

Family Note No. 5 – 18th October 2018

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are seven weeks into the school year already and are heading into the Mid-term Break the week after next. Time flies when we are enjoying ourselves! The following are a few notices and reminders:

1. Parents and Friends Association (PFA) Annual General Meeting (AGM):

The AGM of the PFA will be held next Thursday, 25th October, at 7.30 p.m. in the school staffroom. All parents are welcome to the AGM. The meeting is a formal meeting whereby a report will be given on all events and activities that took place last year by the PFA. A financial report will be given by the PFA Treasurer also. There will be an official election of a new PFA Deputy Treasurer on the night.

Any parent attending who is new to the school or who has not attended an AGM before are welcome to ask questions of the PFA in relation to what they do and how people can help in any way.

If you cannot make this meeting but would like to find out more about the PFA, what they do and how people can help in any way (big or small), you can email them at scoilbarrapfa@gmail.com

The school are forever indebted to the people who give of their time and talents voluntarily on our PFA. The PFA provide great support to the school in many many ways and this support is a great example of how home and school can work together for the good of the children, striving to make school a happy, safe and productive place for them.

2. Notes in the Children's Journals:

A parent's 'lot' can be demanding and hectic at times and, often, things happen that are outside of our control and this is very understandable. However, I would ask that in the following such events, could you please ensure to write a short note in your child's journal by way of informing teachers:

- If your child is missing any part of the school uniform through no fault of their own
- If your child could not complete all items of homework for any reason
- If your child is late for school for any reason

It is particularly important to put a note into the journal when your child is late (a one-liner will suffice) as this is a matter of **safety** as well as courtesy. We need to know, if a child walks into school 10 or 15 minutes late (or later, on occasion) that they have been safe and with you until then. The only way we can be sure of this is if you have written a note to acknowledge the delay/late arrival to us. No lengthy explanations are needed, just a brief note. Also, please make sure to bring your child to school if you have 'slept it out', no matter how late, as missing a part of the day from school is better than missing a whole day.

3. The Video Game 'Fortnight':

Just to warn parents that '**underage**' and '**overplay**' of the above game is having some very negative and destructive affects on some of our pupils which is raising its ugly head in school of late. Some children who are playing the game for endless hours and others who are playing it underage (it is for 12 year olds and older) are coming to school still obsessed/possessed with the game and filled with frustration and anger because of it. This is resulting in actual physical aggression and psychological taunting, mocking and harassment. The school has dealt with numerous issues in the past few weeks involving pupils and parents as a result.

I **urge** you to monitor your child's use of the game. They should not be playing it if they are under 12 and they should not be playing it for long periods of time.

You have beautiful, good, healthy children who are in danger of becoming angry, aggressive, unkind and unfit children if and when they become obsessed and addicted to video games of this nature.

4. School Nature Trek:

Well done to all who took part in our Nature Trek and/or those who helped to fundraise for the school. We had a lovely day. Tom Butler, our guest speaker, got a great reception from the children who seemed genuinely fascinated with all the work Tom does in the community on a voluntary basis. Hopefully, Tom has inspired many of our children to want to 'do good' themselves and to give of their time and talents to others. Our theme for the year of '*Show Respect*' really bore fruit on the day as the children sat for quite a length of time listening to Tom and the pupils who asked him questions with great respect and good will. We were very proud of them!

Thanks, also, to our PFA who prepared the 'teas and coffees' in the hall and helped in general.

Enjoy the lovely autumnal weather and the run up to mid-term! Karen O'Sullivan (Principal)

*****For parents of children in 1st – 6th Classes, please sign below and return to the class teacher:**

Signed (Parent/Guardian)..... Signed (Parent/Guardian).....

