

September 2015 Meán Fómhair



St. Conleth's National School Newsletter

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Welcome Back!

We are delighted to welcome 320 children back to school for the 2015 – 2016 academic year. As you can see the school has been a very busy place during the summer months. We will soon be vacating the pre-fabs and moving our infant classes into Phase 1 of our new building. We thank you for being so patient with us and we know that the long wait will be worth it!

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you, to ensure that our children can achieve their full potential. We recognise that in order to be successful at school, our children need support and encouragement from both the home and the school. We know that a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. To this end we encourage you to read our article on 'Contacting on page four of this newsletter.

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that your child....

... Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experiences.

... Completes all homework tasks and assignments given by the teachers.

... Reads daily to develop a love of reading and improve literacy skills.

Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of school life.

... Informs you if he/she needs help or support in school so that you can discuss this with the teachers.

Our commitment to you continues to be to work to provide a well-rounded, holistic education. However children need to attend regularly in order to participate fully. We don't want pupils to come to school ill, but we discourage taking holidays during school time as it causes disruption to the child's learning.

Over the coming days and weeks the children will receive new instructions about entering and leaving the school grounds safely. Please listen to your children as they will have to use gates and doors assigned to their classes. The building work necessitates limited and safe access and the well-being and safety of every member of the school community is our priority.

We also draw your attention to the safety issues that present themselves at the entrance to the school and on the road. Please exercise care and attention when parking or dropping off children. Obey the wardens' instructions at the crossing. Do not block entrances or bus parking spots. Avoid parking across the road from the school as this obscures the footpath. Kildare County Council are currently investigating possibilities for improving the traffic management system at the school, but until such time as these are in place we beg you to be careful. Many of our children walk and cycle to school. Many of our children are very young. Please be aware and mindful of others

We thank you for your assistance and co-operation and look forward to a wonderful year at school.

Text Alerts!

The school uses a text notification system, which ensures that messages can quickly be transmitted to parents. The system is very effective and reliable.

However in order for it to function it is important that up-to-date numbers are entered into the database. Please notify the school if you have changed your mobile number so that our records may be updated and so that we can continue to notify you promptly when the need arises.

****REMINDERS****

Personal Accident Insurance Scheme

The personal accident insurance cover is available through the school for a cost of €9. Don't forget to complete your form and return it in an envelope to the school office. If you have lost your form, Carol will be able to provide a new one for you.

Book Lending Scheme

The Book Lending Scheme continues at the school this year. The cost of Book Rental is €35 per child or €65 per family. This is great value as the cost of schoolbooks is constantly rising. We thank all that have paid to date and remind everybody to pay at the office. Please remind your children that the books are lent to them and that they should look after the books so that others may use them in the future.

Credit Union Savings

The Credit Union Savings scheme returns to school this year. Lots of children are saving through this scheme. Each Wednesday the Credit Union representative visits the school. The children have a Credit Union Card and they can deposit their savings. The Card is used to record the amount saved so that the children can see how much they have managed to save. If you want to join the scheme contact Carol at the office.

School Journals

All the children at the school have received their homework journals. Please check the journal to see that homework is being completed. The journal is also a method of communicating with the class teacher. Sometimes messages are sent home in the journal. It is important that you check the journal every evening. We thank all the businesses that have sponsored the journals. Without their generous contributions and kind support we would not be able to afford the journals.

Health Concerns

St. Conleth's National School has a policy on the Administration of Medicine. We understand that some children may require medication during the school day. Should you have any such requirements it is essential that you complete and sign the relevant appendix from the school's Administration of Medicine Policy (available from the office). The health and welfare of the children in our care is of paramount importance. We recommend that any child who shows signs of illness should be kept at home; requests from parents to keep their children in at lunch break are not encouraged. A child too sick to play with peers should not be in school. Parents must ensure that teachers are made aware in writing of any medical condition which their child is suffering from. We thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring the good health of all our children.

Healthy Lunches

Please refer to the school's policy on Healthy Eating which can be found on the school website. Lunch is an important meal for school-going children. It should provide one third of their recommended daily allowance of nutrients without being high in fat, sugar or salt. It should also provide dietary fibre (roughage). In school we strive to enable the children to appreciate the importance of good nutrition for growing and developing and staying healthy. We encourage the children to accept some personal responsibility for making wise food choices and adopting a healthy, balanced diet. We ask that parents provide a healthy lunch. Guidelines are provided in our Healthy Eating Policy. The policy also lists the lunch items that are not allowed at school. Should your child have food allergies of any sort, please make sure that the school has been informed.

