

# NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

August 31<sup>st</sup> 2016

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 dodge the summer showers. 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 wish Sixth Class 2016 every success as they start Secondary School. We congratulate Christopher (6<sup>th</sup>) and Cian (5<sup>th</sup>) on their transfer to mainstream classes from classes for children with autism. Congratulations to themselves, their parents and teachers on this great achievement.

Classes finish at 12.30pm for JUNIOR INFANTS up to and including FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Classes finish at 1.40pm for FIRST CLASS up to and including FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>.

**STAFF CHANGES:** We congratulate Ms. Nolan and Ms. O'Connell on their appointments to Permanent Teaching positions in our school. We welcome Miss Olivia Egan to teach Fifth Class, Ms. Maria Wellwood to teach Senior Infants and Ms. Sinéad Leahy to teach Junior Infants. We welcome back Ms. Hegarty and Clodagh Waters after their Maternity Leaves. We are delighted to have Ms. Corcoran back after her Career Break. We congratulate Mrs. Broughan on the birth of baby Joseph and Mr. O'Brien whose wife gave birth to baby Jacob. We wish Mrs. Murphy well as she continues to recover from serious illness. We wish Jenny Healy success as she leaves us to further her career. We thank Ms. Hurley for her work as HSCL Co-Ordinator and wish Ms. Deirdre Lennon well on her appointment as HSCL Co-Ordinator.

**SCHOOL BUILDING:** Care and Caution is needed in the vicinity of the Senior School. Thanks to Hugh McDaid, Chairperson Board of Management who worked hard all summer to appoint a builder for the Roof Works. This work finally started at the beginning of August and is still ongoing. We are delighted that the new access road from Wicklow Hills is nearing completion. A One Way System will be in operation from the corner of the Community Playground. Our Design Team are working on the design of a new school building to be located on the pitch at the upper site of the senior school. This project has to go to planning and tender in this school year as we are running out of classroom space.

**ENROLMENTS:** We welcome all the families who have moved to live in Newtownmountkennedy, in Wicklow Hills, Glenbrook, Killadreenan, Season Park etc and children transferring to our school. Our pupil numbers have increased significantly from September 2015 and we look forward to continued growth and continued support from the Department of Education regarding Class Size and Teacher appointment.

Payment for Arts and Crafts and Photocopying fees have been included in Book Payments this year. Pupil Personal Insurance fee can be paid to the Secretary. Thanks to Mrs. Keyes, Fiona, Karen and the SNA staff for ordering and distributing class textbooks

SWIMMING FEES can now be paid. There will be THREE Swimming Programmes this year with 38 places in each group for Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> classes. Mrs. Keyes will take responsibility for collection of swimming fees..

A special thanks to Karen, Paddy, Fiona, Sharon and Hugh McDaid for their great work during the holidays to ensure that everything was ready for the start of a new school year. Your patience is requested in the Senior School re completion of Remedial Roof Works. Also Resource Teaching Rooms and Staffroom had to be re-arranged to make room for more classrooms.

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. Lennon'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 our IT facilities.

Our New School Website is : [www.newtownprimary.ie](http://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 office 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

