

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK, MARCH 2015.

- Cars are still parking at the Junior School Entrance, on the approach to St. Joseph's centre and in the lay-by at Watson's gate. This has to stop as lives are seriously at risk. More children and school staff walk between our three school buildings right through the day and their journey is made extremely dangerous by the selfish actions of a small number of people dropping and collecting children from school and from playschool.
- **NEW JUNIOR SCHOOL RECEPTION:** In the interests of Child Protection, Health & Safety a new Reception system has been introduced in the JUNIOR SCHOOL. Children arriving late to school or leaving early will be accompanied to and from classes by Fiona. Up to 9.20am children should enter the building by the Back Door in the Playground.
- **SPRINGTIME DRAW:** This major annual Fundraising event starts on MARCH 3rd. For a cost of €15, you are entered into 10 draws run over a FIVE WEEK period with money prizes each draw for NINE DRAWS : (€65, €30, €20) and a final Draw with Prize fund of €1,440. To be successful we need to sell at least 500 tickets. TWO TICKETS have been sent to every household. Please try to sell tickets among workmates, family, relations etc. If you have sold tickets before in the parish community, we would appreciate your help once again. THE MONEY RAISED IN THIS YEAR'S DRAW WILL GO TOWARDS REPLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT.
- **Feast of St. Brigid : SUNDAY February 1st.** Many Thanks to 3rd class and their teachers for leading us in Prayers and Readings for Mass for the Feast of St. Brigid. Thanks to 4th and 5th classes and their Teachers for singing in the choir. Thanks to Fr. Smith for celebrating Mass and Blessing St. Brigid's Crosses which children had made. Special thanks to 2nd class for the prayerful assembly after Mass. We will attend Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph on FRIDAY MARCH 20th.
- Dates to Remember for MARCH have been changed to include some additional school activities.
- **ENROLMENT :** Places have now been offered to 35 children for Junior Infants 2015. If this number of children start in Junior Infants then we will gain an additional class teacher appointment for September 2016. Currently there are no places available in our ASD CLASSES for SEPTEMBER 2015.
- We are on target to complete a FIVE CLASSROOM EXTENSION in the next school year. All groups using the Senior School Building & Grounds after school hours will have to find alternative facilities for the duration of the building.

- **OPEN AFTERNOON:** There was an opportunity to visit the JUNIOR SCHOOL on WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4th from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. Classes continued as normal with displays by our Diversity Committee, Green School Committee, Science Group, Tin Whistle Group etc. We were delighted that so many families of prospective pupils visited our school on Wednesday. Many Thanks to Ms. Hurley & the Student Council
- **SWIMMING:** All Children who want places in 2014-2015 SWIMMING PROGRAMME have now been accomodated. Swimming Programme FOUR which runs for EIGHT WEEKS from APRIL is now open for applications from Senior Infants & Fourth Class. Names and Money to the school secretary as soon as possible please. Swimming next year will be compulsory for children in 1st & 4th classes.
- Children should be reminded of the importance of wearing correct uniform at all times. When not in full uniform, correct shoes etc children will not be allowed privileges, sent on messages etc by their teachers.
- **POD: Primary Online Database:** Schools are now obliged to forward Pupil Enrolment Information to the Department of Education. The only sensitive Data is the question of Religion and Ethnic Background. Our School Database is set up through SalesPulse and information stored on the Database must now be shared with the DES.
- **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:** Mr. Noel Keating has the permission of the Board and Garda Vetting to conduct research into Christian Meditation in 1st, 3rd & 5th classes.
- **CLASS COMBINATIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016.**

Class	Boys	Girls	Total
6th	14	20	34
5th	14	14	28
4th	17	20	37
3rd	15	13	28
2nd	22	21	43
1st	15	18	33
Sen.Infants	15	17	33
Jun.Infants			36
ASD classes	15	03	18

Possibility of THREE Split Classes: Jun/Sen Infants, 1st/2nd class and 3rd/4th class. Parents who wish their child to be considered for any of these mixed classes are asked to contact Mrs. Dempsey.

- **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS: Teachers will be available to meet PARENTS/GUARDIANS on WEDNESDAY MARCH 11th from 1.45pm to 3.30pm. Junior School Teachers will give parents and opportunity to see children's work in the classrooms while Senior School Teachers will be available in the SENIOR SCHOOL HALL. ASD Class Teachers would also like to meet parents at these times. With Sincere Thanks for all your continued support and co-operation.**

Mrs. C.Dempsey. School Principal