



St. Anne's National School

Roll No; 19317K

Newsletter September 2020

Welcome Back Boys and Girls

Welcome back to all the boys and girls after our Covid-19 enforced 24-week break. A special word of welcome to our **26 new Junior Infants**. Welcome Pippa, Jesse, Conor, Anna, Isabell, Shay, Harry, Aria, Nathan, Nicholas, Abigail, Philippa, Ava, Finn, Ellie, Paddy, Polly, Mia, Joey, Ajay, Olivia, Josh, Nadine, Albert, Orla and Sorcha. Also, a big welcome to Lily in 2nd class and Patrick in Senior Infants who joined us over the summer.

Safety Measures

Many changes have taken place over the summer to try to make our school as safe as possible for pupils and staff. We have increased our cleaning hours from 20 hours per week to 45 hours per week. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in every classroom and at the main entrances. Paper towels have been installed in all toilets replacing cotton towels and hand dryers. New vinyl flooring has replaced carpets in 6 of our classrooms to facilitate cleaning. A fogging machine has been purchased to add an extra level of protection to our cleaning regime. Pupils from 3rd to 6th all have their own individual tables and are all seated at least 1m apart. Pupils from Junior Infants to 2nd have been organised into Pods within their classrooms. Our teaching staff has been reorganised to ensure that the numbers of pupils in each classroom is kept to a minimum. Breaktimes have been staggered to allow for extra space on the playground and classes stay within their own designated space. However, the most effective way of keeping our pupils and staff safe is to prevent Covid-19 coming into our school in the first place by following the HSE guidelines on social distancing, hand cleaning and cough/sneeze etiquette.

Advice to Parents Regarding Covid Symptoms

When to keep your child at home and phone your GP

Your child has: -

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- Any other symptoms of coronavirus such as a new cough, shortness of breath or changed sense of taste/smell
- Been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
- Been living with someone who is displaying symptoms and may have coronavirus

While awaiting testing or results of a Covid-19 test, all family members should restrict their movements, which means not coming to school. If the test is positive, follow HSE guidelines. If the test is negative, pupils may return once symptom free for 48 hours. Siblings may return immediately provided they are feeling well.

School Opening/Closing Times and Supervision

Parents are reminded that school begins at **9.20am** and we ask that pupils are dropped off as close to that time as possible. The school cannot accept responsibility for pupils dropped off before **9.00am**. On arrival, Junior Infants to 2nd Class pupils go straight into their classrooms. Supervision is in place. 3rd – 6th class pupils go to their designated area on the front and back yards which will also be supervised from 9.00-9.20am each morning. On wet days the children will be admitted from 9.00am. In the afternoon, pupils should be collected promptly at 2pm for infants and 3pm for 1st-6th.

Aladdin Connect

The school recently launched Aladdin Connect and the take up by parents so far has been brilliant. Going forward, Aladdin Connect will be our main mechanism for home school communication rather than letters or texts. School reports, parent teacher meetings, school closures etc. will be communicated via the **app**. It is therefore very important that families who have yet to download the app, do so as soon as possible.

Book Rental

Book bills are going out early next week. Book bills can be paid to the school office, the class teacher or by Aladdin E-Payments. It is important that book bills be paid at your earliest convenience. Should parents require extra time or assistance with payment, please contact the School Principal. Absolute discretion will be guaranteed. **Personal insurance** with Allianz for each child is included in your book bill. This affords you **24hr** cover **12 months** a year for your child. Claim forms can be collected from Jenny in the school office.

Health and Safety

We ask that parents collecting pupils at home time do so as quickly as possible and not congregate at the church gate or in the carpark. The school also advises that we cannot accept any responsibility for pupils who are going to the GAA Hurling Wall before entering school grounds in the morning. We ask that you discourage your child from doing this.

Hurling Coaching

Mr. Murphy will continue with **Hurling at the Wall** for boys and girls from 3rd to 6th classes at both breaktimes. The timetable is as follows; -

- Mondays – 3rd class
- Tuesdays- 6th class
- Wednesdays- 5th class
- Thursdays- 4th class

Pupils are reminded to bring their own hurls and helmets on their allocated day. The class with the best participation levels will be rewarded with the extra Friday slot.

School Closure

School will finish at **1pm** for all pupils on **Friday 25th of September** to facilitate a staff meeting. Buses will collect pupils at 1pm.

Labels

We ask that parents please clearly label school jumpers and coats to avoid confusion.

Gymnastics

Prior to the lockdown in March, some classes had begun a 5-week programme of gymnastics lessons with coaches from Gymstars. We intend to complete the remaining 3 weeks of classes this month. Weather permitting, lessons will be conducted outside on the yard. The vast majority of families had paid for the gymnastics up front, so there will be no charge. Because we are reliant on good weather, pupils will be informed before going home at 3 if the lessons are going ahead the following day. They should wear runners and a tracksuit bottom.

Dates for your diary

- Friday 25th September- school finishes at 1pm for all pupils to facilitate staff meeting. (School buses will collect pupils at 1pm)
- Friday 23rd of October- school closes for Hallowe'en Break at 1pm

