

Family Note No. 6 – 24th October 2018

Dear Parents,

We are about to complete our first half term. The children have settled in really well at this stage, there is a lovely atmosphere among staff and pupils of work, activity, collaboration, fun and that sense of fulfilment that comes from being constructively occupied and motivated. The break ahead is well earned by one and all, including yourselves....I hope you get a chance to 'down tools' and take a break!!

A few notices and reminders:

1. School Closure:

There will be no school this Friday, 26th October, as the building has been requisitioned for voting. There will be no school the following week, 29th October – 2nd November, for mid-term break. Children return to school on Monday, 5th November.

2. Hallowe'en Dress-Up:

Tomorrow, Thursday, is the last day of this half-term, the day the children, traditionally, come into school in 'fancy dress-up' if they want to.....they don't have to.

I have stressed at assembly this morning that this fun activity is **not** fun if parents are put under pressure in any way because of it....therefore, I stressed that they do **not** need to buy an outfit and you, the parents, are not expected to stay up half the night making a masterpiece!!! I encouraged them to be creative themselves with whatever bits and pieces they can find at home. Also, it doesn't have to be a scary character...a character from a book or film is a good idea too. For those children who don't want to dress up, we have given them the option of wearing their school track-suit instead of uniform for the day.

3. Girls' Sciath na Scol Football Final:

Great news!! Our Girls' Football Team have made it through to the Final (we never doubted it!). This takes place on Wednesday, the 7th November, at 12.30 p.m in Páirc Uí Rinn. We will organise buses to take our 3rd-6th Classes to the match to support the girls in this great success. There will be a small cost to cover the bus (and entry fee of €2), full details to follow after the break. Adults' entry fee is €5 and a family ticket is €10 (2 adults and 2 children). **Go n-eirí an t-ádh leo**, the very best of luck to them and their teachers/coaches.

4. School Quiz Team:

Our School Quiz Team, consisting of four Sixth Class pupils, did us proud last Sunday in Rochestown Pk. Hotel when they took part in the Credit Union Annual Schools' Quiz. The standard was higher than ever and our pupils held their own with the top teams answering questions that most adults would have to think long and hard about!! **Táimid an-bhródúil astu agus ár múinteoirí a chuidigh leo.....**we are very proud of the team and their teachers who coached them.

5. Christmas Shoe Box Appeal:

We are continuing the practice of inviting children to donate a Christmas Shoe Box to HOPE (Charity Organisation) who send them on to children who are in need and will not be getting Christmas presents. Usually the boxes are covered in Christmas paper and have small little gifts in them such as small toys, colouring pencils, toothbrush, sweets, soaps, hats/scarves/ gloves etc. There can be no liquids, 'fighting/war' toys or chocolate. Please send in the shoe boxes by Thursday, 8th November, with €4. The contents do not have to be bought or new, but in good usable condition if not new. This has been a very positive activity in the past whereby the children who donate focus

on the concept of 'giving' and the fact that not all children are as lucky as them at Christmas or any time of year.

6. Parents and Friends' Association AGM:

A reminder that the PFA Annual General Meeting is on this Thursday, tomorrow evening, at 7.30 p.m. in the school staffroom. All parents are welcome. Make contact at scoilbarrapfa@gmail.com for further information.

7. School Year 2019-2020 - Enrolment Week and Open Day:

Our Enrolment Week for new pupils for the next school year, 2019 -2020, will take place November 12th – 16th. The final date for making an application to the school for placement is Friday, 16th November 2019. During Enrolment Week, there will be an Open Afternoon on Thursday, 15th November, from 1.00 p.m. until 2.30 p.m. whereby any family interested in placement for their child can visit the school and chat to teachers and management personnel about the school. The school generally receives more applications than we have places for, therefore, it is important to note that your child does not automatically get a place because they have applied for one, or because of the timing of the application. Our Enrolment Policy consists of very clear and legally-compliant criteria to establish placement for applicants which can be accessed on our website and a copy of which is available in the school during Enrolment Week or at any other time upon request.

8. School Website & School Policies:

We have updated our website this week with three more School Policies that have been recently reviewed: 1) Child Protection Policy, 2) SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) Policy and 3) Stay Safe Policy. These can be accessed and viewed on our website under 'School Policies'. All our Family Notes are also uploaded onto the website for your perusal.

9. Pupil Absences:

Please ensure to write a note into your child's journal or Homework Copy (Infant Classes) when your child has been absent, even if you have already mentioned it to the Class Teacher in passing or spoken to Eileen, our secretary, by phone. We are obliged by the DES (Department of Education and Skills) and Tusla (Child and Family Agency) to record all absences on our Computer System, including reasons for absences and confirmation that a note has been received re same.

*Finally, we would like to pay tribute to two members of our School Community whom we sadly lost in recent years and whose anniversaries occur at this time: our pupil, Danny Szalai, whose third anniversary was yesterday, 23rd October and our teacher Orla Murphy, whose first anniversary is on Friday, 26th October. At assembly this morning, we spoke about Danny and Orla and all the lovely things we remember about them and acknowledged what a loss they are to our school community. We prayed to them and for them and sang a song in their honour. We remember, in a special way at this time of year, **all** of our past pupils and staff members who have sadly passed away and acknowledge the unique part they played in the school's journey and the richness of the school's fabric.*

Have a lovely Mid-term break and please ensure that your children stay safe during the Hallowe'en festivities.

Karen O'Sullivan (Principal)

