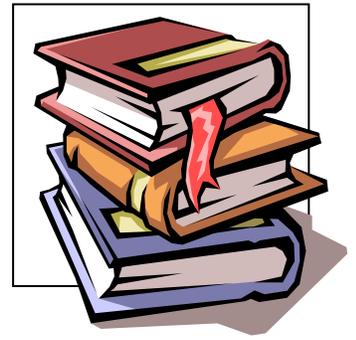


St. John's N.S. Ballisodare

Newsletter September-October 2014



Welcome:

I wish to extend a warm welcome back to everyone at our school, pupils, staff and parents and I especially welcome our 35 pupils who are here for their first time. I hope every pupil has a productive and enjoyable time here in our school this year.

Congratulation:

Congratulations to Ms. Mulvaney who got engaged during the summer holidays. We wish both her & Bob a long and happy life together.

School Discipline:

I must commend all the pupils for their good behavior since the start of the school year. Very few yellow and red cards have been issued which shows most pupils are responding to our revised code of discipline. Below is a concise version of our code. I would be delighted if you would go through it again with your child(ren).

School Rules:

09.20 - School bell rings to commence the school day.

14.00 - School ends for Junior and Senior Infants classes.

15.00 - School ends for 1st - 6th classes.

- The Board of Management will not accept responsibility for pupils either side of the times articulated above except in instances of school-based activities.
- The school bell is to be responded to promptly at all times.
- Each pupil is expected to be punctual and to attend school daily.
- Notification from parents/guardians is required when a pupil is required/wishes to leave school during school hours and/or a child is late for school.
- Absences: a written note is necessary in the case of any absence from school. Please note: any pupil who is absent for 20 days or more in any school year will be reported to the National Education Welfare Board.
- Healthy lunches and snacks are advised; advice on this matter can be found in our Healthy Eating Policy.
- All children are obliged to wear the full uniform. On designated P.E. days the school uniform tracksuit is required.

Our School Uniform

Royal Blue jumper/cardigan; Grey Trousers/skirt/pinafore; Grey/white socks/tights, Black Shoes.

Tracksuit: Navy Tracksuit bottoms; grey crested tracksuit top (available from Jako Sports, Sligo)

and

white runners.

*Children may wear a watch to school - no other jewellery is allowed.

- Mobile phones and other electronic equipment are not allowed in school. Please refer to our policy on Mobile Phone usage in school.
- Refined, respectful behavior is expected at all times, e.g. speaking politely, using greetings appropriately, saying "Please", "Thank you", "Sorry", "Excuse Me" etc.
- Showing good manners towards other children and adults.

- Honesty is encouraged at all times.
- Inappropriate/foul language, particularly when it is directed at someone, will not be tolerated.
- Bullying of any kind will be viewed as a serious matter – please see our Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Children must respect their teachers and be attentive and co-operative in class and on the yard or anywhere else when under the care of a teacher – this will ensure the safe, structured environment required to enhance learning for all. Good manners, courtesy and politeness are essential at all times towards teachers, visitors and fellow pupils.
- Behaviour that results in disruptions/interruptions to the normal function of the class is not allowed- this type of behavior means the learning environment for the other children of that class is impacted.
- School property – buildings, P.E. equipment, technical equipment, furniture, books etc must be treated with due respect. If deliberate damage is caused to any aspect of school property by a pupil the Board of Management may seek repair or replacement costs from the parent(s)/guardians of that pupil.
- Pupils must not damage, take without consent or steal the property of another pupil or of the school.
- Pupils are expected to co-operate with and take correction from all members of the school staff.
- Children are encouraged to walk in single file on the corridors and to proceed in an orderly fashion around the school building.
- Physically aggressive or violent behavior towards another is wrong and will not be tolerated.
- Children must not throw litter either in the school building or in the playground.
- Children must obey the bell promptly and proceed to their class line when required.

**It is important to note that supervision starts in the morning at 9.10am and pupils are expected to arrive in school between 9.10am and 9.20am. On wet mornings the pupils will be allowed indoors at 9.10am to assemble in the G.P. room.*

**When all the pupils are in class, the doors will be closed and pupils who arrive late may walk to their classroom unaccompanied.*

**Most pupils are adhering to the healthy lunches policy, but please be mindful that only Friday is “treat” day. Also ensure that your child can open their drink, and have fruit peeled and cut in pieces that your child can manage.*

**I have noticed recently that there are an increasing number of junior pupils (Junior & Senior Infants who go home at 2pm) in the school yard and in the school building between 2pm and 3pm. These pupils should not be there and are not insured. If parents are waiting for older siblings, please keep the younger pupils outside the gate. Your co-operation in the above matters would be most appreciated.*

Music Generation Programme:

We joined the Music Generation programme this year and specialist tutors come to the school to work with different classes. Currently Sixth class are having vocal training, Fourth class are learning the tin whistle and First class are enjoying introduction to music lessons. This programme is part funded by U2 and organized by Sligo V.E.C.

Swimming Lessons:

Fourth Class have swimming lessons in the pool at the Sligo Sports Centre every Tuesday. Today is their third lesson. Many thanks to the Parents Association for organizing the lessons and to all the parents who help with the supervision.

Do This in Memory of Me Programme:

The Do This in Memory of Me programme is a parish based preparation programme for pupils in second class who wish to receive the sacraments of First Penance. A meeting of parents of second class pupils takes place in Room 4 this evening at 8pm. All parents are welcome.

Meeting for Parents of Pupils in First Class:

A short meeting of parents of pupils in First Class will take place in the G.P. room on Thursday evening next at 7.30pm. Ms. Haran and Mrs. Bruen will attend this meeting. All parents of pupils in First class are invited to attend.

School Mass:

Many thanks to Fr. Toweey who celebrated a beginning of school year Mass with us on Wednesday 17th September at 2pm. Thanks also to Mrs. Mc Donnell who organized the liturgy to the class teachers who prepared the beautiful art work, to the parents who sent in lovely flowers and to all our pupils who participated and behaved so respectfully during the Mass.

Athletics Festival:

Best of luck to the 36 pupil from Third to Sixth Class who will represent the school at the Supervalu Athletics Festival on the running track at the I.T. on Friday next 3rd October. We have relay teams in all nine events.

Girls Football:

Well done to the Ballisodare U-12 girl's team who qualified for the county final. Their dedication and hard work at training has definitely paid off and they have improved greatly over the season. We wish them the very best of luck in the final on Saturday next 4th October in Coola. We urge as many parents as possible to go along and cheer for these young sports people.

Reminder:

Friday next 3rd October is closing date for applications for pupil insurance, and no more applications for the school milk scheme can be accepted.

Student Council:

For the first time we have a Student Council made up of representatives elected by their class. The members this year are: Reuben Galvan, Halle Conlon Oates, Blathnaid Clarke, Diarmaid Gallagher, Alli Galvan, Sean Tivnan, Aine Harrington, Ruth Murphy and Roisin Mc Intyre. Roisin and Ruth are the recording secretaries. We recently had our September meeting which was very positive and we identified a few small areas to work on.

Assemblies:

We plan to have an assembly every month, where all the positive work, good behavioural achievements (both in school and outside) of our pupils will be highlighted. A special Principal's Award will be presented to one pupil from each classroom in recognition for a huge effort in that particular month. Our first assembly is on Thursday 2nd October.

Fair:

St. Cecilia's school are organizing a Fair of educational toys, books and electronic equipment and games in the Sligo Park Hotel on Thursday 2nd October from 11am to 7pm. Lots of companies will have goods on display and for sale and all are welcome.

*Thanking you,
David Dillon.*