

## SÉ October Parent Newsletter

*Hallowe'en Mid-term Break: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November (inclusive)*



**School Meals Programme** began smoothly with the introduction of cold lunches and mid-morning snacks. If parents are experiencing any difficulty with ordering please feel free to contact Fresh Today, who are very helpful. Text CHANGE to 087-1184394 or email [info@freshtoday.ie](mailto:info@freshtoday.ie) Our electricity supply is in place and we are currently waiting on the ovens to arrive to allow us to move over to hot meals, just in time for the cooler weather. It is proposed that hot meals will begin on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November**. New usernames/passwords for hot meals will be issued ahead of this date.

**School Attendance** As we are now a DEIS school one of the key areas for school improvement action planning that we must focus on is Attendance. We are required to analyse our systems, to assist this, could we ask please that if your child is going to be late to school/or leaving early that you log the reason on Aladdin Connect. This can be completed in the same way as recording absences. It has come to our attention that many children have already missed a number of school days due to term time family holidays, whilst we understand the reasons for doing this, we strongly discourage taking children out of school for long periods during term time. *Every school day counts!* **Under current legislation the school must notify the National Educational Welfare Board if a child is absent for 20 days or more.**

**GAA coaching** continues for all until the Hallowe'en break and we thank Monaghan GAA coach Eamon Hughes for delivering an excellent skills programme to all.



**GAA:** 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class boys participated fully in an inter-school Cumann na mBunscol boys league over the last few weeks and whilst we weren't winners the boys participated fully and played from the heart.

**Aquatics** began again for senior classes in September and this will conclude until September 21<sup>st</sup>. Swimming is such an important and enjoyable life skill - with this in mind we encourage as many as possible to continue attending after school lessons.

School swimming lessons for 1<sup>st</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup> class will begin in the third term.

**Little Athletics** for junior classes concludes next week and a huge thank you to Francis McFadden for an immensely fun and engaging four weeks.

**Beginning of Year Mass** took place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September and it was wonderful to be able to open our doors again to welcome family and friends to join us as a whole school community. For so many of our junior pupils it was their first experience of a whole school event.



**Student Council/Green School Council** Elections have taken place and the new pupils are looking forward to the year ahead. Our Green Schools' Committee have launched WOW a walking initiative as they work towards our travel flag.

**Digital Strategy Grant** During the summer four Clevertouch Interactive Touchscreen boards were installed in some of our mainstream classrooms bringing the latest technology to our pupils to further enhance teaching and learning. It is our aim over the next few years, on a phased basis, to upgrade further classroom boards.



**Scoil Éanna Parents' Association Meeting** The first meeting of the Parents' Association will take place on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October @ 8pm**. It truly is a very special experience to be involved in the school life of your child/ren. We have a great school here and the new committee have asked me to encourage parents to get involved and come along to their meetings to support the work they do for your children.

**OLD TOYS/JIGSAWS/LEGO/BOARD GAMES/CHILDREN'S BOOKS** *in good condition please*. Teachers have asked that if you have anything your children no longer uses to consider donating to the school.

**Mobile Phones** A reminder to all parents – children ***are not permitted*** to have phones in school please see our policy on mobile phones <http://www.scoileanna.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Mobile-Phone-Smart-Device-Policy-Signed.pdf>

**Parent/Teacher Meetings Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November** from 3-5:30pm. Meetings will return to the more traditional 'in-school' format. This year the booking of P/T meetings will be open to parents to choose a suitable slot via the Aladdin Connect App. ***This portal will open after the Halloween break*** and details of when/how to book will be communicated to all parents ahead of that.

**Internet Safety Talk** REIM Castleblayney will be hosting an internet safety talk for parents in school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November @ 8pm. The workshop educates parents in the practical skills needed to set up parental controls and protect their children online while using their devices. The workshop also provides knowledge on how to keep children safe while using some of the frequently used social media sites and tips on dealing with cyber-bullying. All parents are welcome to attend.

REIM will also hold an in-school workshop for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>) which provides up to date information and advice on current technology and trends in an informal and fun way, covering topics like cyber-bullying, stranger danger, creating a positive digital footprint and the negative impact social media can have on us as internet users.

**Peace IV** Our Peace IV project and funding this year has been expanded to classes 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> and our theme this year is 'Write a Book'. we continue to work with Scoil na gCailíní, Castleblayney on this wonderful 'fully funded' shared learning project. As part of our project the renowned author Shane Hegarty will visit the school, next month, to talk to pupils about writing books and his experience. We hope to gain lots from his wealth of knowledge.

**Hallowe'en** to make our Hallowe'en celebration more inclusive for all we have decided to remove the competitive element of dressing up and just allow children to dress-up in Hallowe'en costumes, for fun on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Weather permitting, we plan to host an outdoor disco and a spooky town walk for all.



**Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal** Every year Team Hope send thousands of gift-filled shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe and Africa, many of whom will receive no other gift this Christmas. If you wish to build a shoebox and share some of your Christmas it would mean so much. Leaflets will be distributed in school and we are happy to collect shoeboxes for collection by Team Hope. [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie)