

# Scoil Phádraig Milltown Ns

Newsletter- 2023/2024

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please note the following:

**Friendship and Anti-Bullying Week:** Throughout this week we celebrated friendship week and highlighted the great friendships that make up our school. To mark the week, we ran a friendship poster competition. We started 'Talent Tuesday' this year, whereby pupils had the opportunity to showcase a talent in front of their classmates. Well done to all concerned in celebrating a great week. We promote respect, friendship and helpfulness among all members of our school community.

**Aladdin Connect:** Thank you all for your fantastic engagement and response to our implementation of Aladdin connect. To date 88% of our parents are connected. The closer we get to 100% the less we as a school have to pay for communication with our parents. Please check that your phone number is up to date and verified through the app. If you have any issues connecting, please let us know and we will help you. We will be using Aladdin for all communication going forward.

## **Sporting Events**

Next Monday and Tuesday our boys and girls from 5th and 6th class will compete in the FAI 5 a side soccer tournament in Gainstown. We wish them all the best of luck. Our hurling team is currently training hard for our upcoming games. We'd like to thank Fr. Dalton's for their kind donation of hurls and helmets to our school!

**School Closures:** Reminder of our half day closure on **March 1st** for a teacher training day and on **Friday March 8th** the school will close as it will be used as a Polling Station for the upcoming Referendum.

We will also be closed on **Monday 18th of March** for the Bank Holiday. Easter holidays start at **12pm** on **Friday March 22nd**.

An interactive school calendar and school year planner can be downloaded from our school website [www.milltownns.ie](http://www.milltownns.ie).

**Dates for Religious Ceremonies:** First Communion takes place on Friday 17th May, at 11.00am in Milltown Church. First Confession will take place on Tuesday 12th March after 9.30am Mass.

**Annual 1916 Commemoration:** On Thursday 21st March next our school will commemorate the 1916 Rising with the annual flag raising ceremony at school. Pupils will also read extracts from our School Proclamation that was written in 2016.

**Swimming:** Our seven weeks of swimming lessons finished on 28th February. Well done to all pupils who made fantastic individual progress during this period. The school thank the staff of Mullingar Swimming Pool for their support and helpful tuition.

**Book Fair:** The school book fair will be held from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Purchase of books is completely optional! See Aladdin message for more details.

### **Internet safety:**

I have signed up all parents, students and teachers in the school to Internet Safety Lessons from Cyber School. The parents' courses can be completed in your own time. The school has covered the cost for parents, for what is a very important area in the lives of our children, both inside and outside of school.

I've attached a pdf explaining how to access the courses.

Our enrolment code is: ParentsCS-19008U

Please let me know if you have difficulty accessing the course or have any further questions.

## Instructions

**St.Patrick's Day Irish Mass:** We will celebrate our annual Irish Mass on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am. All are welcome.

**School Garden/ Help Needed:** It is that time of year again to plan for our school garden. Our school garden is a wonderful resource **but we need help**. This year Mullingar Tidy Towns will once again help with our garden preparation in April. We are planning to make more new additions and upgrades to our garden. If you are interested in **helping with** the development of the school garden for 2024, please contact the office.

**Healthy Eating:** A reminder that we are a health promoting school. Please limit treats in lunch boxes to Fridays!

**Oliver's Army:** Milltown NS would like to ask all our community to spread the word and raise awareness for a special little boy Oliver Scally.

Oliver is a beautiful and brave, 19-month old who was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Wiskott Aldrich Syndrome (WAS). Due to the rarity of WAS a bone marrow transplant is not available in Ireland, so Oliver and his sister Joy (one of our students) and their parents will travel to the Great North Children's hospital, Newcastle, in the UK, for this life saving operation and treatment.

We want to get behind this family and show Aidan, Grace, Sarah, Joy, Roisin and Oliver our support as they are facing a very tough time ahead.

Please spread the word and share the link to the iDonate page and please donate.

<https://www.idonate.ie/crowdfunder/OliversArmy>

Yours sincerely,

**Ronan Scally**

Acting Principal