All Ireland Predictions

Mrs. Kenny has organised a fund-raiser which is raising a lot of fun as well! We're asking for your predictions for the final score of the upcoming All-Ireland Final. The children have received cards at school and they will be asking for predictions. All cards need to be returned by Friday 18th September. The prize is €100, Best of luck to everyone.



Peace Proms

The school was delighted to participate in the Peace Proms last year. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to perform in a huge arena to a massive audience. It was a fantastic chance to be part of such an enormous undertaking, involving schools from all over the country. The children were accompanied by the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. It is marvellous to have an opportunity to hear a live orchestra, but even better to be able to perform with one.

The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland (CBOI) was established in 1995 as a peace initiative and is composed of over 100 exceptionally talented young musicians from all over Ireland – north and south. Over the past 20 years, the CBOI has played an important role in building and nurturing vital cross border and cross community relations.

This internationally acclaimed and award winning youth orchestra has performed to sell out audiences at all major venues in Ireland, and many throughout the world including Carnegie Hall New York (2005 and 2014); the Royal Albert Hall, London; Boston Symphony Hall; Chicago Symphony Hall; and the Oriental Arts Centre Shanghai; the World Trade Expo, Shanghai where they won an international music award for "Outstanding Performance".

The CBOI plays a unique blend of symphonic traditional and folk music, which evokes the rich heritage and culture of Ireland. This full symphony orchestra also incorporates traditional instruments for example Uilleann Pipes and Bagpipes. Our core message of *universal* peace remains central to our music and our mission.

This year we have decided to take part in the Peace Proms again. Forms should soon arrive for the children. Please complete the forms and return them to school so that they can be forwarded to the project organisers.

Rules and Regulations

In September the teachers remind the children of the school and classroom rules. Please take time to read our Code of Behaviour which is on our website www.stconlethsns.ie. Parents are asked to ensure that the correct school uniform is worn and to take a little time to remind the children of our Five Golden Rules –

- Be prepared for school
- Be courteous to everyone in school
- Be respectful at all times
- Be safe throughout the school
- Always try your best.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Green Schools

St. Conleth's National School is a Green School. Because of the tireless efforts of Ms. Keown, the children are aware of environmental issues. Under her guidance the Green Schools Committee has led the children in their efforts and we can proudly say that we have eco-friendly and energy-aware students. Ms. Keown has inspired students to take personal responsibility for improving the environment at their school, at home, in their community and internationally. We are currently working on the theme of 'Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste' Watch out for updates, challenges and activities. Huge thanks to Ms. Keown and her team.

School Calendar 2015 – 2016.
School will be closed as follows

September:	Tuesday	1 st	Re-opening after the summer holidays
October:	Monday	26th	Halloween break
	Tuesday	27th	
	Wednesday	28th	
	Thursday	29th	
	Friday	30th	
November:	-----		
December:	Tuesday	22 nd	Closing for Christmas holidays
January:	Wednesday	6 th	Re-opening
February:	Thursday	18th	Mid-term break
	Friday	19th	
March:	Thursday	17th	St. Patrick's Day leading into Easter Holidays
April:	Monday	4 th	Re-opening after Easter holidays
May:	Monday	2nd	Bank Holiday
	Tuesday	3rd	
June:	Monday	6th	Bank Holiday
	Tuesday	28 th	Closing for Summer holidays

Text Reminders will issue. Please ensure that we have your updated text numbers.

Contacting School

At this time of year lots of new children have arrived at school. It can be very strange coming to a new school for the first time and we encourage parents to communicate with the school. Let us know how your children are settling in. Ask any questions you have about school. We recently created a document called Communication Procedures, which shows the best ways of making contact with the school. You can find this on the school website, www.stconlethsns.ie.

We encourage parents to develop close links with the school and to be actively involved in their child's education. Please bear in mind that the teachers have responsibility for the class during school hours and any meeting needs to be arranged in advance so that supervision of the children can be arranged. We welcome your input, but the safety and welfare of the children in our care is paramount. This list outlines the many methods of communication available to you as parents.

- Meeting for parents of new Junior Infants – May / June.
- Parent/teacher meetings one-to-one in November.
- Parents receive school report of each pupil at the end of each school year.
- Meetings with parents whose children have special needs.
- Consultation throughout the year.
- Written communication.
- Through the Parents' Association.
- Regular newsletters keep parents up-to-date with school events, holidays and school concerns.
- The Homework Diary is used to relay messages. Parents requested to sign diary each night to certify that homework has been completed.
- Parents are invited to events throughout the year
- Involvement of parents in the 'Religion 'Alive-O' Programme' section for parents.
- The school website www.stconlethsns.ie .
- Text messages are sent home when necessary using the Aladdin system.

St Conleth's National School, Derrinturn, Carbury, Co. Kildare.

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