



September Newsletter 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new pupils and parents. I would also like to welcome a new member of staff, Mr Chris Townsend and to wish Mrs Maureen Mc Namara all the best in her retirement and express sincere gratitude for her years of service to our school. A special word of thanks to all the staff and parents who helped during the summer months to prepare the school for this school year. It is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes to all our students, staff, parents, Board of Management and parish community for the academic year 2019/2020.

Kind regards,

Helen Molloy (Principal)

Swimming Lessons for 1st to 6th class pupils, resume on Monday 9th September in

Graigucullen Swimming Pool. There will be 8 lessons in total. Fees remain the same as last year i.e. €7 for the first family member, €6 for the second and €5 for the third and every child thereafter. Lessons can be paid for on a weekly basis. There are a limited number of places available so pay early in the week in order to avoid disappointment. Please be aware that **children must wear a swimming cap.**

Traffic Situation outside the School

Your child/ren's safety is our primary concern.

- Parking outside the school has been improved by a **new ONE WAY set down system in the bus parking area**. This is to safeguard our children at a very busy time of the school day and improve traffic flow.
- **IMPORTANT- PLEASE DO NOT DO A U TURN AT THE SET DOWN AREA AND HAVE KIND REGARD FOR OUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY.**

Following representations from the Board of Management, Carlow County Council agreed to erect bollards outside the school. This work was scheduled to be completed during the summer. I understand this work will now be carried out in the next few weeks. The BoM would appeal to all concerned to observe the new traffic system and new no parking areas.

Music Generation Carlow

The Music Generation Programme resumes on Tuesday 10th of September. This is a really exciting programme and gives children the opportunity to learn the tin whistle and also another musical instrument (fiddle, banjo, accordion, traditional flute, mandolin) during their time in St. Patrick's N.S. .

As we begin the year it is a good time to remind ourselves of important school issues which help with the efficient and safe running of our school.

1. Yard supervision commences at 9.10 a.m. The school is not responsible for children who arrive before this time.

2. Punctuality

The school opens at 9.20 a.m. **Please ensure that your child is in school on time** to avoid disruption to teaching and learning in the class.

School ends at 3pm (2pm for infant classes). Children should not normally be withdrawn from school before the end of the school day. However, if a child is finishing early, a sign-out register must be completed in the office.

3. School Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear the full school uniform to school every day.

- Navy skirt/pinafore/pants/jeans/tracksuit bottoms
- Navy jumper with crest (crests are available in the office)
- White shirt
- Red tie (optional)

Leggings & Jeggings are not permitted unless worn with a skirt or pinafore

Pupils from 1st class up are required to wear **indoor shoes** in school

4. Pupil Personal Insurance Forms

Late application forms to be completed and returned to the office by **Friday 6th of September** (forms available in office).

5. Medication

Children are **not permitted to bring medication** (other than prescribed medication) to school. Where a child is on prescribed medication, this must be brought to the attention of the Class Teacher - ref school's Administration of Medication Policy (available on school website 'rathvillyns.com'). A form must be signed and presented to the school. Please enquire at the office. Also, please note that pupils will no longer be kept in during break.

6. Book Rental Scheme

Our book rental scheme is an integral and important part of our school. It represents extremely good value for parents (e.g. the cost of the 5th Class rental books comes to a total of €135.09 for ten books plus approx €10 for plastic covers. All of these books are available to **rent from the school for €22**). We are constantly working to maintain and improve the scheme and your help and co-operation is important.

We would ask you to monitor the condition of your child's rental books throughout the year. Please encourage your child to look after these books. Ensuring your child has a watertight bottle and/or lunchbox and encouraging him/her to clean out his/her schoolbag on a regular basis may help prevent spillages or damage to books. Where possible drinks should not be carried in the same bag/part of bag as books. The books should not be written on, nor is it necessary to write names or add labels as they all have a number. This year there will be regular spot checks in school also. Failure to return books in good condition may result in exclusion from the book rental scheme in the future.

7. Headlice

From time to time there are instances of headlice in the school. Parents should check for lice in their children's hair on a regular basis. If lice are detected, treatment should begin immediately and please inform the school. Once treatment has started, exclusion from school is not necessary.

8. Healthy Lunches

In line with the school's healthy lunch policy, crisps, biscuits, cakes, minerals (fizzy), sweets, chocolate, chewing gum etc. are not permitted in school.

As St. Patrick's National School is a 'Green School', children are encouraged to use a lunch box and a re-usable drinks container. We look forward to your co-operation in this matter.

9. The School Meals Scheme resumes on Monday 9th of September. Pupils who have signed up will receive 2 food items (a piece of fruit & a healthy snack bar/biscuit) daily.

10. Mobile Phones

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones in school or during school activities. Phones must be powered off when pupils enter the school grounds.

11. Birthday invitations, Christmas Cards etc

The distribution of birthday invitations, Christmas Cards etc. is not permitted in the school or on the school grounds. A child may feel 'left out' if s/he does not receive an invitation.

12. Appointments to meet your child's Class Teacher

If, at any stage of the year, you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, please contact Caroline in the office (059 9161304) to make an appointment.

13. Update Form

Please return attached Update Form as soon as possible.

Please inform the office as soon as possible of any change of address or contact number. We operate a texting service and it is extremely important to have a contact number in case of emergencies and for information texts.