**St. Anne’s N.S. Newsletter**

**Welcome Back Boys and Girls**

Welcome back to all the boys and girls. We hope you had a lovely summer holiday and wish you an enjoyable and successful school year with us. Best of luck to the 6th class, our new role models, as they begin their last year with us.

**Welcome to our new students**

A special word of welcome to our **26 new Junior Infants**. Welcome Shem, Gracie, Liam, Keden, Tadhg, Lena, Leah C, Charlie, Abbie, Jane, Orla, Killian, Donnchadh, Finn, Max, Jack, Leah M, Robyn, Cian, Danny, Senan, Teddy, Billy, Harley, Amelia and Sean. 5 new pupils, Tom, Sam Max, Harriet and Clayton transferred to Rathangan NS over the summer holidays and we extend a big welcome to them also.

**School Opening/Closing Times and Supervision**

Parents are reminded that school begins at **9.20am**. The school cannot accept responsibility for pupils dropped off before **9.00am**. The front yard will be supervised from 9.00-9.20am each morning. Pupils are not permitted to enter the school until the bell rings at 9.20am. On wet days the children will be admitted at 9.00am. In the afternoon, pupils should be collected promptly at 2pm for infants and 3pm for 1st-6th.

**Communication for Parents**

The most effective method of communication for the school is **text-a-parent**. Should you have changed your mobile number or are not receiving our texts for any reason, please contact the office as soon as possible and we will update our records. The office phone number is 051 563167.

**Book Bills**

Book bills are going out this 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.

**Absent Notes**

Under section 21 of the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Board of Management must submit an annual attendance record with details of pupils who have been absent for 20 days or more. A note of explanation is required if your child has been absent. This can be given to the teacher on their return to school. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

**School Library**

Our beautiful new School Library is now up and running. Huge thanks to Ms. Cunningham for all her hard work on it. Thanks also to all the parents who kindly donated books. We are very grateful. There is an abundant supply now for the children so, until further notice, please do not send books into school.

**Rackard League**

The Rackard League Football season is upon us again. Training for the boys with Mr. Murphy has already commenced after school on Wednesdays and Fridays. Lunchtime Leagues are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Training for the girls with Ms. Power is after school on Mondays. Lunchtime leagues will commence this week.

**Green Schools/Active Schools**

The Green Schools Committee would like to thank all who looked after the newly planted pollinator patch over the summer. They wish to remind you that batteries can be recycled in the school. As part of the Biodiversity Flag Programme (which we hope to be awarded this year) the committee are examining ways to reduce waste. All children are being encouraged to reduce the amount of packaging in their lunch boxes. The Green School Committee will be meeting again in the coming week. Let’s all hope for a “blooming” good year!

**Active Schools Committee**

The European Week of Sport is from 23rd to 30th of September. Our committee hope to mark this by organising some whole school sporting activities. Watch this space! **W.O.W** will continue next Wednesday.

**Savings Stamps**

Savings stamps costing €1 each are on sale every day. If you wish to avail of this, you or your child can speak to Caroline.

**Lost and Found**

There is a huge amount of school jumpers, coats and other items of clothing which has been left in the school. All these items will be left out on display in the GP room all day on **Monday next (16th)**. If your child is missing any item of clothing, please come and have a look.

**Additional School Closure**

The Department of Education has given notice that the staff are to attend an **In-Service Day** on the Primary Language Curriculum on **Tuesday 7th of January**. The school will be closed on this day.

**Inter Schools Show Jumping**

Rathangan NS was represented by two teams on Sunday in a show jumping competition in Wexford Equestrian Centre. Ava Murphy (5th), Edie Codd (5th), Geoffrey Barry (5th) and Isaac Barry (3rd) made up the Blue Team. The White Team was comprised of Jack Brophy (4th), Edie Codd (5th), Eoin Barry (4th) and Freya Barry (2nd). Despite good performances for the first day out neither team made the jump-off on this occasion. Well done to all concerned.

**A Word from the Principal**

It was a great honour for me to be appointed as Principal of St. Anne’s NS last June. I would like to thank all the staff for making me feel so welcome and look forward to getting to know the parents over the coming year. I would also like to pay tribute to the work done by Ms. Nicola Roche over the past 5 years and wish her all the best in her new post.

**Dates for your diary**

* Thursday 12th September- school finishes at 2pm for all pupils to facilitate staff meeting. (School buses will collect pupils at 2)
* Friday 20th September- Beginning of Year Mass @11.30am in Rathangan Church
* Friday 25th of October- school closes for Halloween Break