

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

BACK TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we start a new school year, I would like to welcome all the teachers, pupils, SNA and Ancillary Staff back to school after a summer of glorious sunshine and fine weather. Whether on Vacation, Staycation or visiting friends and relations, I hope that everyone enjoyed a good rest and a break from schoolwork with some holidays, at home or abroad. I extend a special welcome to Parents whose children are starting in Newtownmountkennedy Primary School for the first time. I hope that you and your child will enjoy a long and happy relationship with the school. We welcome Miss O'Connell as Third Class Teacher, Ms. Nolan as First Class Teacher. Best Wishes to Ms. Lee and Ms. Corcoran on Career Breaks. It is with great sadness that we say Goodbye to Ms. Daly. We wish her well in her Retirement and thank her for her significant contribution to Primary Education in Newtownmountkennedy.

- Thank you to Mrs. Keyes, Karen, Fiona, Michael Doherty School Supplies and the SNA staff for ensuring that all children have textbooks, copies etc for the start of the new school year. Payment is now due for Art & Craft Supplies (€20) and Photocopying resources (€20) as well as Pupil Personal Insurance. An EIGHT WEEK Programme of Swimming lessons on TUESDAY MORNING from 12.00pm to 1.00pm, will be available for children from 1st class to 5th class as well as for children in the PRIMARY ASD CLASSES. A note detailing the exact cost of swimming was circulated in June. Payment of the full fee in advance will guarantee a place. Every effort will be made to offer places to all children wishing to swim.
- Thank you to our Cleaners, Fiona and Tracy, as well as Paddy our Caretaker who worked hard all summer, with assistance from Community Centre Staff to give buildings a fresh new look with Painting, Garden Maintenance, cleaning etc.
- We are delighted to announce an increase in our pupil enrolment from this SEPTEMBER. This is in line with Department of Education plans for increased school building provision in this area. With this in mind, the Board of Management has been notified of approval for an extension of FIVE CLASSROOMS and some RESOURCE ROOMS as well as a GENERAL PURPOSE ROOM on the SENIOR SCHOOL BUILDING. This project is now at the stage of Design Approval and Planning Permission and is scheduled for building in the 2015-2016 School Year.
- Due to the lack of Government funds to adequately pay for maintenance, gardening, small carpentry projects etc. an appeal has to be made to parents and grandparents to please help us this year to keep our school

buildings looking well. If you can help in any way , please contact the school secretary. Teachers would be grateful for help with small carpentry projects, installation of shelves, coat hangers, etc. Many Thanks to Martin Treacy who always helps us with shelving, presses etc. and to Stephen Keenan for his help

- The CODE of BEHAVIOUR will be distributed to all parents during the month of SEPTEMBER as soon as Class/School Rules have been included. All Pupils and Parents must sign the Code of Behaviour every year as this is the Working Document for Discipline and Behaviour in our school. Thank you to Parents who contributed suggestions to the Review of the Code.
- School Calendars, showing main monthly events for the coming school year will be available during the month of September. Please note some dates may change from those published. Class photos will be taken on September 9th by Peter Loughlin. Thanks to Karen for Dates to Remember.
- The Board of Management will consider the hire of Rooms in the School for Community Based Activities subject to : Public Liability Insurance, Garda Vetting and a signed contract.
- The Parents' Room is again located in St. Joseph's Centre. Please consult our Home School Co-ordinator, Ms. Hurley for times of opening. Ms. Hurley works very hard to support parents in the education of their children. She organises courses, seminars, etc for parents and guardians as well as making contact with outside agencies for advice. The role of the HSCL co-ordinator is firmly established in our school at this stage. It is vital that funding continues to be made available for this position.
- Thanks to Parents who have volunteered to help in Classrooms and at Lunch Time. Garda Vetting has been successfully completed for a number of parents, relations and friends.
- All our Teachers completed Curriculum Inservice during the summer holidays, attending courses in IT, Leadership, Numeracy & Literacy, as well as SESE and Sport. Our fundraising this year will have to focus on the purchase of iPads for Classroom use to replace outdated computers in our computer rooms.
- Finally, please make sure to notify class teachers in writing of any absences. If children have to leave school early, they must be collected from the classroom and signed out by a named adult.

You are invited to join us for a Whole School Assembly on MONDAY September 8th at 9.30am in the Community Centre and for the celebration of Mass to mark the opening of the school year on Wednesday September 24th at 9.30am in St. Joseph's Church.

Mrs. C. Dempsey. School Principal.

