

Scoil Phádraig Milltown Ns

Newsletter– September 2023

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01/09/2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to officially welcome all pupils, staff and parents back to school after the summer break. We especially welcome our new junior infants and other new pupils to our school. We also welcome our SNA Michelle O'Callaghan to our school staff.

Please note the following:

Book Rental: In the past few days, each pupil received all their school books and a school diary for the coming year.

School Times: Under our School Insurance Policy from Allianz Insurance we are requested to officially inform you of the school opening and closing times. Therefore, please read the attached recommended letter from Allianz Insurance.

Art materials, photocopying, folders and homework journal fee: All pupils within the school receive a homework journal and a variety of stationery items during the year. For example, each pupil receives a homework journal, art materials, photocopied resource worksheets, folders, box files, etc. To cover the above costs a fee of €25 per pupil will be charged. For a family of three or more the fee is €60. We would appreciate it if payment could be made by Monday October 2nd. All money collected goes towards covering the cost of art materials, photocopying, school diary etc.

Email Address: As a Green School we are always looking out for the environment. The school will now email all monthly newsletters. If you have changed your email or phone details please let us know so that we can update our records accordingly. Monthly newsletters are always emailed on the first week of a new month. Please keep an eye on your emails at this time each month.

Summer Works: Over the summer, our classrooms were deep cleaned. Outside, the garden was maintained and a new bike shelter was installed. A special work of thanks to our Caretaker Declan, who did fantastic work over the summer to ensure that the school is looking it's best for this new term. Thank you, Declan.

Text a Parent App: During the year we communicate with parents using a text system. To download the app please go to <https://app.textaparent.ie/get/app> or go to your app store to download this free app. By using this app, you will help the school save money on sending out text messages.

School uniform: All pupils are required to attend school in their full uniform. It is understandable that from time to time a pupil may come to school without the correct uniform due to unforeseen circumstances. Please also ensure that your child's name is on their uniform jumper. Uniform jumpers and trousers can be purchased from the Uniform Boutique and Tots Paradise Mullingar. As mentioned in previous years, wristbands are not permitted in school.

School Attendance/Absenteeism: Constant school attendance is very important. Under the Education Welfare Act 2000 the school is obliged to contact the Education Welfare Board when a pupil has been absent for 20 or more days during the course of a school year. Therefore, the recording of pupil absenteeism is very important. With this in mind, parents/guardians are required to cover each absence with a written absence note which is found at the back of the School Homework Journal. These absence notes contain the child's name, the date of the absence and the reason for the absence. These notes are extremely important as they form a record of attendance which may be inspected by the Education Welfare Officer on a visit to the school.

Home-School Communication: Frequent communication is of vital importance in developing and nurturing co-operation between home and school. Good communication between parents and the school is essential to the environment we work to create. Teachers are available to meet with parents/guardians by appointment only. Parents are asked not to request meetings with teachers while they are engaged in teaching or pupil supervision. Parents wishing to make an appointment to meet a teacher are firstly asked to contact the office, so that a suitable time can be scheduled for both parent and teacher. Parents wishing to speak to the principal during class time are asked to leave a message with the secretary, as pupils cannot afford to be interrupted during class teaching time. If you have changed your contact details, please inform us so that we can update our records.

Car parking: In the interest of safety for all in Scoil Phádraig, drivers are asked to keep the walkway clear at all times. Drivers are asked to park in the designated parking bays, as this ensures that pupils do not have to cross the road. Drivers are also asked not to park on the opposite side of the road.

Homework: Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday with pupils being excused from homework on weekends provided that their work has been conscientiously and satisfactorily completed on the other nights. Homework should become a routine of your child's day and completed in a quiet area of the house, free from distractions of TVs, mobiles, ipads etc. We ask parents to ensure that

homework is completed to an appropriate standard and that parents sign the homework journal each night. This ensures continuity of communication between teacher and parent. If homework is not completed a note to the teacher should be written in the homework journal.

Healthy Lunch: A copy of the school's Health Lunch policy can be obtained from the office. The policy promotes healthy lunches each day. However, one small treat may be eaten on Fridays. We have a number of pupils with severe nut allergies, therefore nuts and any foods containing nuts are not permitted.

School Website: Check out our school website www.milltownns.ie for regular updates, photographs and news from school.

Educational Website: Check out the Canva.com a website for creating posters, projects or videos!

As the new school year begins, we wish pupils, staff and parents all the very best for the forthcoming year as we all work together to ensure that all pupils in Scoil Phádraig reach their full potential in a happy and safe learning environment. On a personal note I'd like to thank everyone in the school community for their warm welcome and words of support and encouragement as I take up my role as Acting Principal. I look forward to getting to know everyone in the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

Ronan Scally

Principal

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The school will open to receive pupils at the hour of 9.20am. **No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.**

Classes will end each day at 2.00 pm for Junior and Senior Infants and 3.00pm for all other classes. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate and **the person to escort them should be at the school no later than 2.00 pm for Junior and Senior Infants and 3.00 pm for all other classes, as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after that time.**

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