

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

August 31st 2015

Dear Parents,

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 very mixed fortunes weatherwise. I hope that everyone enjoyed a good rest and a break from schoolwork even if we had to stay indoors. We extend a special welcome to parents whose children are starting in Newtownmountkennedy Primary school for the first time. We hope that you and your child enjoy a long and happy relationship with the school.

We were all shocked and saddened at the sudden death of past pupil DION DOYLE on MONDAY AUGUST 24th 2015. Our sympathies to Declan, Katrina, The Doyle, Healy and Connors Families as well as Dion's Classmates from Primary School.

Classes finish at 12.30pm for JUNIOR INFANTS up to and including FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11th.
Classes finish at 1.40pm for FIRST CLASS up to and including FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11th.

STAFF CHANGES: We congratulate Miss Fleming on her appointment to a Permanent Teaching position in Laragh. We welcome Miss Olivia Egan to teach JUNIOR INFANTS. We welcome back Mrs. Gillick after her Maternity Leave and we wish Ms. Russell well on her Maternity Leave. We are delighted to have Ms. Lee back after her Career Break. We welcome Mr. O'Brien to our Permanent Teaching Staff, Ms. Nolan and Ms. O'Connell to our Temporary Staff. Good Luck to Ms. Corcoran as she continues her Career break. We have a new SNA, Jenny Healy in 6th class. Ms. Sinead Leahy will be Substitute Teacher for Ms. Ní Laocha for a short while.

SCHOOL BUILDING: Care and Caution is needed in the vicinity of the School due to the completion of a Footpath & Side Entrance to JUNIOR SCHOOL as well as the Community Playgroup in St. Joseph's Centre. Car Parking in the Community Centre will be reduced as Staff Cars will have to park there temporarily. We wish Mrs. Carthy well in her retirement from her job as Lollipop Lady. This vacancy has to be advertised. Thanks to Staff & Companies involved in Building Works over the summer

ENROLMENTS: We welcome Max, Joseph, Darragh, Tyler, Kayla and Alfie to our Early Intervention ASD Class. We wish their families well as they begin their school journey in Newtown Primary. As we open this class, we wish success to Ms. Healy, Carol and Tess.. Welcome also to our 42 Junior Infants & Pupils joining other classes

Payment for Arts and Crafts and Photocopying fees have been included in Book Payments this year. Pupil Personal Insurance, Swimming fees can now be paid. A great effort has been made to have proper uniform, shoes etc. for the children and this is much appreciated. Thanks to Mrs. Keyes and the SNA staff for ordering and distributing class textbooks.

A special thanks to Karen, Paddy, Fiona, Sharon and Mr. Hugh McDaid for their great work during the holidays to ensure that everything was ready for the start of a new school year. With no summer works scheme this year, we depended on Staff, local Businesses and Volunteers to paint, repair, replace and upgrade our buildings as necessary.

Due to the lack of Government funds to adequately pay for maintenance, gardening etc. an appeal has to be made to parents to please help us this year to keep our local school looking well and a safe place for our children to learn. Please let us know how much time you could spend and in what areas you could help (gardening, maintenance, recycling, carpentry, plumbing, painting, computers, crafts, reading, Maths, arts, etc.) If your time is limited and you might be free in the evening please consider joining the Parents' Association Committee which meets on the second Monday of each month at 8.00 p.m. in the Junior School.

The Parents' room is located in St. Joseph's Centre. All parents are welcome in the room. Ms. Hurley's Office is located in the Senior School Building.

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,

All our Teachers completed Curriculum Inservice during the summer holidays, attending courses in IT, Mindfulness, Numeracy & Literacy, Autism, as well as SESE . Our fundraising this year will have to focus on the upgrade and improvement of facilities for our children with Autism.

Our New School Website is : www.newtownprimary.ie with thanks to Ms. O'Connell for its design, content etc. Notes, etc will be posted on website

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.

Please keep the school calendar and dates to remember in a safe place.

You are invited to join us for Our Whole School Assembly to mark the opening of the school year on Thursday September 24th in St. Joseph's church at 9.30am

I wish all students, teachers, parents, and staff God's Blessing and success during this school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Carmel Dempsey
School Principal.