

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

August 31st 2017

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 glorious weather and lots of sunshine. I hope that everyone enjoyed a good rest and a break from schoolwork. 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 2017 every success as they start Secondary School.

Classes finish at 12.30pm for JUNIOR INFANTS up to and including FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15th. Classes finish at 1.40pm for FIRST CLASS up to and including FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15th.

Classes for Children with Autism start on MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4th as per BOM decision to grant Inservice Time to Teachers and SNA staff. Bus Transport for Classes for Children with Autism and Children in mainstream using this service will resume on MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4th. Aidan O'Toole Bus Service will resume on August 31st.

STAFF CHANGES: We congratulate Ms. O. Egan, Ms. Leahy and Miss McConn on their appointments to Permanent Teaching positions in our school. We welcome Miss Louise Meldon to teach First/Second Class, Ms. Chelsea Maguire to teach Second Class and Ms. Maria Wellwood to teach Junior Infants. We welcome Ms. Louise Healy back from Maternity Leave. Mrs. Gillick will extend her Maternity Leave. We welcome Ms. Ciara McGillicuddy as Shared Teacher with Mrs. Broughan in 4th Class. We wish Mrs. Elaine Murphy health and happiness in her retirement. We hope that Johanna Power will continue to make good progress in her recovery from illness. We wish Carol Wolohan well as she has surgery. We sincerely thank Erica Healy and Dawn McKenna for working as SNA staff last year. We are disappointed that our SNA Staff Numbers have been reduced. We welcome Sinead Keyes to our Secretarial Staff with thanks to Employability and a Dublin Based CE Scheme. Sinead will be based in the Senior School, looking after phone queries, photocopying, early collections etc.

SCHOOL BUILDING: Summer 2017 was very busy in completing an upgrade of St. Joseph's Centre to create a Centre for Classes for Children with Autism. Mr. Hugh McDaid and BOM Members worked during July and August to ensure that we have a new OT Room, an upgraded Sensory Room, New Classrooms. Work is still ongoing on the Kitchen and Reception areas. Many Thanks to Brian Roche (painter), Andrew Maher (Posh Wash), David Kavanagh (Multi Sensory Supplies), Chris Byrne (IT Specialist) and Michael McDaid (Custom Carpentry). All the work was facilitated by a grant from the O'Brien Trust in the Dublin Diocese as well as fundraising. Many Thanks to Enigma Kitchens, Appliance Direct, Liam Clancy who have offered donations and sponsorship. Thanks to Ciara Martin for postings on Facebook re Resource Requirements. Our Capital Building Project is ready to go for Planning Permission. A lot of work was completed over the Summer linking with Wicklow Co. Council Planners re Road Infrastructure etc. In the Junior School Building work was completed on a new Resource Room and a Parents' Room.

ENROLMENTS: We welcome all the families who have moved to live in Newtownmountkennedy, in Wicklow Hills, Glenbrook, Killadreenan, Garden Village, Season Park etc and children transferring to our school. It will be necessary to divide SECOND CLASS with 8 pupils making a 1st/2nd class. This will not affect Communion Preparation etc. Our pupil numbers have increased significantly from September 2016 and we look forward to continued growth and continued support from the Department of Education regarding Class Size and Teacher appointment.

CLASSES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM: Ms. Russell's Class and Ms. Healy's Class will be located in St. Joseph's Centre from Monday September 4th. 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 1.30pm (Early Intervention Class) and 2.30pm. This will facilitate Bus Transport and parents/guardians who bring and collect children.

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. If books have been bought by parents, €5 due for school calendar.

SWIMMING FEES can now be paid. There will be THREE Swimming Programmes this year with 32 places in each group for Children from 1st to 6th classes. Children in the Early Intervention Class will not be offered Swimming Classes. Mrs. Keyes will take responsibility for collection of swimming fees..

MUSIC GENERATION: We have been most fortunate once again in remaining part of this National Initiative. Sinead Finnegan will return for Foundation Music Programmes from Juniors to 2nd class. We will have Joan Dempsey for 4th class Choir as well as a new tutor for Tin Whistle Tuition in 1st Class.

SUMMER PROJECT: Congratulations to ALL PARENTS and especially the Project Committee and HSCL Co-Ordinator, Ms. Lennon on the fantastic success of the Newtown Summer Project.

SPORTS KIT: Thanks to ADRIAN DUNNE PHARMACY for sponsorship of a brand new SPORTS KIT which will be presented to our school shortly. Many Thanks to Mr. O'Riordan for all his work over the summer in arranging this order from O'Neill Sports. A smaller donation has been received for extra sports vests and these will be ordered in September.

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 with Formal Uniform. Plain White/Black PE Trainers with PE Uniform

A special thanks to Karen, Paddy, Fiona, Iwona 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 St. Joseph's Centre I re completion of Remedial Works. Also Resource Teaching Rooms in Junior School 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.) Many Thanks to the group of parents who worked with Grace Garde all last year in the School Garden.

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. There is talk of **STRICTLY COME DANCING** in 2018 !

The Parents' room is located now in the JUNIOR SCHOOL BUILDING. All parents are welcome in the room. Ms. Lennon's Office is located in the Junior 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 furniture, equipment and resources for New Classrooms.

Our 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 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 28th 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