

Dear Parents,

As we start a new school year, I would like to welcome all the teachers, pupils, SNAs and ancillary staff back to school after the summer holidays. I hope everyone enjoyed a good rest and a break from school work. We extend a special welcome to all parents whose children are starting in Newtownmountkennedy Primary School for the first time. We hope you and your child enjoy a long and happy relationship with our school.

Staff Changes: We congratulate Ms. Maguire and Ms. Wellwood on their appointments to Permanent Teaching Positions in our school. We welcome Ms. G. Doyle back to teach 6th class, Ms. McGillycuddy back to teach Senior Infants and Ms. C. Doyle back to teach 1st class. We also welcome Mr. Enright, Ms. Keddy and Ms. Monahan as new members of our teaching staff. We wish Mrs. Dempsey health and happiness in her retirement. We wish Ms. Donlon, Ms. Egan and Ms. McConn well as they start their career breaks. We send good wishes to Ms. Hegarty and Ms. Healy as they start Parental Leave. We welcome Ms. Sinéad Keyes back to our secretarial staff with thanks to Employability and a Dublin-based CE scheme. We also welcome Jennifer Cosgrave and Jack Gregory back to our school as part of the Tús scheme.

Classes for Children with Autism: Ms. Russell's class will be based in the Senior School. Ms. Wellwood's class will be based in the Junior School. Ms. Egan's class and Ms. Corcoran's class will be based in St. Joseph's Centre. All children in classes for children with Autism will assemble every morning in St. Joseph's Centre from 9.00am and will be dismissed from St. Joseph's Centre from 2.30pm. This will facilitate Bus Transport and parents/guardians who bring and collect children.

Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Co-ordinator: Mr. Ronan Keddy will continue to work as our HSCL Co-ordinator this year. Ronan's office is located in the Junior School. Parents who wish to help out in the school should contact Ronan (0868434741) or call into him. Parents who wish to help out in school will need to be Garda Vetted with our school. Courses for parents will run throughout the year. Ronan will inform parents of dates/times, etc.

School Uniform: Thanks to Parents for providing children with correct school uniform as well as PE Tracksuit. School Crests can be purchased from Fiona. Black/Navy School Shoes are to be worn with Formal Uniform, and Plain White/Black PE Trainers are to be worn with PE Uniform.

School Website: Our school website is www.newtownprimary.ie. Thanks to Ms. O' Connell for its design and content etc. Notes etc. will be posted on the website. Thanks to Ciara Perks for postings on Facebook.

Parents' Association: The Parents' Association Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 8.00 p.m. in the Junior School. All parents are welcome to attend.

Parent Volunteers: We would like to thank all the parents who have helped to keep our local school looking well and a safe place for our children to learn over the last few years. Please let us know if you are free and interested in helping, and in what areas you could help (gardening, maintenance, recycling, carpentry, plumbing, painting, computers, crafts, reading, maths, arts, etc.). Again, parents who wish to help out must be Garda Vetted with our school. Many thanks to the group of parents who worked with Grace Garde last year to keep our school gardens looking so well.

Absences: 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 office and signed out by a named adult.

Whole School Assembly: You are invited to join us for our first whole school assembly to mark the start of the new school year. This assembly will take place on Thursday 26th September at 9.30am in St. Joseph's Church.

Finally, I wish all students, teachers, parents and staff every success this school year.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Deirdre Lennon, School Principal.