,  
If a teacher / SNA is out , get a sub,  
If the secretary is out – Close the school !

I hope you all had a happy and safe summer and look forward to working in partnership with you all over this academic year.

Please take note of the following below:

### **School opening and closing**

The school will open to receive pupils at the hour of 9.10am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will assemble in their lines on yard when school bell rings at 9.20am. Pupils are asked to arrive on-time.

Classes will normally end for JI (see note below) and SI each day at 2.00pm where pupils are collected from school shed. We ask that you let the boys come out to shed and be seated by teachers and that the teacher then releases boys into care of parent/guardian. Teacher **MUST** know that each boy has been collected safely. This measure is to ensure that all boys are safely handed over at 2pm.

Classes will end at 3.00pm for all other classes. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate and the person escorting them should be at the school no later than 2pm/3pm as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after that time.

New Junior Infants will go home at 12.25pm until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a short parents meeting in the Junior Infant classroom on THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. at 12.05pm until 12.25pm where Ms. Ryan will outline some of the work ahead and strategies parents can use with homework. Please note this change of date due to staff meetings.

Apologies as there is an eircom fault with phone lines over the past week so please email school if you cannot get through. We hope to have this fixed shortly.

### **Cycle Entrance onto high street**

This entrance was constructed to provide for the safety of boys who cycle to school. This entrance is open each morning and evening until 3.30pm and can also be used by families who walk to school from the high street area. Parents/ Guardians who drive are asked to use Moorpark st. and Tesco park n stride. Safety is our priority so we this year again, we hope to conduct bike safety checks and safe cycle training for our cyclists. We ask all cyclists to keep wearing helmets and high-vis jackets and for all families to continue to support park-n-stride from Tesco, Walk/ Cycle on Wednesday and our other green school initiatives.

### **Car park**

We thank the school community for your co-operation with our car-park procedures which keep our pupils safe at home time. Reminder to all that the car-park is for STAFF and BUS/TAXI services only and we ask all involved to respect this.

### **Dear Brendan project**

Thanks to all who took part in this years summer letter / postcard initiative where over 30 boys wrote to the school to let BRENDAN know what they got up to. The purpose of this project was to try to get the boys to develop oral language, maths, literacy and social skills in either asking for, buying, making, writing, posting and reading a letter / postcard about summer. It was also lovely to hear from our International students who travel home for the summer. Thanks to all for their support with this.

### **Contact details**

Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for you and that you are receiving texts from our text a parent system. If you have changed mobile phone numbers during the summer please send a note with new number to school and we can update our records.

### **Pupil excursion forms**

All pupils must have a completed excursion form for local class activities and visits which will take place during school times. Eg: Birr Castle, Church, Library, Theatre, Playground etc. This is a carry over form and so only new pupils to the school need to complete it.

### **Facial Jewellery**

- In the interests of safety, facial jewellery e.g. earrings, studs, etc. are not allowed.

Our primary concern is always the safety of our pupils and so as outlined above from the school rules, these items of facial jewellery are not permitted in school due to Health and safety guidelines. School will not provide plasters on a daily basis to cover these so please ensure your child removes them before coming to school or covers them properly. I thank you all for your co-operation with this matter.

### **Healthy lunches policy**

# We're Going Back To School <sup>We</sup>



thank all families with the great efforts made to support our Green school and healthy lunch policy. We had a very successful school breakfast snack provided to all pupils last June. We hope to extend this to healthy free school LUNCHES so we will be in contact over the coming days / weeks. Exciting times !!

### **Pupil absences**

In accordance with the Education Welfare Act (1998), the school is obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer (Sandra Greville) of any pupil who has been absent from school for 20 days or more. Parents/Guardians are asked to complete the Pupil absent slip for EACH period of absence and return to the class teacher.

Please do not ring the school to report/explain a child being absent as this will not be recorded.

### **School calendar.**

School calendar for year 2015/2016 was sent home already and can be viewed shortly on school website along with school activities/news.

### **School Uniform**

Our school uniform is an important part of who we are at St.Brendan's PS.

It is important that all boys wear our uniforms as a matter of respect for our school rules and to have pride in themselves as part of our school. . All boys are expected to have BOTH forms of the school uniform.

The uniform of jumper and tracksuit does NOT have special crest etc to keep costs down for families. The school as a whole will encourage the wearing of uniform and this year we especially ask families to wear the full uniform on the non-tracksuit days.

We thank you for your continued effort in sending your boys to school in their uniform / tracksuit. Class teachers will advise on which days are for PE (School tracksuit) and we ask for your understanding in that some days PE/Coaching may be changed. Also no soccer jerseys etc are to be worn under tracksuit as it can lead to competition / peer pressure on boys and families to have the newest and coolest gear.

At St. Brendans PS – All boys are equal.

Le gach deá ghuí, Niall Crofton

Principal